

8TH ANNUAL ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL INSTITUTE

COLLABORATION AND UNITY: MOVING FORWARD WITH RESILIENCY

Friday, June 24, 2022

A VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENT

Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
in collaboration with the Asian American Advisory Council

Marc D. Smith, Director ~ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Sebastian Emmanuel, Acting Chairperson ~ DCFS Asian American Advisory Council

Daniel Ibarra Fitzgerald ~ Deputy Director, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Ada Tong ~ Chief of Asian American Services



*Asian American
Advisory Council*

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

SAFETY  **SAFETY**
FIRST ALWAYS

WELCOME





June 24, 2022

Dear friends and colleagues,

It's my honor to welcome you to the 8th Annual Asian American Advisory Council Institute Day, "*Collaboration and Unity: Moving Forward with Resiliency.*"

The Department of Children and Family Services is committed to being fully responsive to the needs of the children and families we serve, and we continue to work closely with the Asian American Advisory Council and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to ensure that we are focused on the needs of the Asian American community and sensitive to language, culture and background when providing services.

We are excited to offer you a full slate of workshops that cover important topics facing the Asian American community and our youth in care, including cultural factors pertaining to domestic violence in Asian American families; addressing the behavioral health needs of youth in care; preventing and responding to anti-Asian hate; and bullying and addressing substance use in the AAPI community.

On behalf of DCFS and the children and families we serve, thank you for participating in this institute day, and thank you for the work you do!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marc D. Smith

Director

Department of Children and Family Services

Office of the Director
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217-785-2509 • 217-524-3715/TTY
www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

ACTING CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 8th Annual Asian American Advisory Council Institute.

Each year, the Asian American Advisory Council prepares a program that supports and enlightens our Department and community partners on the culture and diverse needs of the Asian American population. Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial demographic in the state, increasing by 24% since 2010 and now making up 5.7% of Illinois' population. As we continue to persevere through this pandemic, my hope is that the theme of our conference "*Collaboration and Unity: Moving Forward with Resiliency*" aims to inspire and motivate our dedicated child welfare workforce.

The Asian American Advisory Council strives to be a bridge to the Asian American community that we serve. On behalf of the Asian American Advisory Council, I express my sincere gratitude to our Keynote Speaker, Shobhana Verma, Executive Director of the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to everyone for their contribution and time in organizing this institute planning: Ada Tong, Maggie Mui, Nancy Rodriguez, Ryann Unabia, community partners, performers and volunteers.

I wish you all a learning experience and cultural enrichment at today's Institute.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Emmanuel
DCFS Asian American Advisory Council
Acting Chairperson

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



SHOBHANA VERMA

Shobhana is the Executive Director of the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI). Most recently she has built and also led one of the first and most effective South Asian Voter Engagement Programs at the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners that has helped unprecedented numbers of South Asian Americans in the city exercise their right to vote by participating in the electoral process. Prior to joining the Chicago Election Board, Shobhana held numerous roles as a researcher, educator and journalist advocating for environmental causes and gender and immigrant interests, including challenging roles supporting victims of sexual exploitation, human trafficking and domestic violence. She has written for and been published in both the digital and print media in both the United States and India. Shobhana holds two master's degrees in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Cincinnati and Lucknow University. She is a certified Sexual Violence Prevention Educator and is trained in Medical and Legal Advocacy. She is a past student board member of the Cincinnati Chapter of Planned Parenthood. Shobhana is also a past member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Equity that advises the Mayor and City Council of Chicago on policy matters regarding civil rights issues. Shobhana was recently appointed to the Asian American Family Commission by the Illinois Senate President. The commission advises the governor, General Assembly and state agencies how to best improve and expand services and opportunities for Asian American families in Illinois. Shobhana is also a member of the Chicago Mayor's Office AAPI Community Engagement Council; the Language Access Advisory Committee and the Chicago Committee on Asian and Pacific Islander Hate Crimes.

Shobhana has been an active and trusted leader within the South Asian American community in Greater Chicago Area and as SAAPRI's Executive Director, she is continuing her work as a researcher, organizer and strategist on a wide range of human rights and social justice issues with diverse and collaborative coalitions in Chicago and beyond.

