

New American/Foreign Born/Immigrant Advisory Board
July 28, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Mission

- Mission of the NFI Advisory Board – Provide ongoing recommendations to the NDDoH
 - Allow the NDDoH to integrate NFI concerns into policies and interventions
 - Provide a platform for NFI leaders to elevate concerns from the NFI communities

Introductions

- Abdishakur Mohammed – Soma Employment Solution, Fargo
- Ahmed Shill - Works at United Way as a Community Impact Manager and is very involved in Fargo-Moorhead community
- Alyssa Atman – Master of Public Health student at NDSU; lives in Fargo
- Grace Doppler– Outreach and Response at NDDoH
- Krissie Guerard – NDDoH Health Equity Director
- Hamida Dakane – Lives in Fargo, advocates for immigrants in Fargo North Dakota
- Hamzat Koriko – Lives in Grand Forks and originally from Dogoa. Works as the Artistic and Executive Director of the African Arts Arena
- Jasper Teboh – Representing Jamestown and works as a Research Professor at NDSU
- Kayla Hochstetler - Lives in Grand Forks and is the Social Services Manager at Spectra Health
- Thomas Mah – Liberian living in Grand Forks. President of the Liberian Organization of Grant Forks
- Ahmed Makaraan – Lives in Fargo. Works with the Somali community Development of North Dakota and interning with NDDoH, Health Equity
- Kim Mertz – Section Chief at the NDDoH and Maternal and Child Health Director
- Nicole Peske – Communication at NDDoH
- Reggie – Director of United African Community and works for Lutheran Social Services in Grand Forks
- Iredia (Ray) Osadolor – Representing the immigrant community in Minot
- Dr. Stahl – Interim SHO for the NDDoH
- Sarah Weninger – NDDoH, HIV/STD/Hep Coordinator
- Cynthia Shabb – Lives Grand Forks and with Global Friends Coalition
- Monica Soto- Lives in Dickinson and originally from Mexico. Represents the Hispanic community
- Abdiwahab Nunow – Lives in Fargo and originally from Kenya. Works as a program and youth coordinator with Afro American Development Association (AADA)
- Adil Abdelnour – Lives in Fargo-Moorhead and he is the Executive director of the Sudanese Community of Fargo Moorhead (“the SCFM”)
- Kirby Krueger – NDDoH Medical Services
- Tracy Miller – NDDoH State Epidemiologist
- Stella Jarua – Originally from South Sudan and lives in Fargo
- Melissa Bohl – Recently named lead for health analytics group for NDDoH
- Sahra Abdullahi – Lives in Grand Forks

State Updates

Health Equity (Krissie Guerard) –

- Hired Covid Special Populations Coordinator Jorden Laducer who will start on August 11. Jorden lives in the Minot area.
- Will be getting another Public Health Associate from the CDC who will be working with NDDoH beginning in October and will be working primarily on health equity issues and assisting Tracy in the Office of the State Epidemiologist.
- NACDD has offered ND a \$25,000 mini grant. This grant will be used to promote racial justice and equity. Alicia will be leading that grant.
- The Office of Minority Health issued a grant that is due August 26. This grant offers funding up toward \$300,000 a year and will be for initiative to document and sustain disparity-reducing interventions. The Health Equity office will be working closely with the state epidemiologist office and their team.

Alicia Belay –

- Has two interns working for the DoH. Ahmad Makkaran will be working in the HE office. The other intern is working with indigenous community across the state and working on a telehealth project.
- DOT has reached out to get more input on putting on a Spanish speaking forum.

Vote for Co-Chair

- 3 applicants (resumes were sent to group) - The co-chair will facilitate meetings and play an important role in the direction of the NFI Advisory Board.
 - Hamzat Koriko
 - Ahmed Makarran
 - Sahra Abdullahi
- Survey was sent prior to the meeting. Group was to go and vote during this meeting.
- After the votes were tallied, Hamzat will be the new co-chair.

Website resources (Nicole Peske, Chief Communications Officer, NDDoH)

- Since there is a need for material to meet NFI needs, there will be a of task force to identify resources on an ongoing basis.
- Since Covid began, Nicole and her team have been working on getting messaging out to different groups and populations and are currently working to get a variety of resources translated into different languages.
- They also are exploring ways to make the NDDoH website more accessible to those who speak different languages.
- NFI members are influencers in their communities, therefore would be able to help with the process.

- Alicia is looking for NFI members who would like to be a part of the taskforce. The time commitment would be an extra couple of hours a month. Ahmed Makaraan will be leading the team as a part of his internship.
- Those members who volunteered include Ahmed Shiil, Iredia (Ray) Osadolor—and Geraldine Ambe, Abdishakur Mohamed, Stella Jurua, Prakash Patak and Kouadjo N. Bini.
- Ahmed Makaraan will get in touch with the group within the next couple of days to schedule the first meeting. The sub-taskforce will be bringing ideas back to the group.

Community Assessment Process (Alyssa Altman) - Discussion on the best way to approach sensitive issues, like HIV, in NFI communities.

- The NDDoH is currently working on a plan to collect data for the integrate HIV and Viral Hepatitis Prevention and care plan, which will be in place for five years. In order to develop an appropriate plan, they have examined data to identify which populations are most affected by HIV, STDs and Hep C, and also have examined the literature to identify potential contributing factors of rates in ND.
- Now developing a Community Assessment to get a better understanding of how to reduce HIV, STD and Hep C in ND. In order to do this, they need to gather data across populations, including the NFI communities.
- In order to do this, they need a plan to include the needs of NFI communities and need to know how to best approach these topics in these communities.
- Ideas from the NFI committee include anonymous online surveys, 1:1 phone calls, in-person interviews, town halls, gift cards so that people feel they have an incentive to give their time.

Community Updates – NFI Board members to update the group on activities of their geographic area

- Grand Forks – community seems to be using masks and being careful in public settings, yet not being as careful in social settings.
- Fargo – Family Healthcare employees were tested for Covid-19 and it was posted on their social media sites in order to spread awareness. Covid response team has been helping many individuals by translating information to the community.
- Jamestown – Community needs more work in regard to social distancing and mask-wearing.
- Dickinson – No update
- Williston – Working on bringing groups together under one umbrella to decide on what issues to work on.
- Minot – Trying to get Covid-19 information out to the different immigrant groups.

Next Meeting/Adjourn

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 – 3:00PM