

Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2019

11:30-2:00

COUNCIL CHAIR	Chair Vayong Moua
ACTING CHAIR IN COUNCIL CHAIR'S ABSENCE	N/A
TYPE OF MEETING	CECLC Monthly Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Elizabeth Stein, Nicole Juan
MEMBER ATTENDEES	Titilayo Bediako, Michael Birchard, Beverly Bushyhead, Pastor Brian Herron, Rev. Dr. Jean Lee, Kia Moua, Vayong Moua, Adesola Oni
DHS STAFF	Roberta Downing, Beth Dansie, Verona Mitchell, Wendy Plager, Rebeca Sedarski, Claire Wilson, Vimbai Madzura, Olukemi Adeniyi-Akins, Lauren Yates, Kate Kunitz, Holly Johnson, Ama Boumi, Dr. Jeff Schiff, Michaelyn Bruer, Christa Spielman, Nicole Juan, Elizabeth Stein
SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTERS	MDH's Center for Health Equity Staff & Health Equity Advisory and Leadership (HEAL) Council members; Bruce Thao, Va Yang, Jokho Farah, Shor Salkas
PUBLIC	Madison Olmsted (MDH), Therese Genis, Laurelle Myhra, Courtney Jordan Baechler (MDH), Keneisha Gilmer, Samuel Moose, Jennifer Nguyen Moore

Item	Notes	Action Needed
Review/approve minutes from previous meeting	Quorum not met-minutes not approved	
Review/approve today's agenda	Quorum not met-agenda not approved.	

Item	Notes	Action Needed
<p>Comments from Chair, Vayong Moua</p>	<p>A few council members recently met with Cmr. Lourey to better get to know one another on a personal & inter-organizational level as well as discuss the implementation of the policy on equity and treatment of people of color working within DHS. Chair Vayong Moua reported that the commissioner seems committed to learning and listening from group and is aware that this group is here to challenge him and hold him accountable.</p> <p>Vayong also recently discussed changing CECLC legislation with Rep. Rena Moran, who authored the initial legislation, to remove the current 2020 sunset date, include dedicated funding, and expand requirements of the Commissioner and council members.</p> <p>Michael Birchard asked if the council would benefit from the addition of co-chairs. Vayong mentioned that while that is not included in current legislative proposals, this could be addressed through the council's bylaws.</p>	<p>Request: council to find Senate companion bill/author for new CECLC legislation</p> <p>Looking for testifiers – members and community to support ground work for bill</p>
<p>DHS Updates- Roberta Downing, Assistant Commissioner</p>	<p>Roberta noted that there are still some outstanding appointments at DHS needing to be filled. DHS will also be looking for a new Community Relations Director. The hiring process will be very community inclusive, she asks the council for any recommendations on applicants or to contact her if they would like to be involved in the hiring process.</p> <p>Her goal has been to keep the ball rolling on all community engagement and equity work through this transition period. Nicole and Roberta have been digging into the equity policy to see what progress has been made, those updates will be ready to share at the March CECLC meeting. Roberta said that while progress has occurred on the policy implementation, there are many areas of the policy that can be amended and strengthened to push forward this work.</p> <p>Question from Michael and Titilayo Bediako: Has there been any discussion around creating an Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Equity at DHS? Titilayo commented that this would show equity work is being taken seriously by the department. She also mentioned that this council would benefit from someone who can spend time at the capitol on behalf of the Council. Claire Wilson, Deputy Commissioner: There have not been discussions over creating an AC on Equity work. Right now at the agency they are looking at how equity work can be consolidated</p>	<p>Handouts on policy progress @ next meeting</p> <p>Handouts (AAFPA legislation)</p> <p> aafpa.pdf</p> <p> Rep. Rena Moran - MN African American</p> <p>Volunteers to make letters of support and testifiers for AAFPA bill</p>

