

8th Annual Asian American Advisory Council Institute



Shobhana Verma, executive director SAAPRI

“Collaboration and Unity: Moving Forward with Resiliency”

On June 24, 2022, the Asian American Advisory Council held its 8th Annual Institute virtually on WebEx with the help of the DCFS Training department staff, Alix Young and Brooke Taylor. DCFS Director Marc Smith and Deputy Director of the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion gave the opening remarks. Director Smith highlighted the commitment to open two family advocacy centers to provide resources to the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Deputy Director Fitzgerald shared about the current number of Asian American PSAs and SPSAs and the vision for future projects for the DEI office. The theme of this year's Institute was “*Collaboration and Unity: Moving Forward with Resiliency*” and the keynote speaker was Shobhana Verma, executive director of the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI). Ms. Verma spoke about the growth of Asian Americans over the past decade and how South Asians alone grew 50%

between 2010 – 2020. This growth represents the diversity across Illinois and how we need to continue to build trust in the community.

This year, several community organizations and professionals joined as workshop presenters: Chinese American Service League's Anti-Hate Action Center, Midwest Asian Health Association, Nisha Patel from the DCFS Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Dr. Sonya Leathers for the UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work, and Laura Ng from the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center. We also enjoyed entertainment from a Filipino folk fusion band called SamaSama Project and a lunch presentation from the Chinese American Museum of Chicago executive director, Ben Lau. For more information, you may view the Institute program booklet online under the Asian American Advisory Council page. Lastly, we want to thank each of our community partners and look forward to future conferences.



GREETINGS

Welcome to our 2nd DCFS Asian American Advisory Council newsletter. In this issue, we share about our successful 8th Asian American Advisory Council Institute and a history of how our Asian American Advisory Council was formed. If you want to join our Advisory Council or are interested in attending our future meetings, please contact our Secretary, Nancy Rodriguez. Thank you for reviewing the Asian American Advisory Council newsletter and we hope you enjoy the news we bring to you.

Best Regards,

Sebastian Emmanuel

DCFS Asian American Advisory Council
Chairperson

Someone you should know: Promila Kumar



“to provide awareness . . .”

Promila Kumar is the founder and Executive Director for Sanjeevani4U. She is a Chicago resident and in Information Technology by profession. She holds an MS in Computer Science. She has been volunteering for the past 20 years and is an active contributor for community services, arts and culture.

Sanjeevani4U is a non-for-profit organization which was started in 2015 and provides free 24/7 advocacy, guidance and support for people who may be dealing with mental health and/or domestic abuse in life. They work with men, women, youth, or senior

citizens. The mission for the organization is to provide awareness and actionable tools so that informed choices can be made. The agency provides services by phone, email, chat, app and Zoom services. Services are available in English and the following languages: Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Spanish, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Kannada, Punjabi.

If you are in need of help and need to talk to someone, please do not hesitate to call 224-424-0050 or 1-855-HELP-4U2 (toll-free) or email info@sanjeevani4u.com.

Visit their website for more information: www.sanjeevani4u.com



WELCOME

Welcome to our second newsletter! I hope you enjoy the many articles written by the Asian American Advisory Council committee members. Writers and editors are Maggie Mui and Michelle Buckle. We want you to be informed of important child welfare information, council membership, educational information, and past and upcoming cultural events. If you

have any questions or an idea for an article you would like to see in a future newsletter.

I can be reached by email at nancy.rodriquez@illinois.gov.

Best Regards,

Nancy Rodriguez

Asian American Advisory Council
Star Newsletter Committee Chairperson

Asian American Advisory Council Upcoming Meeting Dates

2022	2023
September 28, 2022 at 2 pm	January 25, 2023 at 2 pm
October 26, 2022 at 2 pm	February 22, 2023 at 2 pm
November 16, 2022 at 2 pm	March 22, 2023 at 2 pm
December 14, 2022 at 2 pm	April 26, 2023 at 2 pm
	May 24, 2023 at 2 pm
	June 28, 2023 at 2 pm

Learn more online ([click here](#)).

Asian American Advisory Council Membership

FY2023

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DCFS Asian American Advisory Council History: 2007–Present

In October 2007, DCFS Director Erwin McEwen approved the creation and implementation of the DCFS Asian American Advisory Council. At the initial stage, the then Assistant to the Director, George Vennikandam worked on organizing the structure of the Council. The Council was created with the mandate and objective of advising the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in the matters of provisional and preventive services to Asian American children and families

supported by the Department and its contractual agencies, community relations with the Asian American community, and Asian American personnel concerns. Asian American is defined in the bylaws as "a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, but not limited to, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam."

The Council's objectives were to complete needs assessment and identify issues concerning Asian American children and families and personnel on an as needed basis and present it to the DCFS Director. Preventive and educational services are offered to youth in care and families. Council members consists of DCFS child welfare staff and community-based partner (CBP) child welfare staff.

Timeline

The first formation of the Council meeting was held at the James R. Thompson Center office at 100 W. Randolph St. In November 2007, Marjorie Moore, former Chief of Asian American Services, was tasked with developing the initial bylaws draft. At the meeting held on December 17, 2007, the bylaws draft was reviewed, ratified and accepted by the Asian American Advisory Council.

