



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

AAAC Minutes for January 27, 2021 Meeting

Attendees: Stany DSouza; Sebastian Emmanuel; Santhosh Kurian; Nancy Rodriguez; Barbara Hiram; Marjorie Moore; Saju Philip

Excused: Benny Kuriakose; Linson Thomas; George Vennalasseril; Jose Chacko; Michael Chan; Lily Ruan

Guest: Jose Lopez; Maggie Mui

WELCOME:

Meeting was called to order. Sebastian welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

The 12-16-2020 minutes were reviewed. Stany motioned to approve the minutes. Saju second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS: (tabled)

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

Maggie Mui is present and approved her nomination. Nancy motioned to accept Maggie as new council member. Barbara second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW HIRE PROCESS UPDATE: (tabled)

NEW CALENDAR CREATION:

The Asian American Advisory Council FY 2021 calendar has been completed by Marjorie.

FAMILY INSTITUTE DAY:

May is Asian American heritage month. May is the ideal month to conduct our annual Family Institute Day event. Loyola University, Northeastern University, and DePaul University were some possible schools to collaborate with for the event. The Social Work Department would be contacted. We need to decide whether the timeline of the event would be a half day or a full day. Workshop proposals for the event are needed. The DCFS Training Department would be invited to our meetings. The DCFS budget approval depends on our budget proposal with the line items. Theme needs to be created by the council members. Stany agreed to lead the coordination of the Family Institute Day planning. Nancy, Jose, Marjorie volunteered to help in the planning. Marjorie discussed the workshop conducted by the Immigrant History Initiatives founders. Nancy and Marjorie attended the live workshop conducted on 1-22-2021. The workshop



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can be viewed in recorded form. Marjorie will see if a recorded form is readily available. This workshop can be used for our Family Institute Day event.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY: (tabled)

OFFICE OF ASIAN AMERICAN SERVICES:

Marjorie reported that there are 80 Asian American children in DCFS custody. There are 80 Asian American employees in DCFS. The Chief of Asian American Services position will be vacant as of 2-1-2021. Marjorie has accepted a new position as Deputy General Counsel and begins on 2-1-2021.

Asian American Newsletter:

The Asian American Advisory Council will begin creating a DCFS newsletter. Nancy agreed to take the lead. Nancy will provide sample newsletters to the council. Nancy will send an ideas list. We can look at the Chinese Mutual Aid Association letter for a sample newsletter.

ASIAN AMERICAN FOSTER-PARENT RECRUITMENT:

Dennis Mondero, Executive Director of Chinese Mutual Aid Association has recorded a presentation for Asian American foster-parent recruitment. The presentation includes discussions of racism. The release date of the presentation is anticipated to be set sometime in February, 2021.

DIRECTOR:

Jose Lopez reported that the DCFS Director will meet with each of the councils and discuss items the councils are each working on.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting is scheduled for 2-24-2021 Barbara motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nancy second the motion. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned

Scribe: Nancy Rodriguez