DCFS ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ada Tong

Chief of Asian American Services and Institute Day Chairperson

Members

Sebastian Emmanuel

Acting Chairperson

Michelle Buckle

Jose Chacko

Michael Chan

Stany D'Souza

Jophia P. George

Benny Kuriakose

Santhosh Kurian

Maggie Mui

(Workshop Moderator)

Saju Philip

Nancy Rodriguez

(Secretary)

Bino Simon

Linson Thomas

Ryann Unabia

(Program MC and Workshop Moderator)

DCFS ASIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL INSTITUTE DAY

COLLABORATION AND UNITY: MOVING FORWARD WITH RESILIENCY

Program

8:30 – 9 am	Registration
9 – 9:30 am	Welcome/Opening Session Stany D’Souza, Asian American Advisory Council Ada Tong, Institute Day Chairperson Daniel Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Marc D. Smith, DCFS Director
9:30 – 10:15 am	Keynote Speaker Shobhana Verma, Executive Director of South Asian American Policy and Research Institute
10:15 – 10:45 am	Rising AAPI Panel Andrew Hong, Shifa Zhong, Susan Liu Moderator: Ada Tong
10:45 – 11:00 am	Morning Break
11 am – 12 pm	Workshop Session I: (Breakout Rooms) 1. <i>Domestic Violence, Child Welfare and Asian American Families</i> Nisha Patel
12 – 1 pm	Lunch Session Ben Lau, Executive Director, Chinese American Museum of Chicago
1 – 2 pm	Workshop Session II: (Breakout Rooms) 2. <i>Understanding and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs in Foster Care</i> Dr. Sonya Leathers 3. <i>Human Trafficking Awareness</i> Laura Ng
2 – 2:15 pm	Afternoon Entertainment: SamaSama Project
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Workshop Session III: (Breakout Rooms) 4. <i>Anti-Asian Hate and Bullying Response and Prevention</i> Dr. Elizabeth Stigler and Abbey Eusebio 5. <i>Addressing Substance Use in the AAPI Community</i> Andrew Piotrowski
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Closing Session and Remarks

PROGRAM

11 am – 12 pm

Workshop Session I

Workshop 1

Domestic Violence, Child Welfare and Asian American Families

Domestic violence (DV) is an underlying condition that increases the risk of abuse and neglect to children. This workshop will examine the intersection of child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence. The workshop will discuss the impact of exposure to violence on children and identify indicators of DV. The workshop will examine cultural factors pertaining to DV in Asian American families; and discuss the impact of COVID-19 on families experiencing domestic violence.

Presenter: Nisha Patel

1 – 2 pm

Workshop Session II

Workshop 2

Understanding and Addressing Behavioral Health Needs in Foster Care

This workshop will provide an overview of the types and severity of behavioral health needs among children and adolescents in foster care and actual and ideal services to address these needs. Research focused on the needs of children with a high risk for moves in Illinois will be presented to understand typical services provided and to identify areas in which service enhancements are needed. Examples of initiatives to increase comprehensive, community-based services to children in foster care from other states will be provided. Finally, this workshop will outline strategies that agencies and caseworkers can implement to better meet the behavioral health needs of children and adolescents in foster care by leveraging existing resources.

Presenter: Dr. Sonya Leathers

Workshop 3

Human Trafficking Awareness

Laura Ng will present an overview of the topic of human trafficking including definitions, recruitment strategies, and statistics found across the state in Illinois. The time will primarily focus on minor victims of human trafficking, its close correlation with child sexual abuse, how to screen for this type of victimization, and working within a multi-disciplinary team to carry out trauma-informed investigations.

