

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 2, 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, Dulce Díez, Mike Haddon

Emma E. Houston, Mikelle Moore, Asha Parekh, Ming Wang

Absent: Jess Anderson, Dr. Marc Babitz, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Dustin Jansen, Deneiva Knight, Celina Milner, Dr. Len Novilla

Guests: Ramy Ahmed, Ciriac Alvarez Valle, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Curtis Bennett, José Borjón, Heather Borski, Ginette Bott, Nichol Bourdeaux, Mayra Cardozo, Maegan Castleton, Supreet Gill, Ariane D. Hibo Ezeh, Jenny Hor, Rossina Lake, Claudia Loayza, Jill Love, Nate McDonald, Dr. Daniel Mendoza, Angelo Papastamos, Karen Peterson, Katherine Potter, Taysha Tiatia, Jeannette Villalta, Megan Waters, James Yapias

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

COVID-19 Rising Numbers – Heather Borski

- 7-day rolling average number: 945 (around Labor Day we were under 400)
- Hospitalization starting to see an increase, working with health system
- Thoughts around starting a younger COVID-19 leaders group, to support young populations to follow regulations and mask wearing
 - Looking to social media outreach to promote safe practices for COVID-19

Intermountain Healthcare Outreach Strategies – Mikelle Moore

- Cooperative efforts
 - Model outreach with testing sites
 - Mask Up Messaging launching phase 2
 - Connecting patients in the Intermountain Health Care system with community Health workers

Community Health Worker Program – Dulce Díez

- Wellness Bus Testing Results/Data:
 - 18% tested positive; 32% identified as Latinx
 - Among those tested, 40% do not have health insurance
 - 1 in 3 households report needing help with basic needs—food, housing, and employment
 - Last week strong social need identified funds for prescription
- Prompting flu vaccination
- Bring mental health providers to support community health workers

Food Security – Supreet Gill

- Purpose
 - To serve diverse and multicultural communities in Utah who have been impacted by COVID-19
- Approach
 - Communication, coordination, and collaboration with the multiple entities working in food emergency
 - To center racial and social food justice in our emergency food response

Food Access Report

- **Barriers to Accessing Food Assistance**
 - Finding food resources can be overwhelming
 - Food that are provided are not always culturally appropriate
 - Unemployment benefits from the CARES Act put people over the income limit for SNAP
 - Food insecurity within Latinx communities are the highest
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211 United Way Update:

- March-August food and meals were the second most required resources
- Home delivery meals request has increased

Utahns Against Hunger

- Forming a statewide working group to identify and address food insecurity

Current Projects: Food Access

- Comunidades Unidas Pantry, through a generous grant from Kroger, will have their own culturally relevant pantry
- Will allow for more direct access to culturally relevant goods
- Also provided tons of resources such as Wellness Health Bus

Food Assistance

- **EBT** funding will be received on a **EBT card** and students will be able to use the funding outside of schools

Food Mapping

- Working with the Utah Division of State History to continue with their online food map to show resources and food pantries

Long-Term Goals and Projects

- Forecast: Food insecurity rates
- Equity: Center racial/social food equity in emergency food response
- Resiliency: Advocate for statewide food resilience plans in case of emergencies going forward

Housing & Social Services – Asha Parekh

Housing and Housing Data:

- Eligibility requirement changes
 - Those who are receiving unemployment may now be eligible for housing assistance
 - This will increase the pool of those who are eligible
- New CDC guidelines
- Landlord Housing Assistance Program

Eviction Project Data:

- Include number of folks approved based on race and positive COVID cases (May-October)
- Greatest number of evictions happen among the Wasatch Front
- Trends related to race and ethnicity are difficult to determine due to lack of data
 - Black, Latinx, and female-headed households face the highest displacement rates
 - Policy must be cognizant of the psychological strain evictions place on families and children
 - Positive relationship between eviction rate and mortality due to substance misuse—leading to overdose
 - Suicide risk associated with prolonged exposure to eviction process
 - Move conversation from individual level to contextual level

Community Health Worker Survey:

- Available in Spanish and English will be administered by the end of October 2020
- Questions will address the following:
 - Most important services needed by community members
 - Health care services access—rates and types
 - Professional development, learning, and training for CHWs
 - Resources available to CHWs to do their work
 - Community member communication, outreach, and access to services
 - CHWs most effective methods to connect and communicate with community members
 - COVID related needs, services, and resources

Ongoing Projects:

- Partnership with Utah Hospital Association
- Developing a policy brief on funding priorities and needs for undocumented and mixed-status families
- Address issues of domestic violence—working with shelter directors in Utah

JustServe – Juan Becerra & Curtis Bennett

- Many communities participate with JustServe as volunteers
- JustServe is an opportunity for all organizations to get together groups of volunteers

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Study: Understanding the Relationship between Social Distancing Policies, Traffic Volume, Air Quality, and the Prevalence of COVID-19 Outcomes in Urban Neighborhoods – Dr. Daniel Mendoza

- Presentation is tabled for a future meeting.

Other Business

Partnership with Univision – Rossina Lake

- 2 minute segments every Wednesday with updates and messages

Next Meeting

Friday, October 9, 2020 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.