



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

AAAC Minutes for March 11, 2021 Meeting

Attendees: Stany DSouza; Sebastian Emmanuel; Nancy Rodriguez; Barbara Hiram; Saju Philip; Lily Ruan; Maggie Mui; Michael Chan

Excused: Santhosh Kurian; Benny Kuriakose; Linson Thomas; George Vennalasseril; Jose Chacko

WELCOME:

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

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

The 1-27-2021 minutes were reviewed. Stany motioned to approve the minutes. Barbara second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS: (tabled)

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

Jaerim Gauh is interested in becoming a council member. Stany will follow-up with Jaerim.

NEW HIRE PROCESS AND OTHER UPDATES:

Michael Chan stated that in relations to employee recruitment, DCFS looks to first fill vacant positions with interested DCFS staff internally. If the position is not filled, then DCFS reviews the Upward Mobility list. If the vacant position does not get filled, then DCFS reviews the CMS list which includes non-DCFS staff. There is also a transfer list where staff request to move from one county to another. New hires can move to another position in DCFS after one year. Criminal Justice degrees are accepted only for Child Protection Specialist vacancies. Some offices have postings for 5 days.

Approximately 300 staff retired by December 2020. Rockford, Waukegan, and Woodstock are short of frontline workers. Frontline positions for these offices have been posted. Nancy has inquired about what DCFS has historically done and may currently be doing in relations to hiring people from other states and internationally. Nancy also inquired about information about DCFS aiding interested international people in their Visas to work for DCFS. Nancy reported that DCFS has partnerships with some Illinois universities. Information will be collected for these inquiries.



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FAMILY INSTITUTE DAY:

Stany is the lead for the Family Institute Day planning. Nancy, Jose, Marjorie, Maggie, and Michael are the volunteers to help in the planning. More volunteers are needed. Michael and Maggie agreed to be the Emcee. For the virtual event, no awards will be presented. Marjorie Moore is anticipated to provide feed-back for the Keynote Speaker. The DCFS Family Institute Day event for this council is anticipated to occur in June instead of May. Loyola University is collaborating with our council for the virtual event. Theme will center around racial equity of Asian Americans. This council anticipates not considering an in-person event since state restrictions continue changing. This council will determine if the event will be a half day or a full day. Workshop proposals for the event are needed. The DCFS Training Department later would be invited to our meetings. The DCFS budget approval for this council depends on our budget proposal with the line items.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY: (tabled)

OFFICE OF ASIAN AMERICAN SERVICES:

Marjorie has accepted a new position as Deputy General Counsel. The Office of Asian Services Chief position continues to be vacant.

Asian American Newsletter:

Nancy has created a long list of ideas in categories or subjects for the council newsletter. The list will be shortened then distributed to council members. Nancy has contacted the Chinese Mutual Aid Association and requested their newsletters for the council's review. Nancy displayed on WebEx during this meeting a sample newsletter created by the DCFS Latino Advisory Council.

DIRECTOR MEETING (2-9-2021):

Issues were presented to the DCFS Director including about foster-parent recruitment. Stany will follow-up with the list of concerns and for this council to discuss and further plan to address the reported issues.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting is scheduled for 3-24-2021. Stany moved and Michael second the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned

Scribe: Nancy Rodriguez