Welcome (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen Nguyen called the meeting to order at 6:05 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.

Presentation on Mental Health Advisory Committee (Libby Nealis)

- Libby Nealis, a member of the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC), joined the AAHI SC meeting to discuss the work of the MHAC.
- The MHAC advises and advocates for a comprehensive mental health system for people of all ages in Montgomery County.
- The MHAC is a group of representative appointed by the County Executive (CE). The MHAC includes various people from different areas like parents, consumers, the school system, MCDHHS, police force and other law enforcement.
- The group also collaborates with other committees who are working on the same goals to advance programming and ideals.
• The committee members decide on the advocacy and budget priorities together, though they are not always the same thing.
• Other groups that the MHAC works with include the state regional directors and the juvenile justice centers.
• In terms of committee structure, they have a chair and co-chair and 4 subcommittee leaders
• The legislative subcommittee looks at what is being proposed to the MD legislature.
• The next subcommittee promotes and supports the mobile response and stabilization services. This is focused on the MRSS model – mobile crisis and response model. This essentially states that the level of crisis may require different intervention and sometimes what is needed is an immediate intervention to stabilize the situation.
• Another subcommittee focuses on mental health in schools in the County. The aim is to get everyone in the schools to have conversations around mental health. The main goal is to get rid of barriers to mental health services in schools. It is important to not just reach children, but to reach families.
  o Pushing to have people to understand that we can create a state amendment to allow schools to get reimbursed for mental health services through Medicaid. This is both for behavioral health and substance abuse and misuse issues.
  o The MHAC needs to lobby state Medicaid folks. Behavioral health folks are worried that if money is going to schools, it'll take money away from their providers.
• Workforce is the fourth subcommittee. MHAC wants to foster a productive workforce for the future. They were recently able to include mental health providers in a teachers’ loan forgiveness bill.
  o Under the workforce subcommittee, the MHAC requested that the Montgomery County Police Crisis Team be expanded to cover mental health issues. The police crisis team needs more mental health professionals working alongside them.
• The fifth advocacy priority area is looking at the environment’s impact on mental health and resilience and lack of equity that has established patterns where environmental changes impact chronic health of the community.
• In addition to the advocacy priorities, the MHAC also has budget priorities, which is where they advise the County Council on where to focus their budget
  o Child and adolescent outpatient mental health clinic and adult outpatient mental health clinic. The MHAC wants to make sure there are enough beds in these facilities to respond to the needs. They asked for $400k to ensure there are enough beds in these facilities.
  o Crisis intervention teams. The MHAC wants to expand the crisis intervention team. They recognize the role of mental health in criminal justice system. So many people are in mental health crisis and the police
need mental health providers working alongside them who can respond with a trauma informed lens. Want to expand mobile health crisis unit that goes out with law enforcement.

- Nguyen Nguyen asked about the trend of mental health in the students and experience in the engagement with MCPS
  - For years there weren’t many mental health practitioners in the schools in the County. The County Council determined during the summer that every high school should have a wellness center. Partnering with community groups to get more mental health providers into schools. There is a lot of potential for growth and having a more connected referral system.

- Yuchi Huang asked if she knew the major reasons for the rise in mental health issues.
  - Brains have been developing differently due to challenges during the pandemic and a lack of structure due to a gap in schooling. The social and emotional learning skills were greatly affected by the pandemic.
  - Yuchi added if COVID gets better, will the mental health crisis get better? In addition, he mentioned that she spoke a lot about the school-aged students. Libby responded that older adults were very isolated, and that mental health is still important. There is a great importance to abolish the stigma of mental health.

- Ji-Young Cho asked how to advocate and where to start as a non-profit organization to develop the mental health in the workforce?
  - Libby answered that she hoped to have more incentive programs for those planning to be a healthcare provider in mental health. The key is to find champions and create partnerships. She said that make sure that you advocate and continue to talk about the need for Asian Americans to work in the mental health field.

Approval of Agenda (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Today’s meeting agenda was shared with members prior to the meeting. Nguyen added another item for discussion about DHHS updates. Nguyen asked if there were any objections to the agenda.
- Yuchi Huang moved to approve the agenda and Wilbur Friedman seconded it.

