

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 15, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Google Meet | Online

Members: Co-Chair Byron Russell, Co-Chair Ze Min Xiao, Aden Batar, Juan Becerra, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Emma E. Houston, Dr. Len Novilla, Asha Parekh, Ming Wang

Absent: Chair Nubia Peña, Jess Anderson, Marc Babitz, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Dustin Jansen, Deneiva Knight, Mikelles Moore

Guests: Tessa Acker, Ramy Ahmed, Ciriac Alvarez Valle, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Luna Banuri, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, José Borjón, Heather Borski, Maegan Castleton, RyLee Curtis, Miles Hansen, Ariane D. Hibo Ezeh, Jennifer Leary, Claudia Loayza, Antonella Packard, Angelo Papastamos, Katherine Potter, Maria Ruiz, James Sorenson, Jeremy Taylor, Taysha Tiatia, Jeannette Villalta, Megan Waters, Marti Woolford, James Yapias

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Vaccine Administration – Heather Borski

Administering Phase One of Utah's vaccination plan. The goal is to communicate properly, and address any concerns as we move forward. The plan in phase one will be to focus on the following:

- Hospital and non-hospital health care
- Teachers and school staff
 - Teachers began vaccinating as of last week by order of Gov. Cox's plan
 - Staff that have direct contact with children will be prioritized (i.e., cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers etc.)
 - Vaccinations will be given oldest to youngest, but if an appointment is cancelled, the slot can be filled quickly.
- First line public health workers (i.e., community health workers)
- After teachers and staff it will be those aged 70+ in the general population.
 - Goal: long-term care residents will be vaccinated by the end of February along with around 50% of the Phase One population.
- Follow the link [here](#) for the documents Heather Borski shared on Utah's vaccination plan.

CHW Vaccination Plan – Tessa Acker

With the work of Dr. Angela Dunn and utilizing the interpreter feature on Zoom, there was an engaging meeting for over 200 community health workers to understand where and how they will be vaccinated.

- The goal was not to duplicate work already done. But to ease fears, and misunderstandings of the vaccine and its possible side effects from experts.
 - Jeannette Villalta said that the community health workers were grateful that they are being thought about. Noticed at the training that some were scared of the side effects and how easily the misinformation spreads on social media. So far there has only been one reaction to the vaccine with one of the CHW.
 - Community health workers from California stated they were surprised CHW in Utah had this opportunity, and various places in California are reaching out for information and guidance.
 - There was a digital form for CHW to fill out before their appointment but paper forms were also available if they were unable to fill it out digitally.
 - Trusted Voices campaign: filmed some CHW receiving the vaccine in hopes it will help more feel comfortable receiving the vaccine and take away the intimidation of it.
 - Marti Woolford: With outreach and communication to communities about the vaccine, the information is difficult to access. Salt Lake County has an equity workgroup and a grant for those distributing vaccines. Focus is on clinics for specific groups such as: Muslim, Latinx, and Refugee communities, etc. This is an ongoing conversation, and there have been hiccups, but the process has started.
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- A PDF of the grant application will be sent to Claudia Loayza from MCA to help distribute the information.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – Miles Hansen

Back in April there were several task forces at the federal level. For Utah it was quickly realized that the best way to help businesses with resources and programs is to allow the CARES Act to be passed.

- With many volunteers the state formed a rapid response team and focused on marketing efforts, with Byron Russell and Nubia Peña's help with translations.
- Cold called 5,000 multicultural businesses throughout May and June to spread the word of PPP
- Part two of PPP will be launching this week, and asking for assistance in spreading the word as far into personal and professional networks as possible.
 - Many businesses do not believe they can apply, or that the resources are not for them to utilize.
 - Benefit for businesses with the PPP loan: They can take out a loan for payments such as payroll, and so long as they use the loan for their intended purpose it can be forgiven and become a grant.
 - Contractors (i.e., plumbers, nail technicians, hair-stylists, etc.) are also eligible for PPP.

PPP Application – Antonella Packard

The Suazo Business Center has been helping business owners during the pandemic and their services are not just for Spanish-speakers, but also to members of the multicultural community provided at no cost. Many members within multicultural communities do not have their financials in order, which is where the Suazo Business Center can provide help in organizing that information and, with Miles Hansen in partnership, aid in the process of loan forgiveness as well.

- Ways business and individuals can reach the Suazo Business Center:
 - Social media sites
 - Email: corona@suazocenter.org
 - Phone: 801-521-1709
- The Suazo Business Center has been around since 2002, and partnerships are highly valued. Many small businesses and jobs have been saved with the resources they provide.
 - Many in our community lack general accounting skills and they lose out on opportunities. This is a gap the Suazo Business Center wants to focus on closing with the next phase of PPP.

Other Business

- MLK Day is on Monday, January 18th with a lot of activities planned
 - The MLK Day virtual coding event has around 50 students already registered.
 - The MLK license plate design will also be announced next week.
 - The NAACP of Salt Lake will be having their 37th annual event televised on January 18th and broadcasted again on January 23rd.
- January 19th is National Day of Racial Healing hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Please view MCA's social media accounts for more information and recognition.
- The Salt Lake City School District's Student Services department has been doing appointment-only vaccinations at Highland High and West High school. Many teachers are looking forward to vaccinations next week.

Action Items

- Share information about the PPP to businesses and contractors, as well as on social media platforms
- PDF of vaccination grant to be shared to those interested

Next Meeting

Friday, January 22, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.