

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 29, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Google Meet | Online

Members: Chair Nubia Peña, Co-Chair Byron Russell, Co-Chair Ze Min Xiao, Aden Batar, Mayra Cedano, Dulce Díez, Jake Fitiseanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Dustin Jansen, Dr. Len Novilla, Asha Parekh, Ming Wang

Absent: Jess Anderson, Dr. Marc Babitz, Juan Becerra, Silvia Castro, Neelam Chand, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Deneiva Knight, Mikelle Moore

Guests: Ramy Ahmed, Christine Espinel, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Luna Banuri, Todd Brown, Mayra Cardozo, Jill Christian, Allison Cowdell, Brittney Cummins, RyLee Curtis, Anna Gallegos, Tina Groves, Curtis Hoffmann, Jenny Hor, Matt Huntington, Jennifer Leary, Ban Naes, Brittney Okada, Antonella Packard, Angelo Papastamos, Katherine Potter, Dr. Pardis Sabeti, Kian Sanj, Ivan Specht, Jeremy Taylor, Wenwen Tian, Taysha Tiatia, Oreta Tupola, Jeannette Villalta, Megan Waters, Marti Woolford

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

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- 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.