

Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council (CECLC) Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2014 from 11:30 until 4:00, Wilder Foundation
<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/CulturalEthnicLeadershipCouncil>

Members Present: Bauz Nengchu, Yende Andersen (for Edward McDonald), *Hector Garcia, Jose Gonzalez, LaJuana Whitmore, Mitchell Davis, Jr., Pa H. Lor, Pahoua Yang, Pamela Cosby, Paula Haywood, *Saciido Shaie, Samanthar Hassan, Sarita Ennis, Sia Her, Titilayo Bediako, Vayong Moua, Anna Mazig, LaRone Greer, * Maria Sarabia, *Senator Jeff Hayden (for Senator Tony Lourey), *Rep. Rena Moran (for Rep. Tina Liebling), Nathan Moracco.

Members Absent: Annamarie Hill, Dave Haley, Kamaludin Hassan, Kamala Puram, Rev. Janet Johnson, Rep. Tom Huntley, Rep. Jim Abeler, Rep. Tara Mack, Sen. Julie Rosen, Sen. Kathy Sheran, Sen. Michelle Benson

Guests: Angelique Cooper, Idil Abdul, Kia Lee

Improve Group Consultants: Leah Moses and Amy Batiste

DHS Staff: Antonia Wilcoxon, Mee Cheng, Rosalie Vollmar.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Opening

Pam Cosby brought the meeting to order. Guests introduced themselves.

2. Review Proposed Agenda, Approval

Antonia asked that Public Comment be added as item 12. Paula Haywood made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Vayong Moua seconded the motion. Vote to approve the agenda passed.

3. Review of Minutes – November and December meetings

The meeting minutes from the November and December meetings were provided. Council members reviewed the November meeting minutes. Mitchell Davis, Jr. made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Paula Haywood seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council members reviewed the December meeting minutes. Paula Haywood made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Anna Mazig seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Survey results

This portion of the meeting will be facilitated by Leah Moses and Amy Batiste from the Improve Group. They are continuing on from the subcommittee meeting held on January 10th.

Based on the discussion at the January 10th workgroup, Leah and Amy created a survey and sent out to the entire group. 22 people responded to 9 questions. The Council was asked to review the survey results distributed to the group.

Discussion included the following comments. Additional notes will be in the summary report from the consultants.

Page 3 – Top priority ranking comments:

- No one issue that people felt is less urgent
- Neighborhood and built environment ranked lowest
- Economic stability and education ranked highest
- What is the root cause of the issues? Chicken vs egg question.
- All items seem interrelated
- Struggle with ranking as they are all important
- Seemed like there were possibly things missing – political impact

Page 9 - Top ranked visions for your work comments:

- Looks like what we are saying is we need to be included – communities of color
- More minority providers – stands out to me as most important
- We can get minority providers but without the technical assistance they struggle- need to be supported
- Equity in all policies – needs to be laser focus on that one (Mitchell Davis Jr. and Vayong Moua)
- Need a bottom up approach – not top down – need to come at it from multiple angles
- Accountability should be a natural occurrence
- What do we mean by equity – how do you hold someone accountable if we don't understand equity
- Cultural competency ... comes into play with all of these – without cultural competency the rest are hard to get to. (Anna Mazig)

Page 5 - What term should be used? Health disparities, health equity, other Equity comments

- What is the common definition of equity?
- Paula Haywood - Authentic inclusion of concepts and ideas of people we serve
- Rena Moran – Equity is fair and just and represents all of us
- Jose Gonzalez – Equal access – everybody has a pair of shoes Equity – Everybody has a pair of shoes that fits
- Different treatment that is culturally responsive
- Rena Moran – Individual things that need to be done – how do we incorporate that into policies, etc.
- Jose Gonzalez– parameters of what DHS can do?
- Mitchell Davis, Jr. – Health, housing, transportation, education, violence - Equity in all policies across all agencies
- Sarita Ennis – Subcultures within cultures – need to find the common ground but recognize the individual cultures

Page 11- Solutions comments

- Not just having policy makers understand our communities but want the policy makers to be more made up of people from our communities
- Are we talking about all residents? Does legal status matter?
- From a politician's standpoint – who has the ability to vote?

- Who does DHS serve? Emergency Medical Assistance deals with undocumented folks. They do affect the cost of the system. (Nathan Moracco)
- Rena Moran – you see MN the way you want it to be.
- Sia Her - Have policy makers see communities as assets –
- Yende Andersen – Workforce needs to be diverse – Need to receive services from someone who speaks their language

5. Small groups discuss survey results discussion

6. Debrief Session on the report results

7. Small groups develop proposals based on top priorities

8. Break

9. Small groups present proposals

10. Discussion and process time – clarification and synthesis aligned with each section of the report

The work done in the last week will be consolidated into a report. A draft report will be sent out for review and feedback.

11. Business Meeting

The business meeting reconvened at 3:30.

- The length of the meetings initially was set at 4 hours for all the work that initially had to be done. We will most likely not need to meet that long each time from here on out.
- In the minutes, you may have noticed that there is an asterisk if people leave early. That is standard procedure and not meant as an insult to anybody.

Bylaws – Reviewed the changes suggested to the bylaws at the last meeting. Previous updates were either approved or updated in the bylaws document. Vayong Moua made a motion to approve the bylaws as amended. Pahoua Yang seconded the motion. Council voted to approve the revisions to the bylaws.

12. Public Comment

Idil Abdul left the following comments, with Wilcoxon, as she had to leave the meeting early. Wilcoxon read the comments Ms. Abdul has noted on a piece of paper:

More needs:

- Intentionally recruit and hire minorities in leadership positions at DHS and policy advisors.
- Intentionally recruit minority owned providers and provide technical assistance
- Legislators to write bills that look into research of not does disparity exist but cause /why and solutions.

13. Adjournment

Paula Haywood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jose Gonzalez seconded the motion. Council voted to approve adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Next meeting February 21, 2014