

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 26, 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, Juan Becerra, Heather Borski, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Brittney Cummins, Dulce Díez, Dustin Jansen, Asha Parekh, Ming Wang

Absent: Jess Anderson, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Mikelle Moore, Dr. Len Novilla

Guests: Ramy Ahmed, Ciriac Alvarez Valle, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, José Borjón, Ginette Bott, Mayra Cardozo, Angel Castillo, Valentina De Fex, Tina Groves, Jenny Hor, Jenny Johnson, Paul Johnson, Rossina Lake, Jennifer Leary, Rep. Blake Moore, Stephanie Rupay, Jeremy Taylor, Taysha Tiatia, Oreta Tupola, Jeannette Villalta, Megan Waters, Nicholina Womack, Marti Woolford, James Yapias

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

COVID-19 Relief Bill – Rep. Blake Moore

- A discussion about how Utah will be impacted by the third COVID-19 relief bill
 - Opportunities for growth and investing in the future for the state of Utah
 - Disparities in the social determinants of health, such as food, housing, and income insecurity, have been exacerbated. Must ensure these marginalized groups are not left behind.
 - The state of Utah will receive \$2.7 billion as part of the American Rescue Plan
 - Allows a boost to recovery for local and state governments
 - Provides stability for those struggling, builds future growth, and organizes public and private partnerships with community organizations
 - Workforce development is an opportunity where the public and private partnerships can be built.
 - Education opportunities for schools and families
 - Potential to use funding for improving conditions for women and BIPOC women
 - One Refugee program provides funding and education for the refugee community
 - Improves supply chain and manufacturing infrastructure
 - Bridges the digital divide

Vaccine Eligibility for Ages 16 and Over – Jenny Johnson

- Vaccine eligibility was opened up for all Utahns ages 16 or over
 - Ages 16 and above, but below 18 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine
 - To find a specific vaccine Utahns are encouraged to use vaccinefinder.com, the state coronavirus website, or the local health departments to find vaccine providers by region and manufacturer.
 - Adult Utahns are encouraged to not shop around for vaccines, and to take whatever vaccine is available for them.
 - By the fall, the vaccine could be authorized for children aged 12 or older. For young children, potentially 2022 at the earliest.
 - For multicultural communities, certain ideal locations are being identified, as well as which vaccine is preferred, to ensure the largest number of those affected can be vaccinated.
- Mask mandate in most areas of the state ends April 10
 - Does not override the current school mask mandate
 - A mask mandate is still in place for gatherings of 50 or more people until July 1

Communications – Juan Becerra

- Utah PIO Association Conference Session
 - Present a session on lessons learned in crisis communication from COVID-19. This will inform PIOs and professionals on culturally-aware and equity-centered practices.
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- Working with Joe Dougherty to navigate logistics
- September 27th-29th
- Native American Community COVID-19 Vaccine Response Town Hall
 - Elevate Native American community responses to the COVID-19 vaccine with a focus on community and collaboration
 - Scheduled for April 13th at 6:30 P.M. MT via the Utah Division of Indian Affairs' Facebook Live
- Advising on Potential Vaccine Locations
 - Working with the Utah Department of Health to suggest community sites for mass vaccine locations
 - Compiled a list of Spanish speaking units among The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 - Organized a mass list of community health sites
 - Brainstorming ways to honor and elevate the work of community organizers

Other Business

- The Utah Health Department will be updating a working document weekly that tracks and identifies COVID-19 data by race and ethnicity per local health department
- Celebrating Women's History Month by highlighting and honoring the important efforts of some of the women community health workers throughout the state

Next Meeting

Friday, April 9, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.