

**BHEC Steering Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 13 2021**

Facilitated by: Bijan Amirshahi, Ethnic Services Manager

In Attendance: Renteria, Teresa; Nguyen, Kelvin; McCleese, Belinda; Tran, Duan; Rao, Bhuvana; Soto Welty, Iliana; Helmy, Deana; Arnot, Michael; Whetsell, Brittany; Ngo, Hannah; Wong; Jennifer; Thornton, April

I. Welcome and Introductions –

- Ethnic Services Manager, Bijan Amirshahi opened the meetings and introduced guest Jennifer Wong, who would be giving a presentation.
- Co-chair Iliana Soto Welty shared an inspirational Ted Talk video on 2020.
- Members shared their thoughts on the video and the message of hope and resilience.
- April 2020 meeting Minutes were presented for review.
- Belinda suggested to spell out D&HH to Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Motions made to approve minutes with change.

II. Racism: A Public Health Crisis

- Iliana shared that many of our neighboring states and counties have already declared racism a public health crisis, hopes that OC can be next.
- Jennifer Wong introduced. She is the Executive director of AASCSC. She is an advocate for seniors, and launched one of the first senior vaccination clinics back in January. She is also the commissioner for the Orange County Human Relations Commission.
- Jennifer shared her story of the racism the Asian and Pacific Islander community in OC has faced during the pandemic. She also said that they recently held community listening sessions, and asked communities opinions on how to address these issues. Jennifer also stated that interpretation services are critical in allowing the community to fully express themselves.
- Human relations commission has a form to fill out if a victim needs help. Jennifer also encouraged calling authorities if needed.
- Members thanked Jennifer Wong for her presentation.
- Iliana shared a video about structural and systemic racism.

III. Work Groups

- Deana Helmy reported about the Spirituality workgroup. They have completed a draft of their mission statement. Hope it will help them to empower and inform a lot of the actions they perform in the community.
- Kelvin Nguyen reported on the threshold language populations work group. He stated that it is important to have everyone at the table to represent all languages.
- Bijan mentioned that the Deaf and Hard of Hearing group also need to be focused in on.
- Kelvin also shared some of the documents his group has created.

- April Thornton reported about the Outreach and Engagement to Black/African Americans work group. She stated that the group worked on several issues including ways they can reach out to the community.
- Bijan encouraged groups to figure out what goals each group would like to accomplish.
- Bhuvana shared that the LGBTQ group did not meet, but that the topic of systemic racism needs to be constantly considered in our works.
- Michael Arnot spoke about the community relations and education group. He stated that they want actions added to the CC Plan, as well as looking at the way we are connecting the community.
- Bijan and Iliana mentioned a form sent to the workgroups to standardize the work.
- Michael Arnot is currently working on a draft of bylaws. Michael shared that he wants this to be a hybrid model of decision making.

IV. Other Meeting tasks

- Behavioral Health Equity Summit is coming up and we are able to offer one free entrance to a member.
- Wheel spun to choose a winner at random.
- The winner was Duan Tran.
- Discussed that the larger BHEC should meet again when bylaws are completed.
- Next meeting will be the same day as the CA Health Equity Summit at which several members will attend, so we will have to schedule for a new day/time. Bijan will send out a doodle survey to determine the date and the time of the next meeting.