

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

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 5, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Google Meet | Online

**Members:** Chair Nubia Peña, Co-Chair Byron Russell, Co-Chair Ze Min Xiao, Mayra Cardozo, Aden Batar, Juan Becerra, Heather Borski, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Dustin Jansen, Asha Parekh, Ming Wang  
**Absent:** Jess Anderson, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Brittney Cummins, Mikelle Moore, Dr. Len Novilla  
**Guests:** Ramy Ahmed, Ciriac Alvarez Valle, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Nikki Campbell, Mayra Cardozo, Angel Castillo, Maegan Castleton, RyLee Curtis, Susi Feltch-Malohifo'ou, Joelle Fierro, Tina Groves, Jenny Hor, Jennifer Leary, Claudia Loayza, Jill Love, Nate McDonald, Antonella Packard, Angelo Papastamos, Katherine Potter, Betty Sawyer, Jeremy Taylor, Taysha Tiatia, Rocío Torres Mora, Megan Waters, Nicholina Womack, Marti Woolford, James Yapias, Yehemy Zavala Orozco

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### Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

### Utah Housing Assistance Program – Nate McDonald

- Applications open March 15th at [rentrelief.utah.gov](http://rentrelief.utah.gov) through an online portal
  - Portal will help streamline the application process and required documentation
- All applications are paused currently to allow partnering agencies to:
  - Catch up with applications
  - Transfer all applications into the new portal system
- Community members in need of housing assistance should prepare to gather documentation by visiting the application online
- For community members worried about March rent, the Utah Housing Assistance Program has communicated with landlords to allow flexibility
- The website is in the process of being translated

### Vaccine Distribution Forums – Dulce Díez & Heather Borski

- Thank you to committee members for sharing their voices during the vaccine distribution listening sessions
- The purpose of the roadmap is not to determine vaccine priority groups. The purpose is to ensure that no one is being left behind and that the vaccine distribution is equitable
  - The roadmap is created for vaccine distributors and they are encouraged to follow the recommendations
- Currently working on creating more community listening sessions
- Updates made as a result of the forums:
  - Name change: Striving Towards Equity: Utah's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Roadmap
  - Developing messaging that will engage all Utahans
  - Make on-site and phone registrations available as options
  - Vaccine providers may ask for a Social Security number, however, individuals are not required to have one to get the vaccine
  - Added additional documentation and forms of ID to receive the vaccine
  - Vaccine centers are encouraged to be in safe community spaces

### Digital Equity – Nicholina Womack

- Updates on focus areas:
  - Connectivity - Broadband Access
  - Increase Access to Hardware
  - Expanding Digital Literacy
- Connectivity:
  - FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit
  - Hoping to connect with Language Access and Communications workgroups to potentially create promotional materials for communities

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- Needs: Dissemination ideas by adding to running list of frontline entities
- Increase Access to Hardware
  - Accessing successful initiatives to develop parameters and best practices
  - Focus on adults
  - Priority is refurbished Utah Department of Technology Services devices
  - Assessing potential agencies to house refurbishment program
  - Could refurbishment be turned into a job opportunity?
  - Identifying refurbishment partners
- Expanding Digital Literacy
  - Sketching out statewide digital literacy scenarios
  - Roll-out digital literacy plan once Connectivity and Hardware Initiatives are underway
  - Goal: Summer
- Needs: Dissemination ideas by adding to running list of frontline entities

## **Economic Sustainability** – Antonella Packard

- Ongoing Project
  - Resource Hub Project
    - For individuals who need resources finding jobs
    - Retooling resources
      - Such as English Connect Program
        - Can prepare individuals to speak English
    - Certifications to help prepare individuals to be more competitive in the job market
      - Such as Social Media Certification
  - Expanding Partnerships
  - Business COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

## **Next Meeting**

Friday, March 12, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.