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	<p>and appropriately resourced. She wants this work to be done in partnership with the CECLC and welcomes any ideas from the Council.</p> <p>AAFPA legislation was included in handouts as an issue of relevance to the council, currently being introduced by Rep. Moran and Senator Hayden. Vayong asked the council to think about creating letters of support as well as testifying in favor of this bill.</p> <p>Roberta mentioned wanting to revisit the equity policy, asked for council members who would be interested in meeting to see how the policy can be expanded and strengthened. Vayong, Michael, Titilayo, Beverly Bushyhead, and Adesola Oni volunteered to help with this work.</p>	<p>Roberta and Nicole to meet with group of council members to go over Policy on Equity review.</p>
<p>HEAL Council Overview- Dr. Jokho Farah, Va Yang, HEAL co-chairs</p>	<p>Health Equity Advisory and Leadership (HEAL) Council was founded in January 2018 to promote health equity work at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The council had over 100 applicants and selected 25 members from diverse ability, gender, sexual orientation, race, and geographies. The council first used their charter to develop mission, vision, purpose and value statements for MDH. These statements emphasized that this council would be actionable and would call out those in power to address areas of structural racism that create and perpetuate disparities.</p> <p>The council developed a memo with priority areas: data practice issues, community engagement, and systems level change. The council has met with Commissioner Malcolm who is supportive of this work. See presentation for more information on the memo and work groups.</p>	<p>HEAL Presentation:</p>  <p>HEAL_Meeting with DHS CECLC_Februar</p>
<p>MDH Perspective on HEAL-Bruce Thao, MDH Center for Health Equity</p>	<p>Bruce Thao, Director of the MDH Center for Health Equity, noted that unlike the CECLC, there is no equity policy or outside legislation supporting the HEAL Council in place, but a strategic plan which includes internal and external equity components, including creation of the HEAL council. The Center for Health Equity coordinates the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI); the HEAL council is tied to EHDI statute.</p> <p>Bruce also mentioned that he would be happy to return to CECLC meetings and report on the equity work MDH has been doing and inform DHS on how equity work has been structured within MDH.</p>	<p>Attach Center for Health Equity information, contact information.</p>  <p>commuinity health division MDH.pdf</p>

Item	Notes	Action Needed
		 <p data-bbox="1669 337 1806 386">MDH CHE Handout.pdf</p>
<p data-bbox="199 495 451 625">HEAL experience, challenges, and opportunities- HEAL Council</p>	<p data-bbox="478 495 1612 662">Dr. Jokho Farah and Va Yang, HEAL council co-chairs, discussed the council’s experience so far in its first year and laid out challenges they face. Council members cited challenges in figuring out where the power lies, where the biggest equity impacts can be made, and the difficulties in learning about government structure. They also want to be sure that there are opportunities to build bridges between agencies to create shared power and decision making.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1633 592 1843 641">HEAL Letter of Support from Comr</p>
<p data-bbox="199 709 409 841">Discussion: How CECLC/HEAL support equity integration</p>	<p data-bbox="478 709 1549 771">What are opportunities for collaboration/equity integration between the CECLC and HEAL council?</p> <ul data-bbox="525 779 1612 1344" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="525 779 1612 1096">• Vayong: Important to share resources and networks between the two councils. He added that in addition to a commitment from leadership, accountability structures should be put in place so that HEAL has the means to enact its memo. Ratifying an equity policy like DHS has done is one way to make sure the recommendations and practices included in the memo will live beyond any one person’s tenure with MDH. A lot of the CECLC’s power comes from statute. Vayong advised the HEAL council to find legislators and other allies that may support similar legislative avenues for this work. Michael mentioned that while the CECLC has legislative backing, it is first and foremost rooted in communities, giving power and leverage to its work. <li data-bbox="525 1104 1612 1242">• HEAL asked council members to sign a letter of support which will be delivered to Commissioner Malcom. A template has been provided but can be altered to better suit those contributing a letter. Vayong volunteered to work on a first draft of a letter of support on behalf of the CECLC as a whole. <li data-bbox="525 1250 1612 1344">• Ama Boumi suggested that alternating membership terms, such as where some members serve three year terms and others serve two year terms, would help to keep institutional knowledge and sustain momentum through onboarding and member loss. 	<p data-bbox="1633 709 1948 771">March 26th: Health Equity Summit by MDH</p> <p data-bbox="1633 812 1984 950">Individual letters of support as well as one from the CECLC as a whole due March 1st.</p> <p data-bbox="1633 990 1995 1161">Continued communication/collaboration between MDH and DHS, inter-agency work at the AC level.</p>

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	<p>Question from Council Member Pastor Herron: Has there been discussion around a summit with all of the cultural and ethnic councils? He added that it's important to find where these councils intersect in order to strengthen each other, and avoid being counterproductive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce mentioned there is a Health Equity Summit put on by MDH on March 26th and he will share more information about it after the meeting. • Council members suggested beginning collaboration with the One Minnesota Council created through Governor Walz's executive order. 	
<p>Community Input & Concerns, Announcements</p>	<p>Roberta mentioned the Supreme Court will soon make a decision on including a question on citizenship status to the census, which will have potential impacts on DHS and equity.</p> <p>Vayong reminded the council that most members' terms are slated to sunset in July 2019. He asked that council members look to their networks for outreach in finding new council members and a new council chair.</p> <p>There was an ask from the Children and Family Services administration at DHS for two council members to sit on a community review panel for RFPs for a project working on birth to three systems reform. More information can be found in Nicole's email.</p> <p>Next meeting: update on DHS strategic plan and policy on equity implementation.</p> <p>Events: We Win Institute- Feb 26th: Harlem Renaissance event. Contact Titilayo for more information.</p>	<p>Contact Kia Moua and Nicole Juan if you would like to sit on the community review panel</p> <p>Begin outreach for new council members</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 2:05</p>	