

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 23, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Google Meet | Online

Members: Chair Nubia Peña, Co-Chair Byron Russell, Co-Chair Ze Min Xiao, Heather Borski, Brittney Cummins, Dustin Jansen, Ming Wang, Brian Yazzie

Absent: Jess Anderson, Aden Batar, Juan Becerra, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Mikelle Moore, Dr. Len Novilla, Asha Parekh, Nicholina Womack

Guests: Ramy Ahmed, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Luna Banuri, José Borjón, Ginette Bott, Mayra Cardozo, Angel Castillo, Maegan Castleton, RyLee Curtis, Susi Feltch-Malohifo'ou, Tina Groves, Jenny Hor, Jennifer Leary, Claudia Loayza, Jennifer Mayer-Glenn, Nate McDonald, Mayra Sanchez, Lisia Satini, Randal Serr, Jeremy Taylor, Tara Thue, Taysha Tiatia, Jeannette Villalta, Mikel Whittier, Marti Woolford, James Yapias

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Food Security – Marti Woolford

S.B. 141: Task Force on Food Security

- Created a task force to develop a plan for establishing food security
- Awaiting assignment to a state department for staffing
- Determining membership to the task force, which includes representatives from:
 - State, county and municipal government
 - K-12 and higher education
 - Community-based organizations
- Possible formation of workgroups with support from the Food Security Workgroup to not duplicate efforts

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

- Utah's plan was approved and the first round of assistance was distributed the first week of April
- \$136 per month per child up to a maximum of four months
- No concrete numbers available until May
- Visit jobs.utah.gov/covid19/pebt for translated material

Food Choice Subcommittee

- Culturally Relevant Food Choice Pilot
 - Partner with 3-5 pantries that have a higher percentage of people from multicultural backgrounds
 - Target pantries located in:
 - Northern Utah (Cache and Weber County)
 - Southern Utah (Blanding)
 - Salt Lake County
 - Provide, or increase access to, 5-6 culturally relevant food staples
 - Incorporate cooking and nutrition education classes
 - Partner with the Utah Department of Health's EPICC Program
 - Reenvision traditional ways of seeking food through pantries by tying food resources with community events
- Utah Food Bank Produce Pilot
 - Produce mobile pantry at two complexes with high number of refugee tenants
 - Begins in May

University of Utah Health – RyLee Curtis, Mikel Whittier & Randal Serr

Vaccine Efforts

- Started COVID-specific newsletter in Spanish but will continue beyond COVID
 - Only vaccinating individuals within the University of Utah Health system
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- Oversampling high-risk patients by zip code to invite to get vaccination with 72 hours advance notice before other eligible patients
- Saving slots for in-clinic patients that want to get vaccine dose and are identified as potentially experiencing barriers to make additional vaccine appointment for first dose
- Outbound calls for Redwood Health Center patients with translators already on the phone to try to schedule vaccination appointments
- Created videos on vaccination facts in different languages

Vaccine Education Efforts

- Physicians speak 1:1 with community-based organizations to empower broader community (Utah Health Policy Project and University Neighborhood Partners)
- Media interviews in Spanish
- Facebook Lives in Spanish and Mandarin and focused on the Black community
- Spanish COVID [website](#)
- COVID Hotline: 801-587-0712 (Spanish #8)

Race and Ethnicity Data

- Working to improve collection rate
- All dashboards created going forward to include race and ethnicity data

Human Rights Campaign Designation

- Identifies LGBTQIA+ friendly hospitals for patients, communities and employees
- Main hospital received designation and working on certifying in-patient hospital facilities

Senior Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Ensure inclusive workforce
- Advance health equity by improving the experiences of patients
- Improve partnerships within the state
- Develop anti-bias and anti-racist strategic roadmap for the hospital system

Outreach in the Latino Community

- Developed campaigns in Spanish for health plans
- Created a [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) in Spanish focusing specifically on the Latino community that is not translated material
- Chad Westover, CEO of University of Utah Health Plans, featured in video stating that personal information within their systems are not shared with ICE
- Developed videos explaining health insurance in various languages spoken by the refugee community

Roundtable Updates – Committee Discussion

- Vaccination numbers have not been released for Pacific Islanders
- Vaccines for Pacific Islander community clinics have been limited

Next Meeting

Friday, May 7, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.