ACTION: Meeting agenda was approved with addition.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Nguyen Nguyen)

- The Steering Committee meeting minutes from Tuesday, March 14, 2023, were shared with members prior to today’s meeting. A motion to approve the March meeting minutes was presented.
• Wilbur Friedman moved to approve the meeting minutes. Yuchi Huang seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

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

• This is Nguyen Nguyen’s last meeting as Chair and Hina Mehta will be the new chair starting July 1st, 2023.

**AAHI Program Updates (Sanjana Quasem)**

• Sanjana shared AAHI program updates from March 2023-May 2023.
• She shared an overview of programs like Trainings & Workshops, Health Promoters Program, Senior Community Health And Technology (Senior CHAT), Minority Voices Report launch, AAPI Heritage Month Celebration, upcoming projects, and more.
• Ji-Young asked about measuring Senior CHAT program.
  o The data for challenges and other data is not available yet.
• Tho Tran commented that previously many of the seniors have gotten phones and computers in the past and that they had issues using them. She noted that sometimes the seniors don’t use it and could give it to family members. They need to ensure that seniors are using it and not just getting it because it’s free. She noted that they sent students to help with seniors to tutor them on how to use the electronics.
  o Sanjana noted that it’s important to work with the community partners to ensure that the seniors use the tablets during the 2-year time of the program. After the 2-year period, seniors will be allowed to do what they please with the tablet. AAA does have a person who will be the tech assistant.
• Muhammad shared data on Healthy Communities Fund and the outcomes.
• Overall served 3,445 clients. 9/10 original grantees doing activities. Monthly reports still coming from grantees. Data is much more detailed than in previous years. About 52% of the funds are unused. About 2000 clients are unduplicated and 10k clients are duplicated.
• Nguyen asked why only 9/10 grantees did activities?
  o Muhammad responded that one of the grantees decided to opt out because they believed that the population being served wasn’t big enough. Those unused funds will be reallocated.
  o Sanjana answered that they’ll work with the grantees to work on capacity building services using those funds.
• Ji-young asked that of the 9 that are funded, do you know which groups serve which Vietnamese group?
  o Muhammad mentioned that it was both the groups on the call, MVMA and VAS.
Updates from DHHS

- Nguyen discussed the updates to DHHS. The proposal is to change MHIP’s meaning from “Minority Health Initiatives/Programs” to “Multicultural Health Initiatives/Programs.” Nguyen mentioned that the other two initiatives are very reluctant to the name change. If the name is changed isn’t specific enough, it can open the door for other issues.
- Wilbur Friedman asked if there are other “minority groups” in the County.
  - Sanjana answered that the two groups are the Middle Eastern community, and the second group is the LGBTQIA+ community. These groups don’t fall under the current existing umbrella. The caveat is that the word “minority” sounds disrespectful to the community. The communities are worried about the potential allocation of resources if the name is changed.
- Nguyen recommended that the committee vote against the name change due to the following reasons:
  - Could impact resources in the future
  - Undermines the needs of Asian American community
- Nguyen proposed to vote on the name change. Wilbur moved to oppose the change to the name. Yuchi seconded. No one disagreed.

ACTION: Steering Committee opposed the name change of MHIP’s meaning from “Minority Health Initiatives/Programs” to “Multicultural Health Initiatives/Programs.”

Updates from the subcommittee

- Advocacy subcommittee updates:
  - Since the last meeting, the budget of the Healthy Communities Grant and micro-grants has been increased and added into the base budget.
- Data subcommittee updates:
  - No updates
  - Data subcommittee position is open.
- Liaison updates
  - Healthy Montgomery is working on the CHNA Report
    - The Steering Committee is updating the bylaws
  - Montgomery Cares reimbursement rates increased
  - Tho went to the OESS meeting and talked about updating information to keep Medicaid
- Yuchi moved to make a plaque for MK Lee and that a new tradition be started by giving the Chair a plaque. Nguyen agreed about the plaque for MK.
• Yuchi put in a motion to make a plaque for the Chair and Wilbur seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** Steering Committee will make plaque for chair.

**Adjourn**

• Nguyen moved to adjourn the meeting, and all voted.
• Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

**ACTION:** Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

**Next Meeting:** July 11, 2023