Presenter: Laura Ng

Workshop 4

Anti-Asian Hate and Bullying Response and Prevention

According to Dr. Russell Jeung who oversaw the Youth Project and lead an additional analysis of 341 reports of racism and discrimination against Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) youth (as reported through the *Stop AAPI Hate* site) a common pattern that they observed was the complicity of adults who were present in nearly half of these reported cases and almost never intervened. Additionally, research from AAPI Data tells us that AANHPIs are least likely to feel comfortable reporting a hate incident (with only 30% of AANHPIs responding that they would feel comfortable reporting as compared to 45% of Black and 42% of Latino people.) 1 in 4 AANHPI youth experience bullying (*2020 Stop AAPI Hate Youth Report* based on interviews with 1,000 youth across the country) 50% of the youth in this same study expressed sadness or depression as a result of bullying, and 25% said they were scared for themselves or their families. Reporting is a critical step to eliminating anti-hate incidents. If we do not accurately understand the scope and breadth of the issues around hate, we cannot accurately provide impactful and responsive resources. We want to make sure that our AANHPI families have equitable access to vital resources. We can provide an overview of the resources of the Anti-Hate Action Center at CASL which aims to build the infrastructure needed to track and respond to hate incidents, protect AAPI communities, and ultimately prevent further incidents from occurring by catalyzing solutions that already exist locally, adding needed resources, and creating a national network for greater collaboration. The goal of the Anti-Hate Action Center is to serve as a safe space where a survivor of a hate crime can go for multiple services and receive one-on-one crime victims' assistance.

Presenters: Dr. Elizabeth Stigler
Abbey Eusebio

Workshop 5

Addressing Substance Use in the AAPI Community

This presentation will focus on best practices for addressing substance use in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, particularly among children. Topics covered in this presentation will include presentation ideas, strategies to increase engagement, and challenges encountered.

Presenter: Andrew Piotrowski

RISING AAPI PANELISTS



Susan Liu

Susan Liu is Chicago Chinatown’s Miss Friendship Ambassador 2022. She is also a CPA and senior auditor, vocalist, model, and diversity advocate. During her free time, Susan volunteers with the Chinatown Special Events Committee to put together events such as the annual Dragon Boat Race and the Summer Fair. Susan grew up in the south side of Chicago and attended the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Growing up between the East and the West gave her the tenacity and discipline to transform from a shy little girl with a dream to a proud multi-hyphenated Asian American woman.



Andrew Hong 홍진 (pronounced “hong jheen”)

Andrew is a Restorative Justice practitioner, Circle keeper, educator, and artist of various mediums. He founded WE EACH BELONG, a Restorative Justice streetwear brand that deepens connectedness between Asians and other communities of color. Andrew uses the streetwear as communication and funding for the mission, and proceeds are used to hold healing spaces called Circles, where these communities can more deeply listen to each other, understand each other, and care for each other. He also provides Circle trainings for folx of color who can help grow an abundance of these spaces. During the day, he is a Restorative Practices Coach for Chicago Public Schools, where he works with students and staff to nurture more restorative environments, relationships, and structures. Prior to this, Andrew was an English teacher at an alternative High School on the South Side, which began his journey focusing on relationships between people of color.



Shifa Zhong

Shifa Zhong, a 24-year-old Bridgeport resident, showcases the best of Chicago’s Chinatown via digital media.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



Nisha Patel

Nisha Patel is a licensed clinical social worker; and is the statewide administrator of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, through the NIU Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault. In this capacity, she provides case consultation, training and program oversight to promote a comprehensive statewide departmental response to families experiencing domestic violence.



Dr. Sonya Leathers

Sonya Leathers, PhD, is a professor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her areas of expertise include the development of effective training in evidence-based behavioral health interventions, mental health needs of children and adolescents in foster care, and service planning and interventions for children and adolescents with complex needs in public service systems. Her research and training programs have been funded by federal grants and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services over the past 15 years.



Laura Ng

Laura Ng joined ChicagoCAC in 2019 as the agency's Human Trafficking Specialist. With over ten years of experience fighting human trafficking, she has helped ChicagoCAC expand and increase its focus in this area over the past few years. ChicagoCAC is the only nonprofit leading the city's frontline response to reports of child sexual abuse, as well as reports of physical abuse, witness to violence and other serious maltreatment. Laura's work at ChicagoCAC includes responding to allegations of sex and labor trafficking and online exploitation of minors; collaborating with several multi-disciplinary partners to find innovative ways to prevent and combat human trafficking; training hundreds of individuals each year to recognize signs of human trafficking and its intersectionality with systemic injustices; and providing ongoing advocacy and mentorship for individual youth who have experienced this trauma. Prior to her time at ChicagoCAC, Laura was the Executive Director at Traffick Free, a nonprofit dedicated to trafficking prevention and aiding victims and survivors. During her decade-long tenure, she led a volunteer team to open a drop-in center in for adult female-identified survivors of sex trafficking. This center filled a gap in services for low-barrier access to physiological needs like food, shower, rest and community support. Laura is also passionate about using multiple creative platforms to educate the public on trafficking issues. In 2011, she boldly wrote and self-directed a monologue depicting the psychological trauma-bond formed in a trafficking victim's mind. Most recently, Laura has hosted panels and trainings at ChicagoCAC aimed at educating service providers about the unique needs of the LGBTQ+ population. Laura received a Master's in Social Work at the University of Illinois-

