

AAQOL Commission Health Workgroup

Members:

Commissioner Kavita Radhakrishnan (Lead)
Commissioner Vince Cobalis
Commissioner Catherina Conte

Scope of Workgroup: To address health and wellness needs of underserved Asian American communities residing in the city of Austin

Date of Meeting: August 8, 2017

Location of Meeting: People's Community Clinic,

In Attendance:

Commissioner Kavita Radhakrishnan (Lead)
Commissioner Vince Cobalis
Commissioner Catherina Conte
Community member Molly Wang from ATCIC
Community member Candice Trulson from People's Community Clinic
Community member Pritesh Gandhi from People's Community Clinic
Community member Veena Vishwanath from Austin Public Health (call-in)

Topics Discussed:

- **People's Community Clinic**

- PCC's services currently available – several sub-specialties (cardiac, nephrology, neurology, etc) available to low-income clients
- Challenges to serving the Asian American community. Main challenge is language and the diversity of languages that will need to be addressed for healthcare to be accessible. While a language line is available at PCC, in-person translators are highly valued, especially to address mental health issues.
- Other challenges include access to care. PCC mentioned a medical-legal partnership provided as their services to help people get access to benefits. They have a focus on culturally relevant care and plan to hire a Community Health Worker by the end of the year.
- Current outreach to the Asian American community by PCC. Potential for increasing outreach to the Asian American community especially in the catchment area of interest to PCC. Their current location in Northeast Austin has seen increase in Asian American clientele (especially Vietnamese and Nepali) as compared to their previous location.
- Community level health initiatives driven by PCC – i) CCHH grant funded initiatives to influence city/county level policies that target upstream determinants of health (eg: advocate park in areas where low-income kids have low to none physical activity ii) Test kitchen projects – health foods iii) Mobile health clinic – Manor school district iv) Overall implementation of changes that are sustainable to PCC fiscally and operationally.

- **Outreach to underserved Asian American community**

- Increase awareness about availability of services provided by FQHCs such as PCC to the Asian American community
- Discussed challenges in disseminating health related information in a culturally sensitive manner to the Asian American community

- Ms.Trulson, RN from PCC talked about challenges faced by 1st generation Asian American migrants navigating the health system especially those arriving to U.S. as refugees.
- Will connect PCC to AARC Community Health Navigator program
- In future meetings, will continue to address the challenge of disseminating health resources information to Asian Americans in a culturally sensitive manner
- **Consolidated list of all health fairs and free health clinics relevant to Asian Americans in Austin**
 - Based on actions resulting from last meeting, list of resources available through Dr.Jang's research on Asian American facilities, shops, health fairs and events, and APH resources available to low-income groups provided by Ms.Vishwanath has been consolidated. This list will be shared with PCC and Molly wang from ATCIC.
 - In the future, this list could be used as a guide to inform health-related outreach efforts targeting underserved Asian Americans in Austin.
 - Future meetings will include discussions on how best to disseminate this information on available health resources to the larger Asian American community in Austin.
- **Asian American Mental health issue awareness and referrals – identify resources and begin development of a plan of action**
 - Ms.Wang from ATCIC provided preliminary preview of efforts by ATCIC to attain equity in number of Asian American staff members and clientele. Past few years has seen increase in % of Asian American staff members and clientele. A more formal presentation about ATCIC has been scheduled for October.
 - Future meetings will include discussions on challenges in outreach regarding mental health issues in the Asian American community including stigma, fears about privacy and confidentiality, tracking and monitoring of severe mental illness, residency status among others.
 - Future steps – Invite representatives from ATCIC, MCOT, AFFSA and EMS to attend health workgroup meetings. Hold joint meetings of relevant organizations to address unmet mental health needs of Asian Americans.

1. **Efforts to collect and analyze disaggregated data on Asian Americans - APH**

- According to Ms. Viswanathan, Austin Public Health (APH) is analyzing and summarizing ICC 2016 data for Asian Americans, African Americans, Whites, and Hispanic/Latinos. A profile or summary presentation is expected to be ready by end of September 2017. APH presented 2011-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) data for select indicators to Asian American QoL Commission in March 2017. Veena requested that additional indicators for Asian Americans be analyzed in alignment with Community Health Assessment (CHA) BRFSS 5-year data. APH hired a Chronic Disease Epidemiologist and she is the lead for the analysis and interpretation for chronic disease data. Asian subpopulation data is not available. However, the QoL Report by UT's Dr. Jang includes subpopulation data and analysis.
- The final Community Health Assessment (CHA) report by APH and key partners such as Travis County, Integral Care, Central Health, UT School of Public Health, Seton Healthcare Family, St. David's Foundation, Capital Metro, City of Austin, and Dell Medical School will be available in October 2017. The CHA is part of a community health improvement planning process. The CHA is a collaborative

process plan that is done every 5 years and it informs a 3-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). CHA Report draft for public comment in August 2017. Public forum for direct feedback is on August 30. Commission and community members will provide their email ids to be included in the CHA listserv to receive notifications about the CHA report. A flyer on CHA meeting on August 30 is already available. After the October presentation of the final CHA, the community will move to prioritizing health improvement areas for the CHIP and action planning for the CHIP kicks off January 2017.

- **Issues to address in upcoming months**

- September meeting – Discuss with Dr.Jang AAQOL initiative data and future use
- Explore invitation to community members in the Health Workgroup. The AAQOL health workgroup will intensify efforts to invite community members to the workgroup. Currently we have representation from Austin Public Health (APH), Peoples Community Clinic, and Integral Care (ATCIC) (potential future members: Luan Nguyen-Tran, Dr.Sanjana Malpani, someone from AISD, someone from Health Navigator program, someone from Austin Travis County EMS CHW program, AFFSA)
- Explore the Austin City EMS' Community Health Worker program to address the health navigation needs of the Asian American community in addition to Asian American non-profit organizations.
- Senior Home Meal Delivery
- Address shortage of culturally competent Certified Nurses' Aides
- Address children's health needs in the AISD system (Nu)