

# Multicultural Subcommittee

of the

## COVID-19 COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

### Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 10, 2020 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Google Meet | Online

**Members:** Chair Nubia Peña, Co-Chair Byron Russell, Dr. Marc Babitz, Aden Batar, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Mike Haddon, Emma E. Houston, Celina Milner, Mikelle Moore, Dr. Len Novilla, Ming Wang

**Absent:** Co-Chair Ze Min Xiao, Jess Anderson, Juan Becerra, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Dustin Jansen, Deneiva Knight, Asha Parekh, Tami Pyfer

**Guests:** Ramy Ahmed, Joél Arvizo-Zavala, José Borjón, Mayra Cardozo, Jenny Hor, Claudia Loayza, Jill Love, Antonella Packard, Brooke Porter Coles, Skylar Schulzke, James Toledo, Yehemy Zavala Orozco

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#### **Welcome** – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

#### **Transportation** – Byron Russell

Community members lack access to transportation, which affects their ability to receive COVID-19 testing. The subcommittee will work with transportation experts to increase access.

#### **A Mask for Every Utah Partnership** – Nubia Peña

In partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, 75 organizations submitted requests for masks to distribute specifically to multicultural communities.

#### **Leavitt Group** – Byron Russell

The subcommittee chairs met with the Leavitt Group to explore partnership opportunities related to the social determinants of health rooted in research.

#### **Spanish Press Conference** – Claudia Loayza

The Governor's Office confirmed a second Spanish press conference scheduled for July 15. The speakers tentatively include Dr. Daniel Mendoza and representatives from the business sector and Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

#### **Meeting Schedule** – Byron Russell

The subcommittee will revisit the conversation regarding the meeting schedule after July 24.

#### **Racial Equity & Inclusion Fund** – Byron Russell

The Racial Equity and Inclusion Fund will provide grants to community-based organizations who provide multicultural communities with basic assistance and have not yet received CARES Act funding. The Utah Department of Heritage and Arts will oversee the grant portal. Applications open on July 27.

#### **Food Security** – Celina Milner

The workgroup includes the following external partners: Gina Cornia of Utahns Against Hunger, Marti Woolford of Salt Lake County and Beth Martial of Utah 211.

#### *Pandemic EBT* – Brooke Porter Coles

Food and Nutrition Services approved Utah for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT). Recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are automatically enrolled while students who received free or reduced school meals must apply. Applications and benefits are available by the end of July. DWS is developing marketing material in English and Spanish and will host a press conference with the Utah State Board of Education, Utahns Against Hunger and the subcommittee.

#### *Interactive Map* – Skylar Schulzke

The workgroup demoed the interactive [food resource map](#). Users can search for basic assistance near an address they type, which includes each organization's phone number and website. The resources feature food banks, food pantries, clothing

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pantries, washrooms, summer food service programs (permanent and temporary) and homeless resource centers. The project is available in English and Spanish and can operate on mobile devices.

The subcommittee suggested the following ideas to the map:

- Add an overlay of public transit stops
- Partner with the Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Transit Authority and/or SunTran to provide a free monthly transit pass for patients who test positive for COVID-19 and discounted passes thereafter
- House a single dataset within the State Geographic Information Database to reduce informational redundancy and maintain updates

### Other Business

- The communications workgroup is planning a Pacific Islander press conference and produced two public service announcements highlighting multicultural populations and Black community leaders.
- Ramy Ahmed and Mayra Cardozo of Hope Corps will complete their summer internship with the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs.

### Action Items

- Email the P-EBT press release to the subcommittee and community members – **Jenny Hor & Claudia Loayza**
- Follow-up on P-EBT notification letters and the distribution of marketing materials – **Brooke Porter Coles**
- Discuss the subcommittee meeting schedule with each workgroup – **Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Jenny Hor & Claudia Loayza**

### Next Meeting

Friday, July 17, 2020 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet with updates from:

- Digital Equity
- Housing & Social Services
- Communication
- Health Equity