

AARC Workgroup meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2018, 11:30am-12:45pm

In attendance: Vince Cobalis, Subhada Saxena, Taja Beekley. Thuy Nguyen , Debasree DasGupta, Hailey Easley. Sonya Alexander, Indira Nallapati

1. FY 2019 City of Austin Budget:

A budget request for the quarterly cleaning of the kitchen grease trap has been submitted and is under consideration.

AARC Budget requests and unmet needs:

Four part-time positions need to be changed to permanent full-time in the interest of long time sustainability. These are: A Public-Events leader, a Marketing Representative, a Shuttle-bus Driver and an Exhibit Specialist.

The center is in par with or has exceeded some of the other facilities as far as attendance is concerned and yet is operating with a smaller number of FTEs than these others. The Asian community in Austin is growing rapidly which will entail more visits to the center. More data is to be gathered for comparison.

Currently the center receives \$110,000 / year for part-time temps which is usually used up by mid-year and necessitates tapping into other sources.

Discussion: Request the PARD for comparison information. Also request information on existing programs at other facilities that could be useful to Asian Americans. For instance, 40% of summer camp enrollment at the Pickfair facility is made up of Asian Americans.

2. AARC Senior Meal Program:

Discussion going on with the AARC staff on drawing up a code of conduct for participants of the Senior Meal Program.

There is also a plan put together for the renewal of the catering contracts.

3. AARC Collaboration Program Update:

The AARC is engaged in several different types of collaboration with various organizations including the GAACC. Cultural organizations as well as mental and physical health related groups.

A total number of 23 days of collaboration have taken place or is planned. This requires much effort and tighter guidelines are required. The center might need to limit the number of collaborations and also set a deadline of 3 months of advance notice.

The Center was required to hire extra temporary workers to handle the graphics needed for the Beyond Bollywood program which still turned out to be insufficient. Working with interns do not always pan out as interns are not very dependable.

4. Monthly Performance reports: (please refer to charts provided)

5. AARC Special Projects: (Hailey)

Community Garden: The St. David's Health's Angels have been contacted regarding the garden. The plan is to do a terrace structured garden with seating areas. The cost for this would be \$30-40K. This would also involve doing regular maintenance. Gardening classes could also be created if needed. The project is scheduled to start in August and expected to be completed in October.

In House Chef: Looking into hiring a chef. Produce from the garden could possibly be used in the kitchen.

A letter of support is required from the Commission to apply to the Austin Parks Foundation for beautification, health equipment, etc. Non-profits could match a percentage of this.

"New Philanthropists": Commissioner Saxena to reach out to this group. They encourage community members to take a training towards applying for various board memberships.

6. Monthly HRD Report for on-site employment services at AARC (Please see report provided)

Indira Nallapatti has been hired since August as a temp and has become a regular employee since November. She has been working out of three different locations conducting employment testing amongst other things.

She feels that there has been increased assistance provided with the outreach that has been accomplished. There is also a permanent sign placed outside the library for drop-ins at the center.

The most effective outreach has been through Facebook posts. Suggestions regarding more outreach:

Reach out to organizations such as VACAT, Asian Cultural Center, The Chinese Society etc.

Make it known to AFSSA (Commissioner Cobalis to drop off fliers)

Need to analyze the memorable effects of this service.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.