



Asian American Advisory Council

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

AAAC Minutes for September 28, 2022

2:00 pm-3:30pm

Present: Sebastian Emmanuel; Stany D'Souza; Nancy Rodriguez; Ryann Unabia; Michael Chan; Suk M. Wong; Margaret S. Smith; Khushbu Dalal; Jophia P. George

Excused: Bino Simon; Maggie Mui; Santhosh Kurian; Benny Kuriakose; Jose Chacko; Jose Thomas; Linson Thomas; Michelle L. Buckle; Saju Philip; Jose Thomas

Guests: Glenda L. Lashley; Ray Gates; Theresa Costello

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

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

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Sebastian Emmanuel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8-24-2022 Minutes (tabled)

OLD BUSINESS:

Asian American Star, Issue 2, Sept 2022 (Nancy Rodriguez, Star Newsletter Chairperson)

Nancy Rodriguez reported that the second edition of the AAAC Star newsletter was posted on the DCFS D-Net in September 2022. Some articles were not approved for inclusion in this newsletter: Dinner at Tava; Illinois Universities List; Asian American recipes. The third newsletter is anticipated to be posted in the D-Net in February 2023. Articles are needed from council members for the third newsletter.

Asian American Cookbook (tabled)

Recruitment of New Council Members, 3 of 21 (Stany D'Souza, Recruitment Chairperson)

AAAC has 18 members currently. Three more members are needed. Anita Patel's completed nomination form is pending. Nancy Rodriguez requested a list of Asian American DCFS and POS staff so that we can reach out to them for council membership. Ada Tong reported that she only has DCFS Asian American staff list which she receives monthly.



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Michelle Grove and Kim Willis: Support Services: Virtual Invites Updates (tabled)

2023 Family Institute Day Planning

The AAAC Family Institute event is anticipated to be held in May 2023. Ada suggested a Family Institute Co-Chair in addition to the Chair and more support from council members.

Innovative Professional Development (Stany D'Souza, Chairperson)

Margaret S. Smith agreed to be the Chair of the Innovative Professional Development committee. Theme will center around leadership. The date and time set are 1-27-2023 from 9:00am to 11:00am.

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

Ada Tong stated that there are currently 67 Asian American DCFS staff. DCFS hired five Asian Americans in 2022 to date. There are 73 Asian American youth in care. Ada has no information on how many Asian American foster-parents DCFS / POS has.

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

Stany D'Souza will send the nomination form to Nancy Rodriguez to send to AAAC members to nominate for AAAC Executive Board memberships.

Trainings for Councils:

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

2022 Ethics Training due 7-31-2022 (<https://OneNet.Illinois.gov/MyTraining>)

2022 Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training beginning due 7-31-2022

Sebastian reported that all council members should have completed the listed herein trainings. No further follow-up in the council meeting is needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Safety Assessment Family Evaluation (SAFE) Model

The Action for Child Protection was founded in 1984 and is currently in Phoenix, Arizona. Headquarter is in Charlotte, North Carolina. Action for Child Protection created the SAFE Model. Theresa Costello conducted a presentation in this meeting regarding the Safety Assessment Family Evaluation (SAFE) Model. Theresa reported that 25 plus states use the SAFE Model. Some states use only part of the model while others use the full model. This model replaces CERAP. The goal is to build caretaker protective capacities and quicker reunifications when possible. There are foundational principles and definitions. Items include present danger, caregiver protective capacities and impending danger. Through-out the life of the case, children are assessed as safe or unsafe. We must ensure children continue to stay safe.



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AAAC Christmas Celebration Scheduling and Planning

Ada Tong is taking the lead for our AAAC Christmas celebration. The set date and time are 12-14-22 at 12:00pm. Venue is to be determined. Nancy Rodriguez recommended the TAVA Restaurant. More venue recommendations are needed.

Next Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting is 10-26-2022

Any other matter (none)

Meeting Adjourned

Nancy Rodriguez
Secretary

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