Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair
Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

COVID Communities Partnership Project: Phase II – Ban Naes, Matt Huntington, Wenwen Tian, Jill Christian, Allison Cowdell

- Expanding the Capacity of Community Health Workers (CHWs) into COVID-19 Response:
  - COVID-19 Disparities in Utah
    - Spread among vulnerable populations including Utah’s racial and ethnic minority communities
  - History and Development of COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Project
    - CHWs identified as a crucial component of COVID-19 response:
      - Sen. Luz Escamilla requested funding to Utah Department of Health – Office of Health Disparities (UDOH OHD)
      - CCP Project established in April 2020 to lessen spread and burden of COVID-19 on target communities through strategic partnerships to foster a CHW collaborative effort
      - In July 2020, OHD obtains additional funding through the end of 2020
      - In December 2020, OHD obtains additional funding to extend through June 2021
  - CCP Project Strategies
    - Partnerships to Reach Diverse Communities
      - Partnerships with community based organizations (CBOs), local health departments (LHDs), and Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH)
    - Building CHW Capacity
      - Ongoing training, updates, and feedback
    - Barriers-Free Testing
      - Strategically selecting testing site locations and safely incorporating CHWs at testing sites
    - Addressing Needs
      - Conducting social determinants of health (SDOH) screenings to identify social needs and refer to resources
    - Providing Community Outreach
      - Providing outreach and education to support participants’ abilities to adhere to public health guidance and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in underserved communities

- Strategy #1: Partnerships to Reach Diverse Communities
  - 15 CBOs
  - 12 LHDs
  - 3 AUCH clinics

- Strategy #2: Building CHW Capacity
  - Ongoing CHW training on COVID-19
  - Weekly check-in calls
  - Mental health support

- Strategy #3: Barriers-free Testing
  - Reduce barriers

> multicultural.utah.gov/multicultural-advisory-committee
Multicultural Advisory Committee
of the
State of Utah’s COVID-19 Response

- No cost testing
- No symptoms required to test
  - Testing Partners
    - University of Utah’s Wellness Bus
    - Mobile Testing Team

Strategy #4: Addressing Needs
- Purpose: to identify community needs through onsite SDOH screenings
- Pre-test SDOH screening:
  - Paying for or getting food
  - Paying for or having a place to live
  - Help with lost wages or help looking for work
- Top 3 needs:
  - Food (37%)
  - Housing (32%)
  - Employment (27%)
- Identifying and referring individuals to CHWs
  - Community-based organizations
  - Association for Utah Community Health
  - Local health departments
- Limitations: limitations in successfully connecting a client to a resource in measuring resource gaps and not being able to control outside factors

Strategy #5: Community Outreach
- Estimated reach between May and December 2020: 2,917,785
- Community outreach activities include: social media; communications campaigns, publications, broadcasts; mass communication; small group/family education, and other outreach activities

Community Experiences:
- November-December 2020
  - Not accessing community resources
  - Holiday season group gatherings
  - Isolation/mental health issues
  - COVID vaccine concerns/misinformation

Community Members’ Stories: Five Primary Themes
- People’s needs were complex
- Families were at risk of losing their homes
- Families became food insecure
- Unemployment created and further aggravated barriers during the pandemic
- COVID testing is difficult to access for our vulnerable communities

Operation Outbreak App – Dr. Pardis Sabeti, Kian Sani, Todd Brown, Ivan Specht
- An educational simulation app-based platform that spreads a virtual “pathogen” via bluetooth among participating phones
- Proximity-based, risk adjusted transmission model
- Operation Outbreak data
  - Visualize ground truth data including transmission events
- Curriculum (simulation meets education)
  - Operation Outbreak textbook chapters
    - Epidemiology
    - Genomic epidemiology

Next Meeting
Friday, February 5, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.