The first Asian American Advisory Council public meeting was held on March 17, 2008, and agenda and minutes were recorded. Marjorie Moore was identified as the temporary Chairperson of the council until an election could be held. Cecille Chou was identified as the temporary Secretary with developing the agenda and taking minutes of the meeting until elections could be held. Four committees were officially identified: Logo; Social Club; Employment and Recruitment; and Elections.

On **April 18, 2008**, the second council public meeting was held, and the mission statement of the council was formulated, accepted, and integrated into the bylaws. Elections were held. The Executive Committee members

were elected: Marjorie Moore - Chairperson; Vice Chairperson – Nisha Patel and Secretary – Cecille Chou.

On **April 21, 2008**, the Council held its second public meeting. The first meet and greet event was held on May 19, 2008, at the 1911 S. Indiana Ave office with refreshments for all members and guests.

On **September 15, 2008**, the Council accepted its first council logo and posted it onto the minutes. The new bylaws would be forwarded to the DCFS Director. Thu Vo was the Director's appointed liaison of the Council.

On **November 17, 2008**, the Council celebrated its first-year anniversary. The celebration was held at India House restaurant in Chicago on October 20, 2008. Logo amendments were discussed.

On **December 15, 2008**, the Council held its public meeting. The amended logo was approved by the Council. The Council discussed participation with the DCFS Joint Advisory Council scheduled for December 17, 2008. The Council discussed engagements

with Asian American cultural events and planned for the first DCFS Asian American Family Institute.

On **May 28, 2009**, the first DCFS Asian American Advisory Council Family Institute was held at Loyola University. DCFS Director Erwin McEwen attended, and the keynote speaker was Sam George. Asian American cultural presentation and workshops relevant to Asian American culture were included in the program.

On **October 19, 2009**, a Meet and Greet event was held at DCFS Skokie location. Refreshments were served to all attendees.

On **May 20, 2010**, the Asian American Advisory Council held its 2nd Annual Asian American Family Institute at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Naperville. A mega workshop included 4 judges. There were several workshops on culturally diverse topics. Several community providers participated in presenting their programs with brochures and referral sources. Children from a nearby community school performed cultural dances during the Institute.

History: 2007–Present *(continued)*

On **February 1, 2013**, the first Asian American Employment Plan was completed by the Illinois Asian American Employment Plan Council and submitted by Illinois Central Management Services (CMS) to the Illinois General Assembly. Updated plans would be published every year thereafter. This plan helps Council members receive the data needed for recruitment planning and recommendations.

On **June 17, 2015**, the Asian American Advisory Council collaborated with the Native American Advisory Council and hosted a food and meeting event at the DCFS 1911 site.

On **May 26, 2016**, the Council convened Asian Heritage Month. Members presented Asian artifacts presentation at the conference. There were interactive presentations on Asian culture. There was quiz on Asia and sumptuous Asian ethnic luncheon arranged by the Council for everyone.

On **April 28, 2017**, the Asian American Advisory Council Institute Day was held at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, IL. DCFS Director George Sheldon gave his remarks. There were several workshops and presentations, including cultural dances from Korean and Indian dancers. Several Asian American community partners showcased their programs through exhibits.

On **April 27, 2018**, the Asian American Advisory Council Institute was held at Truman College in

Chicago, IL. Acting Director B. J. Walker welcomed everyone and conveyed her message to the audience. The keynote speaker was C.W. Chan. Workshops addressing child welfare issues were provided and several Asian American community providers presented their agency programs through the exhibits. There were cultural presentations including a video clip presenting Asian dances.

On **June 21, 2019**, the Asian American Advisory Council Institute event was held at National Louis University in Skokie, IL. Then Acting Director Marc D. Smith welcomed everyone and gave his remarks. There were several clinical workshops presented by the clinicians of the Asian American community providers. There were cultural dances presented by the school children from the community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DCFS Asian American Family Institute was cancelled in 2020. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic was slowly being discovered in end of 2019. In the first quarter of 2020, it was made official by government that globally, there was a pandemic of COVID-19 and its variants. Virtual platforms surfaced, remote work was approved and implemented. The council continued to meet in 2020 virtually through WebEx.

On **June 25, 2021**, the Asian American Advisory Council Institute was conducted in collaboration with Loyola University Chicago and its faculty members. This was the

first Institute held through a virtual platform. The Institute theme was “Creating Awareness on Racial Equity in Service Intervention”. There were virtual exhibits presented by the community providers. A collection of dance video songs consisting of various countries was shown to the attendees.

On **June 24, 2022**, the Asian American Advisory Council Institute event was held virtually and staffed entirely by DCFS Training, Asian American Advisory Council members, and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion staff. The Institute theme was “Collaboration and Unity: Moving Forward with Resiliency”. The keynote speaker was Shobhana Verma. There was a panel of rising Asian American and Pacific Islander community leaders and workshops on substance use among youth, anti-Asian hate crime prevention, domestic violence among Asian American families, and human trafficking prevention. The entertainment was provided by SamaSama Project, a Filipino folk fusion band.

