



1. Chinese American Sunshine House Update

Dr. Jackie Chen gave an update of the status of the Chinese American Sunshine House, located in Brooklyn. The Chinese American Sunshine House has been incorporated and approval for its 501 (c) (3) non-profit status is pending. The focus of the organization is to provide an educational and referral service for Chinese consumers in the community. At present, the Sunshine House is planning an educational workshop with CPC for the Chinese community on March 18th. This event will also introduce the Chinese community to the services of the Sunshine House. Future plans include a parenting workshop to assist Chinese parents in their requests for school services for their children, an anger management workshop, creating a Sunshine House Board, and a website for the organization.

2. Community Education Proposal

Marilyn Lam, MSW, proposed a Coalition speakers bureau to educate the community about mental health issues, resources that the community members can access pertaining to those topics, and treatment/s suggested based on best practice guidelines. The Coalition was in favor of this committee but various issues need to be addressed. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to discuss guidelines about speaker's credentials, expertise, and fee for their time, etc. Ms. Lam would be the coordinator of the committee and Dr. Grace Wong would be its advisor. Ms. Lam will give a committee report to the Coalition at the next meeting. To free the Coalition of any legal responsibility, Dr. Chen suggested that at the beginning of the discussion, an announcement be made that the topic content and opinions are that of the speakers.

3. Service Resource Update

The resource provider list has not been updated since 2001. Drs. Lee and Chung developed a membership letter and update information profile forms, which will be sent out to the providers on resource list. The Coalition is requesting that individual service providers become members of the Coalition if they wish to be listed on the directory. To defray the cost of mailings, it was suggested that e-mails be used where possible, however, not all individual providers have e-mail addresses listed. It was suggested that Dr. Lee check the Asian American Federation website for the e-mail addresses of the contact persons for various community organizations and to contact Mr. John Tsoi for the most recent directory of the community organizations developed by AHSSC.

Dr. Lee handed out individual provider and community organization update information forms to the organizations and individuals attending the meeting. The updated information profile could be given or faxed back to Joy Luangphaxay.

Kin Wah Lee questioned whether there will be a duplication of efforts if other agencies also list the same organizations on their directories. Other members felt that the focus of our resource list is on mental health services.

4. Mental Health Services Needs and Recommendations

To assess the gaps in services and the needs of mental health service organizations and providers, Kin Wah had developed and sent out a brief survey to all members on the servlist and related a few responses that she has received to the members. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to also gather specific examples to illustrate/highlight the problems or deficits in the current system, especially when we address these with policy makers and governing agencies (e.g., City Council, Office of Mental Health, etc.) The survey which included the following questions will be sent out again to gather more input:

1. What type of organization do you represent?



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2. What do you see are some of the obstacles preventing your patients from getting the most appropriate care at the proper level or setting?
What recommendations/suggestions do you have to address these obstacles?
3. What prevents patients from being discharged or transferred to their next level of care in a timely fashion?
4. What kind of resources or help do you need to do your job effectively?
5. What do you think are some of the gaps or unmet needs in our current system?
What kind of mental health program or service do you think is most currently lacking?
6. How can the Coalition advocate for better services or care-i.e. What should we be educating the policy makers about?
7. What are your suggestions or ideas on how the system may be improved, while keeping in mind realistic budgetary, policy, and cultural constraints?

Dr. Chung suggested that the data collected from this survey would help the Coalition advance its mission of advocating for improvement of mental health services in the Asian communities.

5. Meeting Dates for General Meetings

A few executive committee members could not attend meetings on Thursday till the summer; however, after some discussion, it was agreed that the Thursday meeting date would be maintained.

6. Announcements

- Dr. Teddy Chen expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Coalition's support of the CBWC's family support group and he reported that the family support group has applied and successfully attained non-profit status.
- Structure for future general meetings was also discussed, which would include presentation by the hosting agency, general meeting agenda as well as case presentations.
- Dr. Yen Ling Chong reported on her interview with the Wall Street Journal to discuss common ways of relaxation and de-stress among Chinese immigrants .

7. Next meeting

The next general meeting will be held on March 17th at the Alzheimer's Association, New York City Chapter, 360 Lexington, 4th Fl. (between 40th & 41st street) at 4:00 p.m. Tentative Agenda - Marilyn Lam's report from the Ad Hoc Committee, follow up feedback about the needs assessment survey, and updating of the resource directory.