

**Montgomery County – Department of Health & Human Services (MCDHHS)**  
**Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

| <b><u>Steering Committee</u></b>     | <b><u>Present</u></b> | <b><u>AAHI Staff</u></b> | <b><u>Present</u></b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><i>Organizational Members</i></b> |                       | Sanjana Quasem           | X                     |
| Nguyen Nguyen (Chair)                | X                     | Muhammad Hasan           | X                     |
| Hina Mehta (Vice Chair)              | X                     | Tammy Wan                | X                     |
| Pallavi Gowda                        | X                     |                          |                       |
| Michael Lin                          | X                     |                          |                       |
| Ji-Young Cho                         | X                     |                          |                       |
| Wilbur Friedman                      | X                     |                          |                       |
| Tho Tran                             | X                     |                          |                       |
| Thao Bui                             | X                     |                          |                       |
| Yuchi Huang                          |                       |                          |                       |
| <b><i>Individual Members</i></b>     | <b><u>Present</u></b> | <b><u>Guests</u></b>     | <b><u>Present</u></b> |
| Shruti Bhatnagar                     |                       | Patrick Campbell         | X                     |
| Nerita Estampador                    | X                     |                          |                       |
| Meng K. Lee                          | X                     |                          |                       |
| Cynthia Macri                        | X                     |                          |                       |
| Judy Wang                            | X                     |                          |                       |
| <b><i>Affiliate Members</i></b>      | <b><u>Present</u></b> |                          |                       |
| Anis Ahmed                           |                       |                          |                       |

**Welcome (Nguyen Nguyen)**

- Nguyen Nguyen called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
- Nguyen asked for permission to audio record the meeting. There were no objections.

ACTION: Audio recording of the meeting was approved with no objections.

**Approval of Agenda (Nguyen Nguyen)**

- The meeting agenda was shared with members prior to the meeting. Nguyen asked if there were any objections to the agenda.
- Wilbur Friedman moved to approve it and Michael Lin seconded it.

ACTION: Meeting agenda was approved with no objections.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Nguyen Nguyen)**

- The Steering Committee meeting minutes from Tuesday, March 8, 2022, were shared with members prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the March meeting minutes was presented.
- Wilbur Friedman moved to approve the meeting minutes. Meng Lee seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

ACTION: March's meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

### **Montgomery County Service Consolidation Hubs Presentation (Patrick Campbell)**

- *The speaker's presentation slides have been attached to the end of the meeting minutes.*
- There has been an increase in Asian Americans showing up at the Montgomery County's Service Consolidation Hub food distribution sites.
- In April 2020, the unemployment rate skyrocketed from 4-5% to over 20%. Rent help was available. Food distribution sites during that time saw a 400-600% increase.
- The idea of the Hubs during the pandemic was to expand services to the underserved and utilize facilities that were preexisting.
- The Hubs are both a private and public sector partnership.
- The Hubs are not just food distribution, they also include a broader array of services like job help, daycare costs, reference to SNAP benefits, etc.
- Hubs were put into areas with populations that were impacted the highest by COVID-19.
- At each Hub, there are case managers onsite to provide services.
- Ji-Young Cho asked a question regarding case management services and whether the project period is 10 months. Patrick commented that they are changing that in the next budget year. He stated that there are some months when the Hubs are not fully funded. In addition to her previous question, she asked about what kind of case management service has been referred to the Hubs. Patrick replied that the most common service is for SNAP and rental assistance programs.
- Link to map: <https://mccgov-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=2465340ec14e469b8ac1771970e4695f>
  - Pallavi Gowda asked if the Hub Map was real-time data. Patrick answered that it gets updated, however not in real-time.
- There has been discussion on switching the model of food distributions from car lines to community choice pantries so that clients can choose their own food rather than be provided with a standard box. This will allow them to make cultural adaptations. The goal into FY2023 is to get away from car lines and shift how

food is delivered. Car lines reduce the ability to interact with the client and it is inefficient. They will still have car lines but will add in many more options to get food.

- There is still a need to connect those from immigrant backgrounds to these resources because a lot don't know about what is available to residents.
- At the County Executive level, there will be a food office dealing with food security in the County. The County will invest \$12 million into resources in 2023.
- Nguyen opened the floor for questions for Patrick.
  - Meng asked about the stats and whether they are separated by race. Patrick answered that the stats are not separated by race only because at the beginning many were getting their food through the food line. Those monitoring the line couldn't gather race stats. He said that they will have more accurate data in the future. Earlier in the pandemic, most races were African American and Latino community members at food sites. Then in January and February of this year, more Asian community members showed up at food sites. Patrick is looking at the change in clients—has the need changed? Outreach? He is looking into it.
  - Nguyen asked about the data collection. Patrick answered that for most of the pandemic they did “low barrier” meaning it's a voluntary process. Patrick said that when the Food Office is up and running, they are hoping to invest more time in reporting.
  - Thao Bui commented on the challenges of food pick-up lines. Patrick said that the need has increased due to marketing of the availability of resources. Patrick noted the need for fresh foods.
  - Pallavi asked how an entity gets deemed a Food Hub. Patrick stated that the Hubs came about organically at first. Hubs are based on communities in need and based on COVID data. All Hubs received non-competitive grants at the beginning.
- Patrick noted that for future partnerships to contact him directly.

