



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Minutes for January 25, 2023

Council Members Present: Sebastian Emmanuel; Stany D'Souza; Nancy Rodriguez; Margaret S. Smith; Ryan Unabia

Council Members Excused: Suk M. Wong; Michael Chan; Benny Kuriakose; Santhosh Kurian; Linson Thomas; Saju Philip; Bino Simon; Jose Chacko; Jose Thomas; Jophia P. George; Michelle L. Buckle

Others Present:

Kara Hamilton: Associate Deputy Director, External Communications and Advisory Groups

Ada Tong: Chief of Asian American Services and Director's Liaison

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Sebastian called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes (8-24-22; 9-28-22; 11-16-22; 12-14-22) (The 10-26-22 meeting was cancelled.)

Minutes were tabled due to no quorum.

Asian American Star, Issue 3, Feb 2023 (Nancy Rodriguez, Star Newsletter Chairperson)

Nancy Rodriguez sent an email on 1-9-2023 with the updated articles for the Star newsletter. Deadline was extended to 2-13-23 to allow Margaret Smith to write a summary of the upcoming Professional Development and Innovation event of 2-9-23. Nancy Rodriguez requested that the DCFS Communications review the articles at hand meanwhile for revision if any. Nancy Rodriguez wrote one short article on IEPA, MEPA, ICWA, DCFS Youth Councils. Ryan Unabia, ICWA PSA agreed to add ICWA information to the article.

Recruitment of New Council Members, 4 of 21 (Stany D'Souza, Recruitment Chairperson)

Stany has no new update for council member recruitment.

2023 Family Institute Day Planning (Nancy Rodriguez, Chairperson)

Nancy Rodriguez reported that the Asian American Advisory Council / Family Institute committee had a recent meeting with Loyola University. Loyola University staff agreed to collaborate with this council on the Family Institute event of 6-2-2023. Loyola University staff is looking at two locations: Water-Tower campus and the campus in the northside on Sheridan Street. This council estimates a capacity of 100-150 participants. Timeframe for the event will be 8:00am to 3:30pm or 4:00pm. Set-up is at 7:30am. Committees that are formed for this event are: Workshops and Exhibitors (Ada Tong and Michael Chan); Food (Michael Chan and Margaret Smith); Margaret Smith stated that she has a workshop proposal that she will provide. Stany D'Souza agreed to conduct the email blasts when the program is established. Volunteers are needed for the cultural committee and keynote speaker committee. Loyola University has parking for \$7.00 each participant. DCFS will be asked if DCFS is willing to pay for the parking. Loyola University reported during our recent meeting that the venue will be of no cost to DCFS for this event. Nancy Rodriguez reported that she would like to see DCFS Communications complete, and post a save the date flyer for this event by 3-31-2023 once venue is firmly confirmed for 6-2-2023. Loyola University staff are currently looking into the venue logistics. A second meeting with Loyola University staff will be scheduled and held very soon.



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Professional Development and Innovation (Margaret Smith, Chairperson)

Margaret Smith stated that the Professional Development and Innovation virtual event will be held on 2-9-2023 from 9:00am to 11:00am. Nancy Rodriguez requested the program book draft be sent to all council members for review. Ada Tong stated that the program book draft will be sent to the DCFS Communications Department today for review and amendments (if any). Ada Tong agreed to send the approved program book to council members for review once the DCFS Communications Department sends it to Ada Tong.

Updates from the Chief of Asian American Services (Ada Tong)

Ada Tong stated that 2023 is the year of the rabbit for the Chinese New Year. Ada Tong has attended the China Town event celebrating Chinese New Year. There has been one Asian American DCFS new hire in month of December 2022. Position is in daycare licensing. There were no separations in December 2022 for Asian American DCFS staff. Nancy Rodriguez inquired if Ada Tong was able to obtain DCFS and POS Asian American staff lists. Ada Tong stated that she was provided the DCFS Asian American DCFS staff list. Ada Tong has not received the Asian American POS staff list. Ada Tong stated that she attended the Illinois Inauguration event in Springfield. Ada Tong stated that in year 2017, there were only one Asian American Illinois legislator. Today, there are 9 Asian American Illinois legislators. Nancy Rodriguez inquired if the redacted exit interviews that Margaret Smith asked for were provided. Ada Tong stated that the redacted exit interviews have not been provided.

Officers Nominations and Elections (Stany D'Souza, Chairperson)

Stany D'Souza stated that he has one nomination and nominee confirmed. Stany D'Souza has not received any other nominations. Sebastian Emmanuel stated that the Asian American Advisory Council has 17 members but no quorum today to hold a vote for this nominee.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting is 2-22-2023

Any other matter

Sebastian Emmanuel asked council members to complete their 2023 Ethics training and the Harassment and Discrimination Prevention training before the deadline specified by DCFS. Nancy Rodriguez recommended that a special meeting be held to review and vote on minutes. Sebastian Emmanuel stated that he will send an email announcing a special meeting for reviewing and voting on the minutes.

Meeting Adjournment

Nancy Rodriguez
Secretary