

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Administrative Operations
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2021 2:00pm – 4pm

Present: Leo Lishi Huang, Richer San, Dr. Andy Yang, Dr. Yamada, Dr. Anna Lee, Christine Oh, Jessica Baker, Kishen Bera, Mariko Kahn, Melisa Acoba, Pam Inaba, Phaly Sam, Raji, Shahana Osman, Sharon Hillahan, Shital, Dr. Sheila Wu, Vickie Xu, Pastor Kim, Payal Sawhney, Michelle Wong, Lynette Morgan, Sun Lim

DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman, Dr. Sandra Chang, Keacha Stewart, Dr. Jorge Partida

Welcome & Introductions

- Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs

Review of Meeting Minutes – February 2021 Minutes Approved

Department of Public Health

- A. API Outreach & Engagement Efforts
- B. Discussion & Recommendations

Melisa Acoba from the Department of Public Health shared a presentation with the subcommittee members to assist stake holders and community-based organizations with registering for the COVID Vaccine.

Melisa stated the website has languages such as Cambodian, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Melisa shared resources with the subcommittee on how to file for hate crimes, help with resources for Cal Works, Medical, Cal-fresh, General Relief and applying for unemployment claims.

Emotional and Mental Health support is available on the Department of Public Health website.

1, 676,900 doses of the vaccine have been administered as of February 18, 2021.

Melisa provided information on who is eligible for the vaccine. Food and Agriculture, along with education workers and childcare, Emergency Services will begin receiving the vaccine March 1, 2021.

Melisa shared that the number of Asian community members who have received at least one dose of the vaccine is 211,222 residents or 19.1 percent. 6,722 native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine

Melisa shared vaccinatelacounty.com is where stakeholders can sign up for the vaccine newsletter. This website provides vaccine updates, and new vaccine sites.

Melisa informed the subcommittee members to be aware of vaccine scams and misinformation happening in the API community.

Melisa shared there is an FAQ section for both distributors of the Covid vaccine Pfizer and Moderna.

Melisa does a Webinar every Wednesday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm about the vaccine. How it was developed, safety issues, updates, and anyone can attend, no registration is needed.

Hilda Solis is proposing a motion for stakeholders to get transported to the vaccine appointment, Melissa will follow-up with the Department regarding transportation.

Attacks on the API Community

Leo Lishi Huang provided information to the subcommittee on racist and discriminatory experiences that he has encountered since the pandemic began.

Leo asked the subcommittee members to have an open discussion, share their thoughts and how they can address the situation.

There has been a string of discriminatory actions against Asians in communities across the country, with the attacks increasing tremendously.

Mariko Kahn shared information about how A3PCON started a tracking system for hate crimes against Asian Americans.

Mariko explained how the tracking system started, from a young boy being attacked and beaten up by his classmates.

Mariko shared there has been over 3000 reported incidents throughout the United States regarding attacks on Asians, but it's possibly more.

Mariko shared that a number of Asians have begun to feel attacked by Blacks, and it has become a race issue, even though most of the attacks are Caucasians on Asians.

Mariko recommended DMH set aside allocated funds, for people who are victims of racial hatred, Leo seconded this recommendation.

Mariko stated attacks are going on in the Bay Area, particularly Oakland.

Dr. Sheila Wu shared with the group the Clubhouse social media app, which had a silent 24-hour in solidarity against anti-Asian hate crimes and there were thousands of people in the room

Pam Inaba suggested webinars, or a way to reach out to parents to report if something has happened to their family

Pam Inaba suggested to reach out to the Black organizations and collaborate with them and the Asian groups so that we can help them understand that it is not a racial thing -- that it is not just Blacks on Asians.

Dr. Partida shared he agrees, and this is an opportunity for the United Mental Health promoters that are specific to the language and the culture, to go out and work with our communities around these issues.

Dr. Partida stated if anyone have bridge makers that has a level of trust established, it would be wonderful for employment. DMH is still looking for people to employ as mental health promoters.

Tracy shared a Filipino man in Antioch in the Bay Area, died after a police officer had put his knee on his neck to subdue him, after the family called the police for a mental health crisis.

Tracy stated there are individual acts of violence, and public outreach around that and the continuing systemic levels of violence happening.

Tracy shared a common ground is needed with other communities of Color to talk about what happens when people who have mental health crisis are experiencing violence?

Pam Inaba suggested speaking with the Black & African Heritage UsCC, to see if they could help with educating groups about what is going on with the Asian community and do presentations for them.

Dr. Guzman shared the MHSA 3-Year Plan is an opportunity for this subcommittee and the API Community to give DMH feedback on what the priorities for the MHSA 3-Year Plan is for the API Community

Dr. Sandra Chang suggested reaching out to the Access Center to see what kind of additional supports can be added to our 24/7 help line.

Dr. Sandra Chang stated add additional resources to our DMH web page, in order to direct the community to resources.

Dr. Chang shared information about the Cultural traditions and connections" newsletter.

The Newsletter is for us to share in terms of who we are, what is happening to us and kind of find a space to support, to grow, to be with each other, to connect as community.

Dr. Chang suggested the API group use the newsletter as a tool to reach out to the community on what is happening in the Asian community

The subcommittee members agree to getting information to Dr. Chang to be included in the Newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings: 4-26-01, 5-24-01, 6-28-01