



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

AAAC Minutes for April 3, 2024

2:00pm to 3:30pm

Special Meeting

VIRTUAL Microsoft Teams and In Person: DCFS 1755 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield, IL

Present:

Sebastian Emmanuel; Stany D'Souza; Nancy Rodriguez; Beaulu Varghese;
Suk Wong; Santhosh Kurian; Bino Simon

Excused:

Benny Kuriakose; Jose Chacko; Jose Thomas; Joseph Antony; Khushbu Dalal;
Linson Thomas; Michael Chan; Michelle Buckle; Najma Adam; Ryann Unabia;
Sarah Viernum; Sofia Dumlao; Jophia George; Saju Philip

Kara Hamilton: Associate Deputy Director, External Communications and Advisory Groups

Ada Tong: Chief of Asian American Services and Director's Liaison

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes for 1-24-2024 and 2-28-2024; 3-27-2024 (tabled)

Minutes Consolidation D-Net Posting

Kara Hamilton stated that she is not able to post the 2023 AAAC Minutes Consolidation.

Asian American Star, Issue 5 for 2024 (Chairperson, Nancy Rodriguez)

Nancy Rodriguez completed an article on the MAHA new Family Advocacy Center and provided it to Ada Tong to add to issue 5. Ada Tong stated that she will update the article and have the draft ready for end of April 2024. Ada Tong will then forward all articles to DCFS Communications for review and approval.

DCFS Joint Advisory Council 3-21-2024 Meeting Feedback and Joint Recommendations

The Joint Advisory Council meeting was held on 3-20-2024. The All Consulates project was introduced. The meeting was not held timely. As a result, person leading the meeting did not ask if anyone had any questions, comments about the All Consulates Project. Ada Tong stated that the AAAC is hosting the next meeting. Sebastian Emmanuel stated that this will be discussed further in next meeting.



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2025 Professional Development

Bino Simon recommended that Beaulu Varghese chair the next Professional Development event. Beaulu agreed to chair the next Professional Development. The event will be conducted virtually, end of January 2025.

2024 Family Institute Day (Chairperson, Stany D'Souza)

Stany D'Souza stated that the date and venue is finalized for our next AAAC Family Institute event. NIU in Naperville is the venue. Parking at venue is available. Selected date is 5-20-2024 which is a Monday. The program book will be one page only. The venue walk-through is 4-5-2024 at 3:30pm. Committee chairs are identified for food, exhibitors, cultural presentation, workshops, decorations. Keynote Speaker is needed. Stany D'Souza welcomed ideas for Keynote Speaker.

Updates from the Chief of Asian American Services (Ada Tong)

Ada Tong stated that there are currently 73 Asian American DCFS staff. Asian American PSA count is 14. Asian American SPSA count is 4. There are 52 Asian American youth in care in DCFS. Total youths in DCFS care of all races and ethnicities is 19,379. DCFS has 12 total of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island staff. Sebastian Emmanuel recommended that the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island staff be invited to our meetings.

AAAC New Logo Updates

During this meeting, Ada Tong sent email to all council members with the new logo. The logo was virtually displayed during this meeting. Council members liked the new logo. No council members opposed the logo during this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 AAAC Handbook Updating

Ada Tong stated that she will update the handbook such as Asian American community agencies list. Some of the info has changed. Nancy Rodriguez requested council members receive binded (non-loose leaf) handbook from DCFS Communications after Ada Tong updates the community agencies list.

Amendment to Constitution (AAAC Bylaws)

Stany D'Souza stated that it was recommended to change Article one, last sentence, defining membership. Stany D'Souza will send the written proposal to amend the bylaws to Nancy Rodriguez. Nancy Rodriguez can forward the proposal to all council members.

Outstanding OMA Certificates of Council Members

Nancy Rodriguez agreed to send an email to council members regarding outstanding OMA certificates.



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Stakeholders Joint Planning Meeting

Kara Hamilton stated that all are welcomed to the 4-11-2024 Stakeholders Joint Planning meeting. Anyone interested in joining the meeting can send Kara an email so she can forward the virtual invite. During this meeting, Kara sent all council members an email with the detailed documents about the Stakeholders meeting.

Council Members Attendance and Removal of Non-Participating Council Members (tabled)

Stany D'Souza stated that in the bylaws, article 3, section 5, it shows membership attendance. Three unexcused absences or more can move the council to remove members who are unable to participate in our monthly council meetings. Nancy Rodriguez can send a copy of the bylaws to all council members.

Next Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting is 4-24-2024.

Any other matter

Council members agreed to change our monthly meeting time to 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Meeting Adjournment

Nancy Rodriguez
Secretary