

**Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council (CECLC) Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2014 from 11:30 until 2:00, Wilder Foundation  
<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/CulturalEthnicLeadershipCouncil>**

**Members Present:** Titilayo Bediako, Pam Cosby, Annastacia Belladonna, Mitchell Davis Jr., LaRone Greer, Muriel Gubasta, Dave Haley, Paula Haywood, Pa H. Lor, Anna Mazig, Vayong Moua, Bauz Nengchu, Maria Sarabia, Saciido Shaie, LaJuana Whitmore, Pahoua Yang

**Members Absent:** Tenzin Dolkar, Sarita Ennis, Kamaludin Hassan, Sia Her, Ann Hill, Annamarie Hill, Rev. Janet Johnson, Sen. Tony Lourey, Kamala Puram, Sen. Kathy Sheran, Edward McDonald, Hector Garcia, Annamarie Hill, Rep. Jim Abeler, Rep. Tom Huntley, Rep. Tina Liebling, Rep. Tara Mack, Sen. Michelle Benson, Sen. Julie Rosen, Kamaludin Hassan, Sarita Ennis

**DHS Staff:** Antonia Wilcoxon, Denise Flock, Tim Quan

**Guests:** Brian Balk (DHS), Jean Lee (Children's Hope International)

1. **Welcome, Network, Light lunch, Check-in**
  - a. **Developments within DHS and opportunities for Council members to give input. .**
    - i. **Antonia distributed items on request for input on the MCO's contracting (DHS Website). This is a great opportunity for council members to provide input and feedback.**
    - ii. **Input is needed from council members on the updating of the Framework for the Future. Commissioner of Human Services announces areas that the agency is focusing on for the year; People, Innovation, Equity and Integrity. 2 handouts will be sent electronically. This again is great opportunity to provide feedback and input.**
    - iii. **Governor's Task Force for Protection of Children. These meetings are public and anyone can come and listen. There are opportunities to voice your concerns. This information is on the DHS website. This is part of our work as a council that you provide input and feedback. If this council wants to prepare a letter to the Task Force council please do so.**
2. **Review Minutes: October 17, 2014**
  - a. **Fill in blank space with Glynis Shea**
  - b. **Add Paula Haywood to the minutes as Substitute Chair in Pam's absence.**
    - i. **In the case of a substitute, please make note in the minutes.**
  - c. **Motion to pass minutes with changes mentioned above: Dave Haley**
  - d. **2<sup>nd</sup> – LaJuana Whitmore**
  - e. **Motion Passed**
3. **Review Proposed Agenda: November 21, 2014**
  - a. **Motion to pass: Mitchell Davis**
  - b. **2<sup>nd</sup> - Vayong Moua**

- c. Motion passed
- 4. Terminology: Defining how we want to call things:
  - a. Antonia will send a list of terms and definitions
  - b. We as a council should create some common language and vocabulary.
  - c. Worthwhile to have some dedicated time to know how we are going to define this work that we have done.
  - d. Agree on using the term health equity vs. health disparity
    - i. Health Equity: Political, preventable, social justice
    - ii. Health Disparities: % of people (differentials), research issue only, results of inequities.
  - e. Goals: Long term – Statute Short term – Council work
  - f. There is a place for both terms; they are not synonyms. Health disparities are the problem that health equity is trying to fix.
  - g. Access – terminology: How are we defining this? Just because there is a clinic in a particular neighborhood doesn't mean everyone has access to it.
  - h. Leadership committee will come up with a draft of terminology to present to the council. At least for something to start the conversation.
  - i. We really need to be intentional and purposeful about the language.
- 5. Committees Meet, Action Steps
  - a. Awareness committee
    - i. Engagement – New bullet: Make a requirement for key DHS staff to participate in cultural events in the community.
    - ii. Empowerment – Page 6, Item 2
      - 1. How do we ensure we are working with a population where English is not their native language. Hold DHS accountable....if they are denied coverage, can they appeal and get more informed so they are aware of their options.
      - 2. DHS has a lot of employees. Covers a wide spectrum of MN. Many populations are not aware of what DHS offers. We want community members to feel easy about going to DHS with concerns. How do we do that and have that relationship to do that.
      - 3. New arrivals that do not understand the democratic process. How do we make this process accessible to new arrivals? They should know this is part of our citizenship to do so.
  - b. Leadership committee
    - i. Working on the request from Senator Lourey to advance an equity analysis process that would be imbedded in the process for HHS bill.
    - ii. Had a sit down meeting with Amy Dellwo to talk about her ideas; content of what that equity analysis would be, where in the process would it be more helpful to insert to effectively be done and doesn't bog down the legislative process.