Chicago in 2015 with a concentration in Community Health and Urban Development. In 2018, she was recognized with the Rising Alumni Award.



Dr. Elizabeth Stigler

Dr. Elizabeth Stigler (she/her/ella) is the Director of Chinese American Service League's (CASL) Community Equity Research Center. She is an intersectional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility advocate dedicated to empowering individuals and communities to see themselves as agents for change. In 2018 she earned her Ph.D. with Honors in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Kansas and is thrilled to bring her 10+ years of experience writing, researching, and teaching about identity-based oppression and systemic injustice to the CASL family. Dr. Stigler holds two master's degrees in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, one from the University of Kansas and one from Roosevelt University, as well as a Bachelor's in Women's Studies from Augustana College. As a queer person with an invisible disability, the work of inclusion and equity is a deeply personal pursuit for her.



Abbey Eusebio

Abbey Eusebio is CASL's Anti-Hate Action Center Manager. She focuses on implementing the goals and objectives of the Center, which include tracking and responding to hate incidents, protecting AANHPI communities, and ultimately preventing further hate incidents. Ms. Eusebio is working to ensure that survivors of hate crimes have access to comprehensive services such as legal assistance and mental health support, and she works to lead CASL's efforts in partnering with the community to fight back against such injustices. Ms. Eusebio brings over 16 years of both federal and state government experience. Previously, she served as a Community Outreach Liaison for the AANHPI community in Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office and spent 14 years as a Constituent Advocate for the Office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. Outside of work, she has served on several boards of Chicagoland area nonprofit organizations in leadership positions that aid and empower the immigrant community and concentrate on early childhood education. She is a public servant at heart. Ms. Eusebio is particularly focused on the underserved and providing direction and access to important vital resources to help them feel welcomed and included in our society. Ms. Eusebio holds a B.A. in English and Minor in Spanish from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Andrew Piotrowski

Andrew Piotrowski is the Health Programs Manager at Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA). He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as a master's degree with a concentration on Community and Economic Development from Illinois State University. Andrew began his professional life as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, where he gained first-hand experience in community organizing and youth development, and is passionate about educating students, parents, and teachers on the subjects of mental health and substance use.

DCFS ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago

773.271.0899

www.advancingjustice-chicago.org

info@advancingjustice-chicago.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago builds power through collective advocacy and organizing to achieve racial equity. We do this by:

Leadership: Developing grassroots leaders through base-building programs such as KINETIC (for high school English learners), I Speak Power (for adult English learners), and A Just Chi (at-large community members)

Advocacy: Connecting communities through coalition leadership including Just Democracy Illinois, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment Coalition

Civic Engagement: Getting out the vote by reaching out to Asian Americans, increasing participation, and growing our community's power. We win campaigns by exercising our power and mobilizing community members to achieve racial equity.



Central Management Services

312-814-2551

www2.illinois.gov/cms

mayra.magana@illinois.gov

CMS will promote and instill a culture of quality, continuous improvement and respect for people, and meet or exceed all service and support goals for Illinois executive agencies.

CMS Diversity and Inclusion: The mission of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is to develop equity-based inclusion strategies that enrich the diversity of the State's workforce and open access to State employment. The overall goal is to coordinate procedures among State agencies to achieve a cohesive, strategic Statewide approach to diversity that is transparent, reliable, and effective.

