



# *Asian American Advisory Council*

*Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*

**AAAC MINUTES for November 16, 2021**

2:00- 4:00 pm

**Present:** Sebastian Emmanuel; Stany D'Souza; Nancy Rodriguez

**Excused:** Benny Kuriakose; Santhosh Kurian; Saju Philip; Barbara Hiram; Michael Chan; Jose Chacko; Linson Thomas; Maggie Mui; Michelle Buckle; Jophia P. George

**Guests:** Ryann Unabia, DCFS ICWA PSA

**Associate Deputy Director of Communications; Advisory Board  
Coordinator:** Kara Hamilton

**Director's Liason; Chief of Asian American Services:** Ada Tong

## **WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

Everyone was welcomed by Sebastian Emmanuel. Our new guest is Ryann Unabia, one of our new DCFS ICWA PSA. Ryann is the Co-Chair of the Native American Advisory Council. Ellen Williams is the other reported ICWA PSA new hire.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was no quorum to approve minutes.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Asian American Newsletter**

On 11-1-21, Nancy sent the newsletter articles to the DCFS Communications Department and requested approval of our council's first newsletter. Approval is pending.

### **DCFS Asian American Advisory Council Booklet / Manual**

Nancy created the council booklet / manual and will soon send to the DCFS Communications Department for approval. The newsletter in being our priority was sent first.

### **DCFS Asian American Advisory Council History**

Stany and Nancy have reached out to the DCFS Communications Department requesting for history information of our DCFS Asian American Advisory Council. Our council plans to create a



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history page. Nancy received some documents and will forward to Sebastian, Stany and Ada for review and feed-back.

## **Professional Development (February 2022)**

Stany is the Chair-person of the Professional Development event. Stany is in contact with Loyola University. Our theme will center around **Leadership**. Loyola contacts are in the process of identifying Keynote and Workshop Presenters.

## **Recruitment of New Council Members**

Stany has not received any new nomination forms or interested parties.

## **Updates from the Chief of Asian American Services**

Ada reported that our council meetings are not yet authorized for an in-person meeting. Our next meeting will remain virtually. The DCFS Youth Advisory Board is discussing the development of the DCFS Asian American Advisory Council. There are also discussions about creating a mini youth conference with attendance of all youths. Ada has reviewed the DCFS Asian American Advisory Council bylaws and inquired about recruitment. Nancy reported that traditionally, child welfare staff from DCFS and POS child welfare agencies are recruited into our advisory board. Any changes to this can be written into the bylaws and approval obtained from DCFS Communications Department. For example, we can ask for approval of recruitment of staff from our service providers. Ada reported that she attended Judson University event in Elgin, Illinois. She met community partners who collaborated with housing, food, and clothing resources. Ada is preparing a presentation for our Illinois legislators. She will give legislators an informational and statistical update about our DCFS Asian American children and families and our child welfare staff.

## **Family Institute Day (June 2022)**

Stany reported that Loyola University contacts may be willing to collaborate with our council in putting together our Asian American Family Institute event. Our council will need to identify the Family Institute Chair-person and committee members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2022 Calendar**

The updated FY2022 calendar is posted in the D-Net.

Meeting adjournment

**Secretary:** *Nancy Rodriguez*