### **AAHI Program Updates (Sanjana Quasem)**

- Sanjana Quasem shared AAHI program updates from March 2022 to May 2022. She highlighted activities AAHI has completed or is working on related to community engagement, community empowerment, capacity building, and change catalyst. She also provided information on upcoming AAHI events as well as the hiring and onboarding of new Community Health Workers. See the attached presentation slides for her full update.
- *Please see the presentation slides attached to the meeting minutes.*

### **AAHI Steering Committee Leadership Election**

- Since the March Steering Committee meeting, Wilbur Friedman stated that Nguyen, the current Committee Chairman, wants to step down as Chair. The current Chair invited others to be Chair or Vice Chair. A person was nominated for Chair and refused the nomination.
- Given that there were no nominations, Wilbur inquired if the Vice Chair, Hina Mehta, would be willing to take on the role of Chair. Hina agreed, but requested that Nguyen continue to serve as Chair for one more year and she remain Vice Chair during that year. In year two of the term, she would assume the role of Chair and Nguyen would become Vice Chair.
- Wilbur asked the following questions:
  - Are there any nominations for Chair from the floor?
    - There were no nominations.
  - Are there any nominations for Vice Chair from the floor?
    - There were no nominations.
- In these circumstances, Wilbur moves to elect Nguyen Nguyen for one year as Chair beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and then Vice Chair for the second year July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Hina Mehta will be Vice Chair from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and then Chair from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- Wilbur asked to close the nominations for Chair. Pallavi moved to close the nominations. Tho Tran seconded the nomination.
- Wilbur asked to close the nominations for Vice Chair. Ji-Young Cho moved to close the nominations. Nerita Estampador seconded the motion.
- Wilbur asked if there were any discussions on the motions. Nguyen wanted to clarify that as he completed his term, he truly intended to step down and give the opportunity to someone in the group to serve as Chair. He wanted to ensure the transition goes smoothly for the next Chair.
- Wilbur asked for a motion to elect Nguyen Nguyen for one year as Chair beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and then Vice Chair for the second year July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Then Hina Mehta will be Vice Chair from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and then Chair from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Cynthia Macri motioned to move the nomination and Pallavi seconded it. Wilbur declared that Nguyen was elected for Chair for one year and one year as Vice Chair. Similarly, Hina will be Vice Chair for a year and Chair for a year.
- Nguyen reiterated that he will still be here to support the group.

### **Data Subcommittee**

- Judy Wang provided updates from the Data Subcommittee. There are several things that were discussed.
- Judy posed the question of the role of the data subcommittee. Is the role of the group to support the County or support the data collection for the state?
- The subcommittee has looked at Montgomery County data and did not see Asian American data. They did not see cancer reports. Asian American data wasn't included in a lot of the health data. Can the County or State provide the data?
- Pallavi added that it is necessary to add delineation to the information.

- Cynthia added that data separation is also a problem at the state level. Questions need to be brought to the State to request the information. Cynthia reiterated that the data does exist, but the numbers are very small. Additionally, rather than being compared to Whites, the data should be compared within the Asian American community.
- Nguyen summarized that the subcommittee needs guidance on what to do moving forward. Noted that now there is a group that AAHI can approach about data.

ACTION ITEM: Nguyen will meet with Judy want to discuss the role of the data subcommittee.

### **Advocacy Subcommittee**

- Meng summarized that they talked to five councilmembers about AAHI's budget increase in Fiscal Year 2023. These councilmembers still show great support. The advocacy efforts for this year were slightly easier because the SC was not asking for additional funding.
- Ji-Young wanted to emphasize a point about funding and to consider the timeline.

ACTION ITEM: Sanjana to set up a subcommittee meeting later this month for further discussion.

- Sanjana added that the county is aware that the and discussed making sure there's no disruption of services.

### **Updates**

- Cynthia added that there is a disproportionate number of Asian women affected by homelessness. Need to potentially develop housing for children too because they are discriminated against. June 15 is the tour of the assistive devices warehouse—want the Asian community to have access to discounted durable medical equipment.
- Healthy Montgomery has not met since November of last year. Uncertain of the progress of the Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Pallavi added that Rotacare Maryland Clinic is having weekend clinics, Saturday, and Sunday, 10am-2pm.
- Meng added that the police department is trying to outreach to the Asian American community. The police department has over 70 vacancies and they want people to apply, especially Asian Americans.
  - Pallavi asked what the requirement is. Meng stated that they need college credits.

### **Adjourn**

- Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022