

Multicultural Advisory Committee of the State of Utah's COVID-19 Response

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 18, 2020 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Google Meet | Online

Members: Chair Nubia Peña, Co-Chair Byron Russell, Co-Chair Ze Min Xiao, Aden Batar, Juan Becerra, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Mike Haddon, Emma E. Houston, Dustin Jansen, Celina Milner, Dr. Len Novilla, Ming Wang

Absent: Jess Anderson, Dr. Marc Babitz, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Deneiva Knight, Mikelle Moore, Asha Parekh, Tami Pyfer

Guests: Ramy Ahmed, Ciriac Alvarez Valle, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Luna Banuri, Heather Borski, Ginette Bott, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Maegan Castleton, Emilie Ebert, Jenny Hor, Rossina Lake, Claudia Loayza, Jill Love, Nate McDonald, Antonella Packard, Angelo Papastamos, Katherine Potter, Hannah Sheets, Jeremy Taylor, Taysha Tiatia, Megan Waters

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting and announced Dr. Marc Babitz and Tami Pyfer are moving on to new roles.

COVID-19 Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant – Byron Russell

- \$4.2 million provided to the grant.
 - \$6.2 million have been requested by applicants.
- 141 applications to be considered by the grant committee next week.
- Grants are expected to be awarded by mid-October.

Coronavirus Prevention Messaging Grant – Claudia Loayza & Nate McDonald

- A grant funded by the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, as well as the Unified Command Team.
 - Built for any organization that has a target audience that is experiencing messaging barriers regarding COVID-19.
 - Administering \$400,000 to help disseminate healthy behavior information, as well as information regarding health and economic recovery.
 - To apply, applicants must create an account within the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, similar to the Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant.
 - Two types of grants available:
 - Targeted audience grant for campaigns with high-risk audiences.
 - Social media grants for online outreach.
 - Deadline for the grant application is on Tuesday, September 29th.
 - An opportunity for more direct target marketing and outreach.

Salt Lake City Westside Equity Focused Transportation Study – Angelo Papastamos

- Salt Lake City, UDOT and UTA are working together to understand, identify, assess, and improve upon transportation inequities in Salt Lake City's Westside neighborhoods using outcome based themes.
 - The goal is to improve the transportation network to maintain affordability, improve access to jobs, provide travel options, reduce exposure to safety risks, and increase community health and environmental justice.
 - The study approach was based on data analysis and community outreach.
 - After identifying the opportunities of improvement, telling the story.
 - A first step is organizing a meeting of current community service providers.
 - Will use an equity score to understand which areas are the most marginalized.
 - Opportunities for Improvement:
 - Shuttle solutions: Developing a shuttle to serve Westside industrial employees. Collaboration between Salt Lake City, UDOT, UTA, and companies.
 - "Pop-up" mobility solutions: Bring in scooters, bike parking, pedestrian crossing, and traffic calming on frequent transit service routes.
 - The need for assistance comes in telling the story in an equitable way.

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Health Equity – *Dulce Díez*

- COVID-19 Communities Partnership
 - Run by the Utah Department of Health Office of Health Disparities in collaboration with the Bureau of Health Promotion.
 - Employs more than 100 community health workers statewide.
 - Contracts with 15 community based organizations, United Way 211, and 13 local health departments.
 - Seen not only as a way to address COVID-19 but to improve economic conditions.
 - Testing:
 - Barrier free testing focusing on racial and ethnic minorities and hot spots
 - The University of Utah Wellness Bus
 - 6,927 tests conducted.
 - 13.5% positivity rate
 - Barrier free testing in three community health centers in St. George, Provo, and Ogden
 - 1,250 tests per week
 - Farmworker Testing Statewide
 - Including testing in mink farms in Utah County
 - Community testing surrounding Title 1 Schools
 - Using COVID-19 in waste water as an indicator.
 - Barriers to testing:
 - Fear of testing and potential diagnoses
 - Conflict with schedule or cannot afford to miss work
 - Mild or no symptoms
 - Belief that COVID-19 is not real
 - No treatment/vaccine is available
 - Unaware or confused about testing resources
 - A desire to move past pandemic and return to normalcy
- Utah Public Health Lab Changing the Curve Unit
 - Barrier free testing statewide focused on hotspots and racial and ethnic minorities
 - Bilingual testing support team
 - Testing events can be sponsored.
- Health Equity Workgroup Policy Development
 - Working on policies to improve living conditions and address social determinants of health.
- Communication grants can be used to stress the importance of testing, and mitigate fears.

Suazo Business Center – *Silvia Castro*

- A video was shown explaining what the Suazo Business Center is.
- An effort to compile resources to allow minority business owners to not only survive these times, but to thrive.
- CARES Act funding is now being rolled out at the county level across the state.
 - Many minority business owners are not applying due to multiple barriers.
 - If provided with the information, the organization is willing to reach out to those in need.
- Can provide assistance not only economically, but with complying with health guidelines.
 - A simplified version of the 57 page-long guideline is being created.
 - Once completed, it will be translated into 5 languages.
- Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce has received funding for the Stay Safe to Stay Open pledge.
 - Raising awareness is the priority, as a hotline was created and looking to hire workers to go out into the community.

Next Meeting

Friday, September 25, 2020 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet with updates from:

- Communications
- Housing & Social Services
- Food Security
- Penna Powers