

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

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 7, 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, Heather Borski, Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Dulce Díez, Asha Parekh, , Ming Wang, Ze Min Xiao, Brian Yazzie

Absent: Jess Anderson, Juan Becerra, Silvia Castro, Mayra Cedano, Neelam Chand, Brittney Cummins, Jake Fitisemanu Jr., Emma E. Houston, Dustin Jansen, Mikelle Moore, Dr. Len Novilla, Nicholina Womack

Guests: Tessa Acker, Ramy Ahmed, Dr. Joél Arvizo-Zavala, Ginette Bott, Angel Castillo, Nichole Cunha, Susi Feltch-Malohifo'ou, Anna Gallegos, Maria Garcia, Tina Groves, Ariane D. Hibo Ezeh , Jenny Hor, Matt Huntington, Claudia Loayza, Jill Love, Nate McDonald, Joscelynne Mendoza, Kimberly Myers, Angelo Papastamos, Mayra Sanchez, Betty Sawyer, Randal Serr, Kristen Sorenson, Jeremy Taylor, Rocío Torres Mora, Jeannette Villalta, Jennifer Vuich, Megan Waters, Marti Woolford, Luke Yospe

Welcome – Byron Russell, Co-Chair

Byron Russell welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Diversity in Utah: Race, Ethnicity, and Sex Data Book – Byron Russell

- Important factual data regarding race, ethnicity, and sex
 - Data reported on disparities within housing, health, education, and economics
 - Homeownership in multicultural communities is much lower than in other communities
 - Disparities in infant mortality rates, diabetes, obesity, and depression
 - The report was embargoed until the day before the meeting, so the full information will be presented at the next Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting.

Community Vaccine Mobile Request – Tessa Acker & Matt Huntington

- Multiple successful efforts already with mobile vaccination, such as the Wellness Bus
- Hesitancy in BIPOC, specifically Latinx, communities, calling for additional outreach and awareness
- Community Vaccine Mobile Request Form
 - On the state coronavirus website, there is a form to request a vaccination event to improve access.
 - 267 requests so far
 - 67% are businesses
 - Large majority come from Salt Lake County
 - 31,000 doses requested
 - Factors determine priority areas, such as percent vaccinated or BIPOC communities
 - When requests come in, local health departments get priority, and if they do not respond the state takes over and reaches out to the requester, and NOMI Health confirms the logistics
 - Best practices developed for administering vaccines to different populations
 - Community checklist to ensure access at all locations
 - Representation of the communities at these mobile vaccination events
 - Important to move from mass vaccinations to bringing the vaccinations to people
 - Many pharmacies across the state are now allowing walk-in vaccinations.
 - Concern about those within the community not receiving the second dose of the vaccine

Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Crisis Services – Nichole Cunha

- Preparing for 988: Evaluating Crisis Services and Addressing Inequities
 - Vision: A behavioral health crisis system is more than a single crisis program.
 - An organized set of structures in place to meet all types of urgent behavioral health crisis needs.
 - Efforts began in 2012, with July 2022 being the projected launch date for 988
 - Utah Crisis System
 - Utah Crisis Line will become the host for 988
 - A crisis line has limitations, to the goal of the crisis system, without a system

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- Preparations for 988 and two additional adult receiving centers will supplement the Utah Crisis Response System's already existing services
- Operationalizing 988
 - In October 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 was signed into law
 - National number for suicide hotline
 - Anticipated expansion of serviceable population
 - By July 2022, telecom providers are required to activate the three-digit number
- Confluence of inequity and service provision
 - Intersectionality of structural racism, policy inequities, and inequitable access to behavioral healthcare
 - Requires same parity as 911
- Untreated mental illness involved in a quarter of fatal police shootings.
 - Law enforcement should not be the default or primary response for a mental health crisis
 - Protocols exist to elevate calls to involve law enforcement
 - Discussion of whether to involve geolocation, as concerns of marginalized groups being negatively affected
- Next Steps:
 - Three part research proposal to engage stakeholders, community members, and care providers in discussion to prepare a report for the legislative committee
 - Seek feedback from the community on 988 development
 - Improve language access and cultural relevance

Other Business

- Congratulations to all the students who graduated this spring.

Next Meeting

Friday, May 14, 2021 from 3:00–4:00 P.M. through Google Meet.