



The Commission on
Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity

CWCSEO

Connecticut General Assembly

MINUTES

CWCSEO SPECIAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 20, 2020

1:00PM – 2:30PM

Via Zoom

Present: Alan Tan, Co-chair, Penny Young, Antonia Moran, Alphonse Wright, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Nancy Heaton, Umesh Vig Kunwar, Joan Barere, Myron Genel, Hilda Nieves, and Michael Ji Tong, Leticia Colon de Mejias and Dianne Stone

Staff Present: Steven Hernandez, Werner Oyanadel, Rosemary Lopez, Denise Drummond, Lucy Goeicochea-Hernandez, and Emilio Estrella

Guest Present: Miriam Yeung, Chair of The Asian Pacific American Coalition of CT.

This Special Meeting was called to order by Mr. Steven Hernández, Executive Director on Monday, July 20, 2020.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-chairperson Alan Tan welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending,

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER SUBCOMMISSION DISCUSSION

All Sub commission members introduced themselves.

Ms. Miriam Yeung, Chair of The Asian Pacific American Coalition of CT (APAC) explain the mission of the coalition. APAC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization establish in 2008. It's a non-partisan group of concerned citizens. Their mission is to educate the APA community about laws, programs and policies that affect their well-being. She discussed some statistic on the growing number of API here in Connecticut.

Ms. Hin-McCormick shared a PowerPoint presentation on an overview of how Connecticut looks like in comparison to the United States on Asian American & Pacific Islanders (A APIs).

Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders can be broken down into four geographically based groups:

- Pacific Islanders, mostly Native Hawaiians, Samoans, and Guamanians.
- Southeast Asians, largely comprised of Indochinese from Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Indonesians and Filipinos.



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- East Asians, including Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans.
- South Asians, including those from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tibet, and the Maldives

In 2011 the USA Census Bureau, estimated 18.2 million AAPI, a 47% increase between 2000 and 2011. Asians comprised 5.6% of the total population, and the Census Bureau is projecting an increase of 41 million by 2050, 9.2% of the total.

The Connecticut data shows that CT's total population is 3.5 million. CT's AAPIs has grown from 95,368 in 2000 to 157,088 in 2010; that's a 65% increase. The Asian population by county is Fairfield 47,337, Hartford 44,287, New Haven 35,555 and New London 12,555.

The largest AAPI groups in the United States in 2011 are: Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Koreans, Japanese. The states with the biggest AAPI populations are California, New Jersey, and New York.

The largest group in Connecticut are: Asian Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Koreans, and Japanese.

There are many cultural considerations to keep in mind when working with individuals and families.

- Language – Is the huge barrier
- Values/Traditions
- Health Literacy
- Family Structure
- Religion
- Private matter
- Fear
- Stigma from family and community
- Lack of understanding of preventative care
- Limited social supports
- Perception of health issues as translated into different Asian cultures and languages. This can lead to a need of understanding social health better in the AAPI population.
- Underrepresentation of AAPIs in clinical and public service workforce
- Mental health is not an accepted or understood concept
- "Karma"
- Acceptance of age and deterioration of mind & body

Board members appreciated the presentation and request that it be shared with the entire board.



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#IAMNOTAVIRUS CAMPAIGN

Unfortunately, due to this COVID situation the Chinese or all the Asian community is being targeted and blamed for the virus only because they look Asian. There has been an increase in verbal attacks, physical attacks, and discrimination.

Mr. Hernandez was able to participate in a campaign that started locally and is also a national effect as well. He is requesting that we join in any of the existing efforts in educating and informing the public. "#IAMNOTAVIRUS" Campaign to really deepen conversations to learn more and to bring us closer together. The campaign is to help Asian American tell their own story.

UPCOMING AAPI BUSSINESS FORUM

The AAPI Sub-commission is working on putting together an AAPI Business Forum. Ms. Hin-McCormick was able to connect with someone from the CT Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA). They have and can provide information and resources like a clinic. She has invited them to be part of the Business Forum, so they can provide information on how this clinic looks like.

To also offer Pro Bono consultation related to COVID release business issues.

They have also contacted the Small Business Administration (SBA), to get them involved so they can provide information and resources. Date and time are to be determined.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming informational conversations via Zoom with our communities:

- An Equitable Return to Learn: Making Safety the Bottom Line for all Children – Today, July 20, 2020, 6pm – 7:30pm
- Rising to the Challenge: Lessons Learned, Applied, & a Continuity of Services Strategy for Connecticut – July 22, 2020, 5:30pm
- The Trafficking in Person's Council will be having a Massage Parlor Legislative Task Force Meeting – July 28, 2020, 2pm
- Census Roundtable: Equity & Impact through Parent-Led Outreach Strategies – July 30, 2020, 5pm

Conversations the commission has already had via Zoom with communities:

- Small Business Matters: "El Negocio del Exito" (The Business of Success): Unboxing Issues Impacting Small Latina/o Business During Recovery – July 6, 2020

18-20 Trinity Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106



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- Raising Leaders: Removing Barriers to Self-Determination, Engagement and Success for Black and Brown Children. June 30, 2020
- 2020 Vision for CT Youth: Juvenile Justice, Systemic Racism, COVID-19 Pandemic, Education, Equity, Inclusion, Policy Reform – June 29, 2020
- And many more.

ADJOURNMENT

Advisory Board Member Wright moved to adjourn the Special meeting of July 20, 2020, at 2:30PM.