

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 13, 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, Neelam Chand, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Dustin Jansen, Celina Milner, Mikelle Moore, Asha Parekh, Ming Wang

Absent: Jess Anderson, Dr. Marc Babitz, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Mike Haddon, Deneiva Knight, Dr. Len Novilla

Guests: Ramy Ahmed, Hayder Allkhenfr, Ciriac Alvarez Valle, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Heather Borski, Mayra Cardozo, Maegan Castleton, Joe Dougherty, Emilie Ebert, Jenny Hor, Jenny Johnson, Rossina Lake, Claudia Loayza, Nate McDonald, Angelo Papastamos, Jeremy Taylor, Taysha Tiatia, Rocío Torres Mora, Jeannette Villalta, Megan Waters, Marti Woolford, James Yapias

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

State of Emergency – Joe Dougherty & Jenny Johnson

- The current status of COVID-19
 - Rise in case counts
 - Out of all the cases, 4-5 percent will be hospitalized
 - For the past few days, over 400 people have been hospitalized with COVID-19
 - Hospitals report severity of reaching ICU capacity
- COVID-19 State of Emergency has four main parts
 - Statewide mask mandate: People need to wear a mask—indoors and outdoors—if they are within six feet of someone outside of their household
 - Social gathering limits: People can only gather with household members until November 23, 2020
 - If things do not improve, the order may be extended
 - No extracurricular activities
 - Rates are the highest within younger populations
 - The intent is to stop the spread within younger age groups
 - Weekly testing for college and university students
 - Anyone who lives on campus or is taking one in-person class must be tested
- Businesses are required to enforce mask wearing for their employees
- Resources in diverse languages are available online at coronavirus.utah.gov

Housing and Social Services – Asha Parekh

- Housing Data: The increase in housing assistance is related to individuals who are receiving unemployment insurance as they can now access these funds.
 - Eviction Project
 - Using a cohort study and based on zip codes, the research team compared 2019 to 2020
 - Despite the decrease in the number of eviction filings for 2020, the disparity for BIPOC communities persists
 - Potential and strongest predictors of eviction include race, income, and being a single BIPOC female
 - Eviction map for the state of Utah from 2019-2020
 - Community Health Workers
 - A survey in partnership with the Utah Department of Health and Comunidades Unidas will be conducted to understand:
 - The ways in which CHWs develop relationships with communities
 - Areas of emphasis and need in their work in terms of the services offered or needed by communities
 - Their needs regarding professional development
 - Domestic Violence
 - Data Source
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- Domestic violence arrest data from CCJJ
- Domestic violence case filings from the Utah State Courts
- Data
 - 34% increase in crisis calls
 - 15% increase in the number of people provided with crisis shelter
 - 31% increase in case management hours
 - 36% increase in lethality assessment protocols from law enforcement

COVID-19 Services for Refugees – Hayder Allkhenfr

- Guidance for Refugees Upon Arrival in the US
 - Background:
 - There are an estimated 60,000 people of refugee background speaking 40+ languages in Utah
 - All resettled in Salt Lake County by either International Rescue Committee or Catholic Community Services
 - CDC Welcome Booklet for Refugees
 - Watch for symptoms
 - What to do if you get sick
 - How to take your temperature
 - Where to get help
 - After Travel Recommendations
 - Stay at home as much as possible
 - Avoid being around people
 - Consider getting tested
- Cases Identification
 - Early in the Pandemic
 - Cases referred to local health departments (LHDs) through the state surveillance system
 - Refugee Health Program (RHP) works with LHDs to conduct case investigations
 - April-Current
 - Matching between RHP database and state surveillance system
 - Match is based on name and DOB algorithm
 - Identifying all refugee COVID-19 cases
 - Compile the Refugee COVID-19 Situational Report
 - As of November 6, 2020
 - 982 cases
 - 778 recovered
 - 3,646 tested
 - 45 hospitalizations
 - 6 deaths
- Utah Refugee COVID-19 Situational Report
 - 18-34 age group comprise the largest share of cases
 - 55+ age group have been hospitalized the most
 - Most cases are outside of the 5-year case management period
 - Refugees from Africa and East Asia and the Pacifics comprise the largest number of cases by region
 - 50-100 cases every week
 - Majority of cases are in Salt Lake County
- Refugee COVID-19 Response
 - Communication
 - Translated CDC materials
 - Translated state guidance
 - Translated video materials in the top refugee languages by trusted refugee leaders
 - Shared employer and school guides
 - Community group meetings coordinated through the Refugee Service Office with RHP staff
 - Challenges

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- Employer Issues
 - Negative test required to return to work
 - Payment issues for quarantine and isolation
- Resistance to testing
- Multigenerational households
- Mental health burden
- Access for testing in special circumstances
- Wraparound Services
 - COVID-19 Community Partnership with Office of Health Disparities
 - External quarantine and isolation services
 - Testing services
 - Education on COVID-19 testing insurance coverage

Action Items:

Economic Sustainability Workgroup update tabled for next week's meeting – Neelam Chand and Antonella Packard

Next Meeting

Friday, November 20, 2020 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.