

Miami Dade County
Asian American Advisory Board
111 NW. First Street, suite 1034
Miami, FL 33128

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
July 2, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Adam Tavakoly; Melissa Braynon; Reza D’Jehanshahi; Sadrul H. Fasihi; Nazy Given; Nidal Hozein; Barnaby Min, Esq.; Shabbir Motorwala; Meital Stavinsky; Ali Taqi; Mehmet Ulutas; Nick Vicera; Dr. Jim Yu; and Mohammad Shakir, Director.

Excused: Nasser Eftekhari; Josephine Gordy; Joseph Johnson; Victor Swaroop; Manny Wong

Guests: Reinaldo Valdes; FBI Agents Steven Weir, Kathleen Cymbaluk, Theresa Griffiths, and Kevin Parker.

Minutes: Meeting came to order at 6:15. Chair welcomed the guests and asked members to review the minutes and make a motion. Barnaby Min moved to approve the minutes, Mehmet Ulutas seconded, Board unanimously approved June minutes. [13-0]

Director’s Report: There were no major institutional events during the last month. Director shared that some Asian-Americans approached him to seek a letter confirming their presence in the community. This need may grow; therefore, he suggested that members inform their respective communities about gathering the proper documentation. It can be established in churches, mosques, temples, libraries, and school records. In order to be timely, they should start gathering information as soon as possible.

Old Business: Scholarship Committee—Ms. Given expressed her frustration about the lack of cooperation and responsiveness. Different members made their suggestions for fundraising. Melissa Braynon distributed a donor listing form for all board members to recommend potential donors. Mr. Tavakoly suggested we seek support from Business Directory sponsors like Snappy, DHL, and Minute-Man Press. He also suggested to send copies of DCLA certificate with a note to all previous AAAB chairs with compliments and seek their support.

Membership—Mr. Vicera presented a mid-year review of the monthly attendance trend of the Board members, copies of which were distributed in the meeting and attached to these minutes (see attachment). He commended Messrs Tavakoly, Mon, and Wong and Ms. Given for their perfect attendance in the meetings. He noted however, that the Board had poor attendance in the March, April, and May monthly meetings when attendance in those months barely crossed the quorum. He opined that non-participation by Board members during meetings renders the Board bereft of inputs and ideas that it needs to move forward. He suggested that the Board members be asked what would entice them to show up in the meetings. It led to a heated discussion whether the Board should focus on more important things to do. He insisted that it is our duty to implement the rules. He was told that the term of many Board members has expired, including his and the Chair’s. Director informed him that Mr. Rene Diaz and Chair Sosa are working to create consistency in Standard Operating Procedures for all Boards. He also informed that mostly all board members call in to be excused. Similarly, all members, according to the County Attorney, whose terms are expired may continue to serve until their respective Commissioners reappoint or replace them. Mr. Min asked members if Tuesday meetings pose a problem for them. The members replied no. M. Given commented that she liked the graphics in Mr. Vicera’s report. She said it is a good metrics to measure Board performance. Mr. Vicera was advised to go back to the membership committee for further discussion.

Committees: Chair asked the members to join other committees. APA Heritage—Adam Tavakoly; Dr. Jim Yu; Josephine Gordy; Adrienne Thompson; Manny Wong.
Orientation & Mentoring—Mehmet Ulutas; Nick Vicera,

Mr. Vicera suggested that an orientation and mentoring curriculum should include familiarization with County Ordinance 97-128 and its terms and conditions for the members; encouraging members to connect with their respective communities and bring their problems before the Board.

Website and Public Relations - Dr. Joseph Johnson; Adam Tavakoly

Business Forum—Reza D’Jhanshahi; Adam Tavakoly

Fundraising—Ali Taqi

Outreach/Future Vision—Dr. Johnson; Josephine Gordy.

New Business: Mr. Vicera asked the Board to facilitate a meeting for Filipino Nurses and the Public Health Trust of the Jackson Hospital System to address the worsening nurse to patient ratio at Jackson. Members asked if this is a discrimination case against the Filipino nurses. Mr. Vicera said no. He said Jackson has employed cost-cutting measures to improve its financial conditions including raising its nurse to patient ratio far above the suggested guidelines of the professional association of U.S. nurses. High nurse to patient ration raises the workload of nurses, diminishes their ability to attend to patients, and endangers patient care. At this stage Mr. Min asked him to give his contact information to Filipino nurses’ representative and he will facilitate any appropriate meetings.

Adjournment: 8:15 p.m. meeting adjourned.