

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 14, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Google Meet | Online

Members: Chair Nubia Peña, Co-Chair Byron Russell, Heather Borski, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Ming Wang, Brian Yazzie
Absent: Jess Anderson, Aden Batar, Juan Becerra, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Brittney Cummins, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Dustin Jansen, Mikelle Moore, Dr. Len Novilla, Asha Parekh, Nicholina Womack, Ze Min Xiao
Guests: Tessa Acker, John Arthur, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Luna Banuri, Mayra Cardozo, Angel Castillo, RyLee Curtis, Dr. Sydnee Dickson, Susi Feltch-Malohifo'ou, Maria Garcia, Selina Gorst, Tina Groves, Ariane D. Hibo Ezeh, Dr. Michelle Hofmann, Jenny Hor, Jennifer Leary, Claudia Loayza, Jill Love, Jennifer Mayer-Glenn, Nate McDonald, Joscelyne Mendoza, Jennifer Nuttall, Angelo Papastamos, Ross Romero, Betty Sawyer, Randal Serr, Tiffany Stanley, Jeremy Taylor, Megan Waters, James Yapias, Sarah Young

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

Utah State Board of Education – Superintendent Sydnee Dickson

- **Question: What are 2-3 issues that students are facing as a result of or in response to the pandemic?**
 - **Digital Equity:** Ogden School District has faced challenges due to the economy. Latinx families in Ogden have been hit the hardest.
 - Digital equity was absent before the pandemic and will be there after
 - There is a need for Chromebooks and Chromebook sleeves
 - We should think beyond just digital equity for students and support communities and libraries
 - Parents need to have access to hotspots and ESL education to help them be involved and empowered in their children's education
 - **Summer School:** Many students will need credit recovery this upcoming summer. There is a high demand and need for meals for students during the summer. Food scarcity and afterschool programs are essential for communities and students.
 - **Critical Race Theory:** Many communities of color did not show up to online schooling perhaps due to the lack of a sense of belonging. There is a need to use funding for family engagement. Increasing communication between families and communities is critical to improving the school and community relationship.
 - **Early Childhood:** Full day early childhood education is needed. Many families mention they want and need full-time early childhood education due to work.
 - **Year Round Afterschool Support:** School districts and community organizations should work together to provide resources by tapping into local non-profits regarding early education. Allowing funding credits is key.
 - **Expanding our work beyond schools:** All of the learning and challenges happen outside of schools. We have to support our community centers and libraries to expand efforts to address digital equity to these centers, grassroots organizations, and faith communities. Representation matters and these entities represent safe spaces and familiar relationships for children and families.
 - **Supporting our parents:** We need to support parents to ensure that students are fully supported inside and outside of school.
 - **Access to culturally responsive, youth-based mental health supports that are therapeutically-based and not just programmatic**
 - **Understanding that learning loss is a systemic issue that the pandemic exacerbated and not just a result of the pandemic**
 - **System-wide access to wrap-around services for families**
 - **Systemic teacher professional learning that provides knowledge, skills, and resources to teach in a post-pandemic world**
 - **Center Mental Health:** Peer support groups are needed to support students who are dealing with mental health issues due to the pandemic or other factors.

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- **Support for Refugee Families:** There is a need for mental health support in schools for refugee families.

Utah Department of Health Updates – Heather Borski & Dr. Michelle Hofmann

- Plans for Vaccines for Children:
 - Overcome cultural barriers and beliefs around vaccines
 - 117 locations and pharmacies for vaccines for children
 - Communities of colors do not have access to primary doctors
 - We need to explore outreach to communities of color for children
 - Meeting with Rancho Market
 - Weekly event to increase awareness and access to vaccines

Next Meeting

Friday, May 21, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.