In **2021**, our first Asian American community agencies list was created.

In **2021**, our first Asian American calendar of events was created.

The first Asian American Advisory Council newsletter called *Asian American Star* was issued in February **2022**.

The first Asian American Advisory Council Handbook was issued in **2022**.

Asian American Illinois Community Agencies

Agency	Location	Hyperlinks
Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights & Empowerment (AFIRE Chicago)	4300 N California Ave, Chicago, IL 60618	www.afirechicago.org
Apna Ghar	4350 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60613	www.apnaghar.org
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Chicago)	4716 N Broadway Ave, Chicago, IL 60640	www.advancingjustice-chicago.org
Asian Health Coalition	5841 S Maryland Ave, Rm S-414, MC 4001, Chicago, IL 60637	www.asianhealth.org
Asian Human Services	2838 W Peterson Ave, Chicago, IL 60659	www.ahschicago.org
Bengali Association of Greater Chicago	1148 N Main St, Glendale Heights, IL 60139	www.bagc.herokuapp.com
Cambodian Association of Illinois	2831 W Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60625	cambodianassociation.org
Chicago Tamil Sangam	PO Box 9606 Naperville, IL 60567	www.chicagotamilsangam.org
Chicago Telugu Association	152 Huron Dr, Bloomingdale, IL 60108	www.chicagoteluguassociation.org
Chinese American Association at Greater Chicago	PO Box 867 Westmont, IL 60559	www.caagc.org
Chinese American Service League	2141 S Tan Ct, Chicago, IL 60616	www.caslservice.org
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Chicago	250 W 22nd Place, Chicago, IL 60616	www.ccbachicago.org
Chinese Mutual Aid Association	1016 W Argyle St, Chicago, IL 60640 164 Division St, #305 Elgin, IL 60120	www.chinesemutualaid.org
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community	311 W 23rd St, Chicago, IL 60616	www.cbcacchicago.org
Gujarati Samaj Chicago	Chicago, IL	www.gujchicago.org
Hamdard Health Alliance	1542 W Devon Ave, Chicago, IL 60660	www.hamdardhealth.org
HANA Center	4300 N California Ave, Chicago, IL 60618	www.hanacenter.org
Hanul Family Alliance	5008 N Kedzie Ave, Chicago, IL 60625	www.hanulusa.org
Indo-American Center	6328 N California Ave, Chicago, IL 60659	www.indoamerican.org
Invisible to Invincible (i2i)	Chicago, IL	www.invisible2invincible.org
Japanese American Service Committee	4427 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640	www.jasc-chicago.org
Japanese American Citizens League Chicago Chapter	5415 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640	www.jaclchicago.org
KAN-WIN	P.O. Box 996, Park Ridge, IL 60068	www.kanwin.org
Midwest Asian Health Association	230 E Cermak Rd, 2nd Fl, Chicago, IL 60616 4360 E New York St, Rm 105, Aurora, IL 60504	www.maha-us.org
Muslim Women Resource Center	2828 W Devon Ave, Chicago, IL 60659	www.mwrcnfp.org
Project: VISION	236 W 22nd Place, #1, Chicago, IL 60616	www.projectvisionchicago.org
Pui Tak Center	2216 S Wentworth Ave, Chicago, IL 60616	www.puitak.org
Refugee One	5705 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60659	www.refugeeone.org
Sanjeevani	664 S Illinois Rte 59, Naperville, IL 60540	www.sanjeevani4u.com
South-East Asia Center	5120 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60640	www.se-asiacenter.org
Vietnamese Association of Illinois	5110 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60640	www.hnvi.org

History: 2007–Present *(continued)*

Executive Committee:

The current Chief of Asian American Services is Ada Tong, since September 2021. The former Chief of Asian American Services was Marjorie Moore from February 2016 to February 2021. Thu Vo was the first Chief of Asian American Services in 2007.

The current Asian American Advisory Council Acting Chairperson is Sebastian Emmanuel. Former Chairpersons include Marjorie Moore, Miaona Ye-Seppi, Benny Kuriakose, Stany D’Souza, and Santhosh Kurian.

The current Asian American Advisory Council Secretary is Nancy Rodriguez. Former Secretaries include Cecille Chou, Lily Ruan, and Barbara Hiram.

2022 Asian American Illinois Events

Date	Event	Location/Hyperlinks
September 22-25	Chicago South Asian Film Festival	1011 S Delano Ct, Chicago, IL 60605 www.csaff.org
September 23-25, 4 PM – 10 PM	312 Night Market	4360 E New York St, Aurora, IL 60504 https://312nightmarket.com
November 4-5 7 PM – 9 PM	Chicago Asian American Jazz Festival	329 E Garfield Blvd, Chicago, IL 60637 https://aajazz.org

If you have an event you would like to add to the event calendar, please email Ada Tong, Chief of Asian American Services at ada.tong@illinois.gov.

Asian American Star Newsletter Credits

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