

Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council (CECLC) Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2014 from 11:30 until 2:00, Wilder Foundation
<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/CulturalEthnicLeadershipCouncil>

Members Present: Anna Mazig, Bauz Nengchu, Dave Haley, Kamaludin Hassan, LaJuana Whitmore, LaRone Greer, Mitchell Davis, Jr., Nathan Moracco, Pa H. Lor, Pahoua Yang, Pam Cosby, Paula Haywood, Rev. Janet Johnson, Sacido Shaie, Sarita Ennis, Sia Her, Vayong Moua, Yende Andersen, Elyse Ruiz.

Members Absent: Rep. Jim Abeler, Sen. Michelle Benson, Hector Garcia, Jose Gonzalez, Muriel Gubasta, Annamarie Hill, Rep. Tom Huntley, Rep. Tina Liebling, Sen. Tony Lourey, Rep. Rena Moran, Rep. Tara Mack, Sen. Julie Rosen, Sen. Kathy Sheran, Hassan Samantar, Kamala Puram, Maria Sarabia, Titilayo Bediako, Sen. Jeffrey Hayden,

DHS Staff: Antonia Wilcoxon, Denise Flock.

Guest: Brian Balk, DHS Employee

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Opening** – Note: first ½ hour is networking, Council went around and introduced ourselves and shared one thing that was on our minds for that day.
2. **Review Proposed Agenda:** Motion made to approve agenda by Paula Haywood. Motion seconded by Sacido Shaie. Vote to approve the April 25, 2014 agenda passed.
3. **Review of Minutes – February 21 meeting:** Motion made to approve February 21, 2014 meeting minutes by Dave Haley. Motion seconded by Ann Mazig. Vote to approve February 21, 2014 meeting minutes passed.
4. **Subcommittee updates:** Any difficulties or questions to be answered in order to move forward?

There was discussion about possible budgets needed for some of the work the subcommittees may be looking to complete. Each subcommittee should be putting together a wish list stating what resources they may need. This list will be evaluated and a discussion will take place with each group about their needs before going to DHS with budget requests.

Please remember to refer to the Legislative Report with questions regarding the committee. Many questions can be answered by looking at the report which was developed specifically for this committee. Everyone should have a copy from when the council first started; however, if you are in need of a copy, there is a link on the DHS website (<http://mn.gov/dhs/>). Type in Cultural and Ethnic in the search field. If you are still unclear as to your role in this council, please refer to the Legislative Report where it states what is expected of all members. Please contact Antonia or Pam if you are still unclear about the role of council members.

Each subcommittee gave a report on the progress they are making. Some groups were meeting for the first time after the Friday council gathering. All groups had great things to

report and it is evident that everyone is really committing to the purpose of the council.

It was determined each subcommittee should do a report and forward that report to Denise and/or Antonia to be then forwarded to the entire council. There is so much to be shared between subcommittees and it is nice to know each other's resources, ideas and findings. It is also important to make sure the subcommittees are not in a sense working against each other. Some questions to keep in mind: When all is collected, how do we tell the story? How do we make sure that things are delivered in a logical manner and nothing is dropped off? Items may include a larger picture from the big group.

5. Open Discussion:

Question: When we are done with the work we are doing, what happens next?

Answer: State agencies start working on legislative agenda for the next session in the summer. The council members will be instrumental in providing ideas and suggestions to DHS for start that legislative process early this summer. If there is something that is not part of DHS's mission, this council may feel empowered to write a policy on their own. Working with Legislators members of this council will be helpful. This council is legislatively mandated, legislators are written into the council. It would not be inappropriate for any council member to ask legislators questions or consult them when needed. They are members of the council so we should engage them in our work. Should you contact them regarding council's issues, please inform Antonia, as the legislator is likely to contact the commissioner of human services.

Question: Would it be possible for Amy Dellwo to come to the council and talk about her legislative work through DHS.

Answer: Great idea, Antonia will talk to Amy.

Question: Can council take an initiative to go and meet with legislators individually or as a group to provide some background and issues and why? Legally, do we have the ability/avenue to meet with them?

Answer: Any private citizen can contact a legislator and talk to them. If it is directly regarding this Council, we should make the commissioner aware first that we are going to talk to legislators regarding Council issues.

Note: Legislators can be the authors on some bills we want. They can give us guidance, work with us or provide us their legislative staff's assistance.

Note: If any legislator has a passion about any subjects being addressed by the committee it would be nice to have their input.

Discussion: With regard to expenses incurred by individuals to be a chair/member of this committee. What are some options to have the report Amended? Many councils of similar structure have a mileage reimbursement. Nathan offered some suggestions regarding this idea. Possibly this could currently be just restricted to "the Chair". Everyone has different situations as members of the council; some come as part of their jobs, some take vacation time, etc.

Motion: There was a motion made to request more options from DHS regarding

reimbursement of expenses incurred while on this council. Vayong Moua made the motion. Yende Andersen seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Question: How can we educate our communities; Twitter, Facebook, on what our council is doing. If our charge is to make things accessible and get it to people, how can we do that? Twitter might be a good option. Do we tweet as individuals regarding this council or as a group?

Answer: Let's discuss this next time we meet. Rules and regulations behind it. If we want to use social media, it needs to have a plan. A social media manager? What would be the basic content of these tweets? What are our options? Some of the rules that DHS has might not be constraining to us. Should we come out as the Council not DHS?

Other councils of similar structure may have already gone through the leg-work for this. We should research how others have done social media.

The meeting was great! Pam made the comment she felt we are all really coming together and this meeting came from "us". Today was the first time we stepped out and everything said today is from the perspective of the council and therefore the community. Great job!!!!

Mitchell Davis – extends his appreciation to the entire council for the note that was sent to him and his family regarding his granddaughter! Thank you!!!!

Testifiers - As you meet people throughout your work with the council, keep people in the back of your mind. If we do have bills we will want people from the different communities to testify for us. Keep in mind who those people might be.

Attendance – Attendance is very important to the council. There will be a review of past attendance.

Open Discussion Topics – If you have topics you would like discussed during open discussion, please submit them to Pam Cosby about one week prior to the meeting. These can be put on the agenda so they are addressed.

Nathan Moracco paid a compliment on the impact this Council is having on the whole of the agency. "In a meeting, a question about insured individuals came up 'what is the value of uninsured persons?' We know that in MN that there is a 7% uninsured rate. When you look at 7% uninsured, what is that 7% made up of and from which communities? We never had conversations like this before. It is spreading in areas and ways that never seen before. Equity is permeating everywhere."

6. **Public Comment** – No public comment

7. **Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn. Mitchell Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 1:51pm.

Next meeting Friday, May 16, 2014

Please contact Pahoua Yang at Pahoua.yang@wilder.org if you need additional information on room reservations for your subcommittees.