



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

AAAC Minutes for November 29, 2023

2:00pm to 3:30pm

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

Council Members Present:

Sebastian Emmanuel; Stany D'Souza; Nancy Rodriguez; Jophia P. George; Linson Thomas; Saju Philip; Bino Simon; Suk M. Wong

Council Members Excused: Benny Kuriakose; Jose Chacko; Khushbu S. Dalal; Ryan Unabia; Santhosh Kurian; Joseph Antony; Jose Thomas; Sarah Viernum; Najma Adams; Michael Chan; Michelle Buckle; Sofia Dumlao;

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

Guest: Beaulu Varghese

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Sebastian Emmanuel called meeting to order and welcomed Guest, Beaulu Vargese and Everyone.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes for 8-23-2023, 9-27-2023, 10-25-2023 (tabled)

Asian American Star, Issue 4 for 2023 (Chairperson, Nancy Rodriguez)

Nancy Rodriguez stated that the articles were first provided to DCFS DEI and DCFS Communications for review three months ago. Ada Tong reported by email this month that DCFS Communications is currently reviewing the articles and should have the newsletter draft in 2 weeks (Ada Tong's email: "15-20 business days after the Thanksgiving holiday"). Nancy Rodriguez recommends that once DCFS Communications approves the articles for council members to review and provide final feed-back that ideally, the Star newsletter Issue 4 should be posted to the D-Net the first week of December 2023 before child welfare staff go on Christmas vacation.

Asian American Star, Issue 5 for 2024

Nancy Rodriguez stated that the Star Newsletter committee has articles for Issue 5. The committee is still accepting more articles from council members. Nancy Rodriguez anticipates submitting the new articles for Issue 5 in February, 2024. Suk M. Wong joined the Star newsletter committee.



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Recruitment of New Council Members, 1 need of 21 (Chairperson, Stany D'Souza)

Beaulu Varghese was present. Beaulu Varghese has submitted the council membership nomination form. Stany D'Souza motioned to accept Beaulu Varghese as new council member. Suk M. Wong second the motion. No council member opposed. Motion carries. This council now has 21 members.

2024 Professional Development (Chairperson, Bino Simon)

Bino Simon stated that the FBI agreed to conduct the Human Trafficking workshop for the virtual AAAC Professional Development and Innovation event of 1-26-2024. The event is estimated to last for 2-3 hours. DCFS Training Department was notified of this event. Nancy Rodriguez stated that we can request a DCFS Save the Date D-Net posting after communicating with the FBI once more to finalize logistics. Nancy Rodriguez stated that we are searching for a Keynote Speaker to speak for 30 minutes.

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

Stany D'Souza stated that Oakton Community College is unable to provide a venue at this time due to remodeling. Loyola University is unable to participate in the collaboration for the 2024 event.

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

Nancy Rodriguez read the email that Ada Tong provided as updates.

- As of November 28, 2023, there are 72 Asian employees in DCFS
- October 2023 Asian employee data
 - 2 new hires: Region 1 – Technical Advisor II; Region 7 – Office Associate
 - 1 internal promotion: Region 10 – Public Service Administrator
 - 4 separations: Region 1 – Public Service Administrator, Child Protection Specialist, Child Welfare Specialist; Region 7 – Account Technician”

Attendance Follow-Up (Sebastian Emmanuel and Stany D'Souza)

Stany D'Souza stated that he will be sending letters to council members regarding council meetings attendance.

AAAC Christmas Celebration on 12-13-2023, 12:00pm at DCFS-Deerfield (Michael Chan and Suk M. Wong)

Suk M. Wong stated that she will be meeting with Michael Chan to plan for the Christmas lunch meeting at DCFS – Deerfield. Nancy Rodriguez stated that she can assist in the Christmas committee, if needed.



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

OMA Training (Final Discussion)

Nancy Rodriguez stated that she has some OMA certificate copies for council members. Nancy Rodriguez requested Sebastian Emmanuel assistance in obtaining any outstanding OMA certificates. Nancy Rodriguez agreed to send the link and information for OMA certification process.

All Consulates Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

Nancy Rodriguez sent Jose Lopez of DCFS Office of Latino Services an email requesting updates of the recommended All Consulates Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Jose Lopez responded that he is communicating with Daniel Fitzgerald of DCFS DEI and will get back to this council. Nancy Rodriguez stated that with a plan and timeline, progress can be made in DEI contacting and collaborating with Consulates to achieve an All Consulates MOU. Stany D'Souza recommended having an All Consulates Directory. Nancy Rodriguez stated that she can send the All Consulates Directory. Stany D'Souza stated to send it to all council members.

Joint Advisory Council Meeting of 10-26-23 Update

Nancy Rodriguez stated that the Joint Advisory Council comprising of cultural councils (Asian American Advisory Council; African American Advisory Council; Native American Indian Advisory Council; Latino Advisory Council) are requesting that each council discuss and provide their recommendations for a joint project. The next Joint Advisory Council is estimated to occur in February or March, 2024. Nancy Rodriguez will obtain the exact date. Nancy Rodriguez did inform the Joint Advisory Council that a joint project of bringing equity in recruitment and hiring in DCFS would be great. Currently, DCFS has over 3,000 DCFS staff and only eighty something Asian American DCFS staff (per last report by DEI).

NEW BUSINESS

AAAC Logo

Sebastian Emmanuel stated that this council will continue to discuss the new AAAC logo. Nancy Rodriguez reported that this council needs more clarity on the logo since Marjorie Moore had presented a logo in the past for our council. And the agenda and minutes includes the AAAC logo for our council.

Next Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting (and Christmas lunch) is 12-13-2023.

Any other matter

Meeting Adjournment

Nancy Rodriguez
Secretary