



# *Asian American Advisory Council*

*Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*

## **AAAC Minutes for July 28, 2021 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Stany DSouza; Sebastian Emmanuel, Nancy Rodriguez; Barbara Hiram; Maggie Mui; Michael Chan

**Ex-Officio:** Jose Lopez

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

**Guests:** Michelle Buckle

### **WELCOME:**

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

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (tabled)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:** (tabled)

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

New member nominee, Michelle Buckle introduced herself. Stany motioned for a vote for new member, Michelle. Nancy second the motion. Vote was unanimous approving Michelle as our new member.

### **NEW HIRES:**

Some new hires do not accept offers. DCFS has retention issues. Prospective applicants receive letters, emails and calls from OES. Some applicants are already employed in DCFS. Some Chicago applicants do not accept offers outside of Chicago where there is a need.

### **FAMILY INSTITUTE DAY:**

The Asian American Family Institute event was a success with the collaboration between our council members, Loyola University staff, and many others. Michelle stated that she attended the Asian American Family Institute. She enjoyed the research-based workshops. More outreaching is needed to get the word out about the event. We can let everyone know that everyone of various backgrounds are welcomed to the event. Stany drafted a letter for Dr. Rai and will be finalized soon. This council is invited for a 6:00pm dinner celebration honoring Loyola University staff. Emails will be sent inviting council members and Loyola University staff.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

The Professional Development event can be held in the first or second week of December 2021. Stany inquired if the Professional Development can be done without utilizing a university. The DCFS Training Department and OITS can be consulted to inquire.



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## **ASIAN AMERICAN NEWSLETTER:**

Articles will be requested during our monthly meetings and by emails. Nancy, Maggie, and Michelle will hold its first Newsletter meeting soon. All council members were invited to join the Newsletter Committee.

## **DCFS Chief of Asian American Services:**

Reportedly, an offer was made to an applicant. Process may take approximately 2 weeks to be finalized.

## **JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

Nancy recommended that Jose Lopez take the lead to follow-up with the DCFS African American Advisory Council in order to be inclusive to hold the DCFS Joint Advisory Council. The Native American Advisory Council needs to be invited. Jose Lopez stated that the Native American Council re-instated on December, 2020.

## **OTHER:**

Stany recommended that this council meet in December, 2021 for a Christmas dinner. Date selected in December can be in days before a great number of people go on vacation.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting is on August 25, 2021. Meeting adjourned

*Scribe: Nancy Rodriguez*