



**ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) WORKGROUP
APPROVED MINUTES
Thursday, July 8, 2021**

Meeting occurred via WebEx Teleconferencing

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Work Group Members Present: Jodie Wang, Soo Park, Stella Dieu, Pravin Ponnuri, Mabrooka Chaundhry, Samiyah Hira, Ashley Hou, Michael Zhao, Matthew Lee, Young Smith, Devang Shah, Clarence Lam, Erinn Mansour and Ming Du.

Staff Present: Angela Cabellon and Wanda Cao

Public Attendees Present: Dr. Teresa Colella and Sara Gravelyn

I. Welcome by Co-Chairs: Jodie Wang and Ning Richard Li

- Ning was unable to attend the meeting.
- Brief overview of previous meeting and of newly formed committees.
- 3 committees already had meetings and have taken action on their plans.

II. Introduction of Wanda Cao, OHRE Admin Technician.

- Angela introduced Wanda and she shared a little about herself.

III. Welcome Honorary Chair, Maryland State Senator Clarence Lam

- Angela introduced the Honorary Chair, Senator Clarence Lam.
- Senator Lam speaks about working with the AAPI workgroup and crediting Sue and Jodie.
- Discusses the already passed Senate Bill, SB46, the “*Crimes – Mitigation and Defense – Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation*” bill. The bill prohibits the use of the “*panic defense*” (i.e. when a person is scared because the other person is of a specific race). The cross-filed version of the bill in the House of Representatives is HB231.
- There was funding, approximately \$500,000, that came from the state for the AAPI Cultural Center in Howard County.

IV. Executive Liaison Update on Covid-19 and Antibody Initiative

- Angela gave an update that the Asian Community are among the highest vaccinated rates in Howard County. Statistics show that deaths are from the unvaccinated. We have a partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. Introduced guest speakers Dr. Teresa Colella and Sara Gravelyn to discuss the antibody initiative.
- Dr. Colella discussed the effort of Covid-19 Serology Testing in Howard County and shared a power point presentation. Looked at data of asymptomatic patients that did not have Covid symptoms but did have Covid. The American Red Cross data underrepresented the Asian Community by 25% in Howard County. July 4th was kick off to do own study in order to get correct representative data for the Asian Community.
- Dr. Colella discussed that we need more inclusive data to get better estimates of the SARS-Cov-2 infection rate, antibody response, and to evaluate antibody persistence within the County.
- Senator Lam highlighted the importance of the Covid-19 Serology Testing and accurate sampling.
- Sara Gravelyn speaks about how we need at least 600 Asian Howard County residents for the sample. To gather the sample collection, there are a variety of locations throughout the county for residents to participate in. To schedule an event, please contact Sara Gravelyn.

V. Approval of April 8, 2021, Minutes

- Jodie motioned to approve the April Minutes. Matthew second. No objections. Motion is carried.

VI. Discussion of AAPI Heritage Month Events

- AAPI worked with OHRE to deliver a 7 day virtual celebration.
- Pravin spoke for the Indian Session and shared that it was a great event. Just need more time to advertise and to give notice next time.
- Young Smith stated that though it was a short time for the Korean community to prepare – it was still a great success.

- Jodie spoke for Chinese community and stated they had invited 9 non-profit groups and had student and adult speakers come to voice their discrimination experiences. It was a very meaningful.
- Mabrooka reached out to student groups and have plans to have more participation next year for their performances and artwork. Requested that we have a letter/certification to recognize the student's efforts. Jodie asked Angela if Mr. Ball can sign the certifications and Angela stated they would be happy to do so.

VII. Committees Discussion & Reports

- **New Safety Committee:**
 - Angela introduced new committee regarding Safety. Matthew Lee suggested we combine 'Safety' with the 'Health & Wellness Committee'. Mabrooka accepted to merge it. Jodie motioned to rename the 'Health & Wellness Committee' to 'Health, Wellness & Safety Committee'. Matthew second. All in favor.
- **Business & Economic Development Committee:**
 - Soo Park worked with Howard County Tourism and was able to get Asian restaurant owners to participate in the program for *Restaurant Week*. Approximately 35 restaurants have participated, including American restaurants. Wants to look at different programs and grants that can assist the AAPI residents for the future.
 - Jodie stated she can negotiate with Howard County Tourism for the price for the restaurants to participate in *Restaurant Week*.
 - Angela added that there 12 new restaurants were added. Pravin will meet with Safa regarding Indian Restaurants.
 - Michael Zhao stated there's a link that lists the restaurants: <http://visithowardcounty.com/howard-county-restaurant-weeks>
- **Government Access and Community Engagement:**
 - Young Smith states there is population that is hesitant to get vaccinated. Looking to children 12+ to be vaccinated. They are

trying to get the Korean Community to come by campaigns, such as walk ins at Lotte parking lots to get vaccinated. Will be doing so on July 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. Because of Covid Delta variant, more people are now getting vaccine.

- Howard County PD is hosting Annual National Night Out on August 3rd, at the East Columbian Library. If you want to participant reach out to Stella Dieu.
- There is report about county water. Wants to learn more about the water system and address the reports in the next quarter.
- **Health & Wellness:**
 - Mabrooka met in May and June, brainstorming and looking and health and wellness: suicide prevention, mental health, domestic violence, healthy lifestyle (heart disease and diabetes), the uninsured, drug abuse awareness, and bullying/intimidation.
 - It appears drug use of Fentanyl and cocaine are amongst in the Asian community in Howard County. Is there concern for accessing resources in the community.
 - All of the ideas were put into a Google survey that will be shared in the community to collect information. Angela suggested to add an optional demographic question for Ethnicity.

VIII. New Business and Announcements

- Soo Park has three announcements:
 - 1) HoCo Rise Grant for non- profit organization is now open starting July 15th.
 - 2) Korean Festival will be on October 2nd .
 - 3) Koreatown Planning Committee Board stated there will be a bit of delay in the signage installation for Route 40. Governor Hogan invited all AAPI members to join opening ceremony sometime in October.

- Pravin and Angela reiterated that the goals for the committees that by the end of this term, there should be formal recommendations made to the County Executive.

IX. Closing Remarks

- Jodie gave credit and recognized everyone’s efforts to the community.

The meeting concluded at 7:20 p.m.

WORKGROUP MEETINGS: (2nd Thursdays Quarterly)

The October Meeting will occur virtually. At the October meeting, the workgroup will discuss the county’s assessment regarding COVID and whether to host in person meetings beginning in 2022.

2021 Meeting Dates	2022 Meeting Dates
Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6pm (Virtual)	Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6 pm (TBA)
	Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 6 pm (TBA)
	Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 6 pm (TBA) – Final workgroup meeting

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Business & Economic Development	Health, Wellness & Safety	Government Access & Community Engagement
Soo Park, Co-Chair	Mabrooka Chaudhry, Chair	Young Smith, Chair
Jodie Wang, Co-Chair	Pravin Ponnuri	Ashley Hou
Answer Hasan	Sue Song	Richard Li
Bob Zhang	Richard Li	Stella Dieu
Devang Shah		Samiyah Hira
Matthew Lee		Sanjay Srivastava
Michael Zhao		Marianne Brackney
Charley Sung		