- iii. **Couple ideas: Where the equity analysis would be applied and how is it required.**
  - 1. **Bills coming through the governor's office – equity analysis would be part of the bill, part of what's introduced. Who is involved in the development of the proposal? How would it affect different communities? Have this as part of the process. Maybe this is required and you don't get a hearing if this isn't part of the process.**
  - 2. **Bills that get introduced by individual members. You get status about hearing if this is part of the information you produce.**
  - 3. **If we don't do that much at the beginning, invite folks to come and testify or hold discussions outside of the state capitol. How do we go out and outreach to encourage folks from different areas to participate in these hearings?**
  - 4. **Give attention between formalizing equity vs. keeping it authentically driven by community input. The routine consideration of equity into policy making. This has to occur in DHS and perhaps reach outside the legislative process.**
  - 5. **Work across agencies: MDH is interested in institutionalizing equity decision making as well.**
  - 6. **Progress update: Where is it landing, how is it being received by DHS. We get organic messages from this meeting, but how is it actually doing within DHS?**
  - 7. **Antonia will work with Nathan and Chuck to plan a response from DHS.**
- iv. **Are we on track, are we being received?**
- v. **Nathan suggests – recommend that this group become more informed on what we would say. What are the costs, what are the likely issues? You want to have answers to questions you ask. Be more informed and try to find the solutions ourselves as much as we expect DHS to find the solutions. We would want a lot more information about the practical realities of our staff before we approach the legislative process.**
- vi. **What are some of the key questions DHS/Legislator's would ask? This would be good to know.**
- vii. **The council is really in the early stages. If we go to DHS and legislators we are going to be asking them to do all the work. The council needs to have some of this work done. Don't hand it over to DHS to give them the power to say no. Make sure you do your work.**
- viii. **Create a consistent platform to have a response.**
- ix. **Recommendations have been made and where do they stand?**
- c. **Community Health/Health Systems committee**
  - i. **Page 31, #3**
  - ii. **DHS is not in a position to create a center.**

- iii. The issues – even though there is not a center now, we cannot wait 5 years. What can we do to reach this?
    - iv. There is no place for Muslim women to exercise.( Connect with potential centers now to work in partnership)
    - v. DHS cannot build a building, so could the committee come up with programs.
  - d. Linguistic Services committee
    - i. More careful vendor selection for vendors that are culturally and linguistically competent.
    - ii. If someone is being denied services (due to language barriers) make sure they are clear on how the process works.
    - iii. There needs to be culturally appropriate services.
- 6. More discussion regarding subcommittees:
  - a. Should any subcommittees be joined together? Antonia will send some recommendations to review regarding combining subcommittees after receiving their summary of the recommendations.
- 7. Discussion – Next Steps
  - a. Need to develop something more concise and targeted so it is easier for DHS and the Commissioner to look it over and have a response because right now it is a very broad based set of recommendations.
  - b. Should we prioritize as a group or try to do it within each group and whittle it down that way?
  - c. Committees are going to need more resources than DHS can provide. Antonia is looking into interns/volunteers to help.
  - d. It was suggested that each subcommittee prioritize and narrow down their recommendations.
  - e. We are lacking a timeline: If we need to prioritize, can we set a timeline?
    - i. Who is able to volunteer time outside of these meetings to help coordinate?
    - ii. Come up with priority – which are critical, which can be long term – or for next year.
    - iii. First week in December – each committee turn in their; NOW, FUTURE, MID TERM, LONGER TERM, list of recommendations.
    - iv. Task is to make it bite size.
    - v. We do have the talent to do this within the council so no need to go outside.
- 8. Next meeting –
  - a. We will take half of the meeting for business and half for a holiday celebration.
- 9. Open Forum – Anna Mazig made an announcement about “Discover Truth” – a health care journey – scheduled on MPR for November 23. Goal is to educate and create awareness of health insurance. Taking stock in their health. African American Community.
- 10. Public Comment
  - a. Jean Lee – Children’s Hope International. Intersections of Health and Human Services and how it relates to health.

- i. **When we talk about some of these different issues. Be cognizant of these issues. In line with some of these other agencies there are barriers and some pitfalls.**
  - ii. **Transitional public housing, Asian Pacific Housing. Trying to break through these barriers. Within DHS there are housing dollars and these folks don't know about it. They would like to see some changes within the CECLC helping with housing and funding with meshing from other departments.**
- b. **Brian Balk – Encouraged the council members to continue to seek cooperation between agencies and breaking down silos. Main focus on human services and health. So many other issues such as housing, economic, education and even law enforcement and judicial systems. Concept being brought up about equity cabinet and having influence at the top levels. Supports this idea that was brought up previously.**

**11. Adjourn:**

- a. **Motion to adjourn: Lajuana Whitmore**
- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> – Anna Mazig**
- c. **Motion passed**

**12. Next meeting is December 19, 2014**