



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION 20240319-012**

Date: March 19, 2024

Subject: Recommendation on the FY 2024-25 Budget related to Austin Public Health
Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Mental Health

Motioned by: Commissioner Satyajee Dodia

Seconded By: Commissioner Pierre Nguyen

Austin Public Health Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Mental Health

Description

The Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission would like to recommend that the City increase funding for mental health services. In 2020, Austin Public Health (APH) put out a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) 004 Asian Pacific Islander Mental Health Services that our commission also supported and recommended. There were two applicants and two awarded agencies: Northwest Austin Universal Health Clinic (NAUHC) for \$100,000 and Young Women's Christian Association (also known as YWCA) for \$50,000.

With the closure of NAUHC, the \$100,000 API Mental Health amount was [awarded to Get Up Project d/b/a Hope Medical Clinic to provide health education and navigation services](#) prioritizing the Austin Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. While case management services are essential for the AAPI community, their use is very different from the original scope and intention of the RFGA.

Given that the funding for mental health for this past fiscal year was diverted to case management, the need is higher than ever to access essential mental healthcare for Austin's Asian community. Our recommendation would be an ongoing amount that not only is applied to AAPI Mental and Behavioral Health but also to fund a Mental Health Directory specific to mental health specialists who work with members of Austin's Asian community. The funds would go towards building community-building activities along with the creation of an updated directory of mental health specialists by language and by specialty.



Recommendation

Ongoing \$150,000 for AAPI Mental & Behavioral Health Direct Services
One-time \$20,000 funding to support administrative maintenance, directory expansion, and client matching for an Asian Behavioral Health Network

Department

Austin Public Health

Alignment with Council Strategic Priorities

Alignment with Council Strategic Priorities: Health & Environment: Enjoying a sustainable environment and a healthy life, physically and mentally.

- A. Health conditions among the public
- B. Accessibility to quality health care services (physical and mental)

Vote: 12-0

For: Chair Hanna Huang, Vice Chair Sarah Chen, Commissioners Satyajeet Dodia, Padmini Jambulapati, Anna Lan, Pierre Nguyen, Sabrina Sha, Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan, Nayer Sikder, Sonny Sin, Luan Tran, and Lily Trieu

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Mohsin Lari and Kuo Yang

Attest:

Eric Anderson, Staff Liaison