



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

AAAC Minutes for August 24, 2022
2:00 pm-3:30pm

Council Members Present: Sebastian Emmanuel; Nancy Rodriguez; Benny Kuriakose; Maggie Mui; Bino Simon; Ryann M. Unabia; Santhosh Kurian; Michael Chan; Jose Chacko

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

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

Excused: Stany D'Souza; Jophia P. George; Linson Thomas; Michelle L. Buckle; Saju Philip

Guests: Jose Thomas

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Sebastian Emmanuel called meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-9-2022 Minutes

Nancy Rodriguez motioned and Michael Chan second the motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved. No objections.

3-23-2022 Minutes

Nancy Rodriguez motioned and Michael Chan second the motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved. No objections.

4-27-2022 Minutes

Bino Simon motioned and Benny Kuriakose second the motion to approve the minutes. Minutes approved. No objections.

5-25-2022 Minutes

Michael Chan motioned and Bino Simon second the motion to approve the minutes. Minutes approved. No objections.

6-22-2022 Minutes

Jose Chacko motioned and Bino Simon second the motion to approve the minutes. Minutes approved. No objections.



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OLD BUSINESS:

Asian American Star (Bi-Annual Newsletter)

Issue number 2 draft of the Star newsletter was reviewed by council members. Universities list Nancy Rodriguez created was not listed. Ada Tong will ask if the universities list can be part of a future newsletter. Dinner celebration of the Family Institute of 2021 was not listed. Asian American recipes was not listed. The AAAC history pages were completed and included in the newsletter.

Asian American Cookbook

Nancy Rodriguez is asking council members to volunteer their home-cooked Asian American recipes for our AAAC cook-book. Ada Tong provided some recipes.

Council Members Attendance

Sebastian Emmanuel thanked council members and others attendance. Sebastian Emmanuel acknowledges that staff are very busy with work. Sebastian Emmanuel encouraged more frequent participation in AAAC meetings.

Recruitment of New Council Members

The new nominees with completed nomination forms are:

Suk M. Wong
Khushbu S. Dalal
Margaret S. Smith
Jose Thomas

Jose Thomas was present. Benny Kuriakose motioned for council members to accept all 4 listed nominees as AAAC council members. Ryann Unabia second the motion. Motion approved. No objections. Nancy Rodriguez will send emails to the new council members.

Special Guests Michelle Grove and Kim Willis Presentation on Support Services Updates

Kim Willis and Michelle Grove of Office of Caregiver and Parent Support were invited to attend today for an update regarding the three statewide councils: Birth Parents; Adoption Parents; Foster-parents. Nancy Rodriguez requested for all three virtual invites to be provided so that child welfare staff can forward those invites to bio-parents, adoption parents and foster-parents willing to participate. Nancy Rodriguez will invite Kim Willis and Michelle Grove to the next meeting.



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Family Institute Day (tabled)

Professional Development (tabled)

Updates from the Chief of Asian American Services

Ada Tong introduced herself. Ada Tong began working at DCFS on 9-1-2021. Ada Tong attended the Illinois State Fair. Ada Tong enjoyed the event and learned from it. Ada Tong is reviewing the U.S. Census reports. In relations to DCFS data, there are 69 Asian American staff. There are 81 Asian American youth in care of over 21,000 youth in care. Ada Tong plans to obtain data on number of Asian American foster-parents and data on number of Asian American POS (Purchase of Service) child welfare staff. Two Asian American advocacy centers for opening are in the planning. DCFS is looking for agencies to partner with. Nancy Rodriguez reported that placements of children and youths follow guidelines set by the Inter-ethnic Placement Act of 1996 and Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994.

Officers Nominations and Elections (tabled)

Trainings:

Trainings listed below were due on 7-31-22. Clarity is needed on how we can best verify that all council members completed these trainings listed below. The OMA training gets completed only once. Other listed trainings get completed annually.

OMA Training (<https://foiapac.ilag.gov/>)

2022 Ethics Training beginning 6-1-22 (<https://OneNet.Illinois.gov/MyTraining>)
and

2022 Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training beginning 6-1-22 (One Net)

Christmas Celebration Scheduling and Planning (tabled)

Next Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting is 9-28-2022

Any other matter

Council members agreed to limit the meeting time to 1.5 hours instead of 2 hours. Meetings will be from 2:00pm to 3:30pm.

Meeting Adjournment

Nancy Rodriguez
Secretary