

Immigrant Advancement Committee of CDICR

Minutes of March 27, 2021 meeting

In attendance: Jessica Chicco, Rezaul Haque, Joan Lancourt, Jon Lau, Ihssane Leckey, Jeremy Dela Cruz, Sarah Kaplan (ODICR)

Introductions

We welcomed a new member to the committee, Jeremy Dela Cruz.

Discussion of Atlanta shootings and solidarity with Brookline's AAPI community

Members shared reflections on the recent shootings and Brookline's response, including a rally of support at BHS on 3/26 and one on Beacon St. on 3/27. Joan shared a request for action she had received, including the need to provide more translated resources to spread the news about ODICR and CDICR's existence and more education about racism in Brookline. Jeremy also shared that the Brookline Asian American Family Network (BAAFN) policy initiatives include including Asian American history into school curriculum, the reinstatement of a director of educational equity, the creation of Asian Americans scholars club similar to the African American Latino scholars club, and creating a permanent position for professional translators for letters, meetings, conferences.

Additional report back from members on their outreach and information gathering

No significant additional report-back, other than that Jessica is in ongoing communication with Sejin Choi, the Immigrant Family Advisor.

Presentation from Jeremy Dela Cruz

Jeremy shared a PowerPoint presentation on the UNC-Chapel Hill [Building Integrated Communities \(BIC\) project](#). The project is a partnership between the university and local governments aimed at creating inclusive policies and programs with immigrant and refugee residents. It is focused on building capacity to communicate with residents and facilitate language access, and strengthening civic engagement. The presentation was followed by a discussion of what implementing a similar process in Brookline may look like. A proposal was made to engage in a community survey, beginning by interviewing 50-75 immigrant residents (ensuring diversity across language/country of origin, age, neighborhood, gender, and more). Members agreed this would be an important next step to guide the committee's work. Areas of focus would include housing, education, business, health & public safety, public transportation, communication, and town government.

Discussion of next steps, review of possible activities and setting initial SMART goals

Members reviewed potential activities that had been raised in this and past meetings including creating a booklet on immigrant-owned businesses, creating a module on understanding the town, assessing the town's language access resources, engaging in collaborations with the schools, creating a "public service announcement" on how to report race-motivated attacks, creating a newcomers' guide to the town, hosting open forums in various languages, holding

individualized conversations, seeking to increase resources for adult ESL and child care, and exploring voting rights for noncitizens in local elections.

The overarching objectives of all these activities would be to inform and influence policies aimed at advancing immigrant engagement. With this in mind, we agreed on the following two SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound) goals: (1) undertake a community study by designing an interview protocol and carrying out 50-75 interviews with a diverse pool of immigrant residents; and (2) review the town's language access policy.

Next meeting

We agreed to change our meetings to Sunday evenings at 7pm, starting April 11 and every other week thereafter, with the possibility of revisiting this schedule as needed. Next meeting will be Sunday, April 11 at 7pm.