



DIVERSITY & EQUITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: May 18, 2020

Start Time: 5:38 PM

End Time: 7:00 PM

Location of This Meeting: Virtual ZOOM Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Staff Present: Lisa Kleinbub, Chris Hanson, Ronke Sodipo, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Edda Banuelos, Sandra Coss, Jairo Guiza, Michi Toy

Guests: Morena Grimaldi, Sister Marygrace Puchac, Sheraden Nicholau, Kathy Hebert, Anna Wang, Patricia Albeno, Victor Goswami, Ben Chen, Esther Wong

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

n/a

NEW SERVICES UPDATES

Anna Wang

- . Thank you, Elvia Rodriguez for attending meetings with the Asian population. Friends of Children with Special Needs hosts a weekly meeting with families on Fridays. Enriching Lives will join this coming Friday to present their project.
- . Zoom is allowing us to reach out to more families.
- . Check-out our website to see the range of services available to our families. Among others: FCSN staff call families 3 times a week, we offer respite childcare, supported living services, supported employment services and 10 hours of daily classes via ZOOM.
- . Thank you, Regional Center for what you are doing to support families during the pandemic.
- . Lisa will make sure Anna Wang's social programs are posted on RCEB's website to make it accessible to more families.

Sister Marygrace Puchac

- . Thank you for the focus on listening to the community
- . The group of mothers meet on ZOOM every month

- . People who have been fired are in dire need
- . A benevolent account for laid off families has been established. The idea is not to give but to share, starting with essentials: hand sanitizers, grocery gift cards, etc.

Sheraden Nicholau

- . Hosting biweekly meetings with families
- . Collected qualitative and quantitative data
- . Families asking for affordable technology
- . Can this committee respond right away to needs expressed by communities, especially to access to technology, low cost broadband and training to learn how to use the technology?
- . Anna Wang stated that Google and Cisco donated hot spots for school districts. Perhaps we can get donations from Apple and others
- . Lisa: Will be great to have access to internet as a public utility. Policy wise conversations about broadband will be needed to develop policy recommendations

Sandra Coss

- . Providing trainings/orientations to families via ZOOM, including a recent meeting with the Mexican consulate
- . Some issues identified by Latino families include: No federal stimulus for them, California Disaster Relief program open for applications, Catholic Charities having problems with accessibility to the applications, the program is first come first served until they run out of funds. Some families are concerned about public charge being applied to any type of aid received.

Esther Wong

- . Asian Resource Network develops workforce for existing providers serving Asian families
- . Early in June will start doing outreach
- . Waiting for Case Managers to return to the offices

DIVERSITY & EQUITY SPECIALIST SUMMARY – Jairo Guiza

The New Mission Statement:

“Build and promote equitable systems for ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse populations.”

Recently DDS started to hold teleconferences with Community Based Organizations implementing projects through the disparity funds program. During those conversations we have been able to learn about a variety of approaches to address disparities throughout the State of California. In one of those tele-conversations It was refreshing to hear our own Anna Wang sharing information regarding the situation of the Asian families and the services she provides. The things that work, as well as the challenges that continue to exist.

There's also an ongoing effort statewide to collect information about resources to assist families during this pandemic. Some people may need food, some may not be able to pick up food even if it's available because the person with a disability may not be able to sit for long hours in the car waiting in line at the food bank. Some may need medical equipment, or diapers or face masks or help with rent etc. Knowing where to refer people is critical especially during this time.

Lisa held the first virtual community meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to provide updates on different topics, including issues related to COVID-19.

In this context one of the needs that is emerging as significant is the "digital divide". Families who do not have access to the internet or do not have a computer or smart phone, or do not know how to use zoom or social media or how to search the web will have less access to information and perhaps experience more isolation. (Anna Wang's programs open for everybody).

The more we communicate with families, the more we learn about what's working and what is not working for them. So in these meetings we ask that you share what is happening in your communities. How do you identify current needs? What efforts are you conducting to address those needs? What efforts are being put in place by other stakeholders (not present in these meetings) and what do families and you want to see happening during this crisis and beyond.

As we look at the POS report, one of the situations that we find is that the largest gaps in expenditures exist in the adult population. When comparing data from the last 2-3 years we notice that a decrease in the disparity occurred in communities where Adult Day programs were implemented.

GUEST SPEAKER

Victor Goswami/Enriching Lives

Enriching Lives is developing a Family Home Agency to serve consumers/families from the following communities: Deaf/hard of hearing, and those whose primary language is either Vietnamese or Cantonese. The main challenges faced are related to COVID-19. People are not willing to open their homes for us. We're using social media and print media to communicate our message.

This model matches consumers with homes, no more than 2 individuals per home and each with their own bedroom.

- . No homes have been identified yet
- . Consumers must be 18 years old or older
- . Outreach to deaf community: Met with Lisa Gonzalez
- . Anna Wang suggest to use FCSN media to reach out to the community
- . Currently 11 RCEB consumers have been place in this type of home arrangement
- . For more information visit Enriching Lives website

Next Meeting: July 27th Virtual ZOOM Meeting