ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COLLECTIVE[1]

HEALTH EQUITY PLAN OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Asian and Pacific Islander Taskforce (APITF) defines equity as the absence of institutional and systemic barriers to access, opportunities, and outcomes, and the presence of a fair and just system where all individuals can reach their full potential. To prioritize equity in governance, operations, and program priorities, the APITF strives to align its activities with its Health Equity Plan and seeks to incorporate the voices of the most marginalized and disadvantaged in our decision-making processes.

COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION

APITF's Population Health Equity Collective (PHEC) is comprised of local nonprofit organizations and community members with the vision of achieving health equity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities in Orange County. Our Collective has a total of 20 participating organizations and over 180 community members engaged in the work. **Our partners include:**

The Cambodian Family serving as the backbone organization; Access California Services; Afghan American Muslim Outreach; Ahri Center; Access to Prevention Advocacy Intervention & Treatment (APAIT); BPSOS Center for Community Advancement; Center for Asian Americans in Action; Children's Cause Orange County; Korean American Center; Korean Community Services; Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA); Orange County Herald Center; OMID Multicultural Institute for Development; Pacific Islander Health Partnership; South Asian Network; South Coast Chinese Cultural Center; Southland Integrated Services, Inc.; Tiyya Foundation; Viet Rainbow of Orange County; and Vital Access Care Foundation

STRATEGIC HEALTH EQUITY ACTION AREAS

APITF PHEC identified the following health equity action areas for the next 2–3 years:

1 Data equity
2 Equitable access to linguistically and culturally appropriate mental health services
3 Equitable access to safe and affordable housing as a social determinant of health

Strategies to Impact Policy and Systems

• Advocate for Orange County Healthcare Agency (OCHCA) to develop policies and practices regarding the release of program utilization data collected from community-based organizations (CBOs) and health care contractors.
• Create and design a series of policy briefs on data equity, civic engagement as a social determinant of health, structural barriers to access to care, and community resilience.
• Advocate for the equitable distribution of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds at the county level.
• Recruit AANHPI community leaders to serve on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) and Behavioral Health Equity Committee (BHEC).
• Engage with city officials and local schools to develop and implement policies that increase collaboration with local CBOs to provide mental health programs focused on the AANHPI community.
• Advocate for continued county support for capacity-building initiatives for AANHPI-focused organizations to effectively engage in housing policy advocacy, housing development, and the provision of housing-related services.
• Promote city-level policies that promote affordable housing development, including inclusionary zoning, density bonuses, and expedited permitting processes as well as linguistically responsive housing counseling and support services for AANHPI communities.

Strategies to Build Partnerships and Power

• Deepen APITF PHEC's engagement and understanding of underrepresented AANHPI communities.
• Broaden the types of entities APITF PHEC partners with as well as maintain and expand OCHCA partnerships.
• Outreach to other Equity in OC PHECs to build solidarity beyond the project period.

Strategies to Strengthen Infrastructure and Data

• Enhance data management systems for improved data collection and analysis.
• Organize policy and systems change training programs for APITF organization staff and volunteers.
• Secure additional funding and resources.
• Foster partnerships for data sharing and collaboration.

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