Chinese American Service League
華人諮詢服務處

Chinese American Service League

312.791.0418
www.caslservice.org
findhelp@caslservice.org

CASL is an all-inclusive non-profit agency with over 40 years of experience connecting families and individuals with the vital support they need: providing an educational and cultural foundation for our children, ensuring our seniors live full and independent lives with dignity, enhancing education and training for tomorrow's workforce, putting immigrants on the pathway to citizenship, securing our community's housing and financial well-being, navigating healthcare systems and wellness resources, and fighting for equal access to justice. Since our founding, CASL has been rooted in the principles of equity and justice. That legacy continues to shape our efforts today as we strive to champion diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility at all levels of the organization.



Chinese Mutual Aid Association

773.784.2900
www.chinesemutualaid.org
rheay@chinesemutualaid.org

Proudly founded by ethnic Chinese refugees, Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA) is led by many prominent individuals from the Asian American community. Our purpose is to serve the needs, promote the interests, and enhance the well-being of low-income, diverse immigrant and refugee communities across metropolitan Chicago through social services, advocacy, educational programming and assistance for youth, adults, the elderly and small businesses.



Coalition For A Better
Chinese American
Community 華埠更好團結聯盟

Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community

312.761.9738
www.cbacchicago.org
info@cbacchicago.org

The Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community unites the resources of member organizations and individual members to empower Chinese American communities in Greater Chicago. As a coalition of member organizations and individuals, CBCAC carries out its mission through civic engagement, advocacy community planning, youth engagement and empowerment, and neighborhood outreach.



Japanese American Citizens League

773.728.7171

www.jaclchicago.org

info@jaclchicago.org

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.



Midwest Asian Health Association

312.225.8708

www.maha-us.org

andrewpiotrowski@maha-us.org

MAHA's mission is to reduce health disparities for medically underserved, low-income populations in the Midwest through providing culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services. Our services include a community health screening and immunization program, substance use prevention and education, insurance and benefits navigation, and a community mental health clinic.



OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates Greater Chicago Chapter

312.820.0322

www.ocachicago.org

info@ocachicago.org

OCA Greater Chicago is dedicated to promoting the economic, professional, and social well-being of AAPIs in the Greater Chicago area. Our goals are to advocate for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment; promote civic participation, education, and leadership; advance coalitions and community building; and foster cultural heritage.



Project: Vision

312.808.1898

www.projectvisionchicago.org

staff@projectvisionchicago.org

Project: VISION (PV) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help youth in Chicago's Greater Chinatown community reach their full potential by providing them with tools for educational, personal, and civic development.



South Asian American Policy & Research Institute

773.373.9750

www.sAAPRI.org

saapri@saapri.org

The South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 2001 with the mission to serve South Asian Americans in the Chicago area, by using research to formulate equitable and socially responsible policy recommendations. SAAPRI's work has included research and policy initiatives on civic engagement, hate crimes, access to health care, economic development and immigration.



Sanjeevani

224.424.0050

www.sanjeevani4u.com

info@sanjeevani4u.com

Free advocacy and support services for mental health and domestic abuse issues.



Vietnamese Association of Illinois

773.728.3700

www.hnvi.org

infovai@hnvi.org

The Vietnamese Association of Illinois (VAI) is a state-wide organization serving thousands of diverse ethnic refugee and immigrant communities in the Chicagoland and DuPage County. Our mission is to foster unity and solidarity among Vietnamese people in Illinois. For 45 years, we have assisted in the resettlement of families, applying for citizenship, building community and increasing civic engagement. Annually, VAI supports over 4,000 community members of all ages through a variety of programs, including Adult Education, Homecare, Immigration and Community Services, Youth and Community Organizing.

SPECIAL THANKS

Marc D. Smith

Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Daniel Ibarra Fitzgerald

Deputy Director, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

DCFS Office of Training

Brooke Taylor

Associate Director of Registration and Meeting Logistics

UIUC | School of Social Work

Alix Young

Lead Project Assistant

UIUC | School of Social Work

Bert Tijerina

Graphic Designer, Office of Communication

Institute Training Credit

All registered attendees are expected to arrive on time and attend the full Institute in order to receive DCFS clock hours, Social Work CEUs, LCPC CEU's and MFT CEUs. A maximum of 4 CEUs and DCFS Clock Hours may be awarded to participants who attend eligible sessions.

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