

MAY 2019 | ISSUE NO. 1

# APPEAL

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment,  
Advocacy and Leadership

*A bimonthly newsletter*



*Pictured here:* Asian and Pacific Islander Team  
Caucus at "Information and Education Day" at the  
State Capitol in Sacramento

## ALSO IN THIS EMAIL DIGEST:

Developing Community Leaders  
Training Our Coaches  
Meet Our ASPIRE Partners

## IN THE NEWS

### A victory for Sacramento

The city of Sacramento has joined the list of California cities restricting the sales of flavored tobacco products. On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, Sacramento City Council voted 7-1 to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and e-cigarette cartridges.<sup>1</sup>

The restriction comes at a crucial time as e-cigarettes are becoming increasingly popular amongst youth, especially Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

*Continued on following page*



From 2014-2017, current and ever-use of any tobacco product was highest among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander middle school and high school students in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

Menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products have been heavily promoted in communities of color.<sup>1</sup> However, some cities include exemptions for menthol cigarettes in their flavor restriction legislation.

### ***Keep an eye out for future legislation***

A statewide tobacco flavor restriction bill, SB 38, was introduced to the California Senate this past December. However, the bill was recently withdrawn by the legislators who created it after amendments were made to exempt flavored hookah and flavored tobacco products patented before 2000. This would have been the first statewide flavor restriction in the nation.<sup>3</sup>

## **DEVELOPING COMMUNITY LEADERS**

### **Building a vibrant movement**

APPEAL is eager to begin the 2019-2020 SPARC (**S**tatewide **P**acific Islander **A**siAn **R**esource and **C**oordinating Center) Leadership Program! Focused on building a vibrant movement in tobacco control and health justice, this unique opportunity will bring together residents from across California to discuss and learn about critical issues facing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

*Continued on following page*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Webinars**

#### **Intro to SPARC**

Wednesday, June 5, 2019  
3:00-4:00 PM PT

*SPARC is the Statewide Coordinating Center for Asian American and Pacific Islanders in California...what exactly does this mean? Tune in to learn more about this program.*

### **Trainings**

#### **SPARC Leadership Summit**

June 20-22, 2019  
San Diego, CA

*A group of 20-30 fellows will embark on a journey to learn how to be advocates for their communities.*

*Get more info at [sparcapi.org](http://sparcapi.org)*

### **Sources**

- 1 Clift, T. (2019, April 16). Sacramento city council approves ban on sale of tobacco products. The Sacramento Bee. Retrieved from <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article229289154.html>
- 2 Odani, S., Armour, B. S. & Agaku, I. T. (2018, August 31). Racial/ethnic disparities in tobacco product use among middle and high school students - United States, 2014-2017. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 67(34), 952-957
- 3 Ho, C. (2019, May 23). California lawmakers withdraw bill banning flavored tobacco sales. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/California-lawmakers-withdraw-bill-banning-13883638.php>

# RESOURCES

## California Smokers' Helpline



Free telephone counseling, self-help materials, and online help in six languages to help people quit smoking.

## Asian Smokers Quitline



Want to help your friend or family member quit smoking? Help is available in 4 different languages!



**Chinese**  
(Cantonese & Mandarin)  
1-800-838-8917



**Vietnamese**  
1-800-778-8440



**Korean**  
1-800-556-5564

Throughout the 10-month program, participants can expect:

- To learn how to be a voice for their community
- To build a network of colleagues who share the same passions for health equity and social justice
- To make an impact in AANHPI communities

The program will commence with a 3-day core Leadership Summit from June 20-22 in San Diego, CA.

If you would like to learn more about this program, please e-mail [baurelio@appealforhealth.org](mailto:baurelio@appealforhealth.org).

## TRAINING OUR COACHES: SPARC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### Preparing for the year to come



The coaches for our SPARC Leadership Program convened in Emeryville, CA for a 2-day training that focused on team building and facilitation. Coaches discussed their roles and responsibilities for the summit and program, and participated in role playing activities to strengthen their facilitation skills.

With the help of ice breaker activities, the coaches were able to identify commonalities and make strong connections. Our six coaches came into the training feeling like strangers, but they left feeling like family.

# MEET THE COACHES: SPARC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## Sources of support and guidance



### *Sherrie Calibo*

(they/them/theirs) is a recent first-generation graduate from California State University, Sacramento's (CSUS) Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program, driven to serve the underserved. During their undergraduate study, Sherrie mentored students in the Full Circle Project (FCP) at CSUS, a program with the intention of increasing graduation and retention rates among the Asian and Pacific Islander populations on campus. Since graduating, Sherrie has worked as a Program Consultant for Everyday Impact Consulting, organizing cultural responsiveness trainings with My Sister's House for agencies that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Sherrie has also been involved with the Asian/Pacific Islander Queer Sacramento Coalition and Sacramento Filipinx LGBTQIA, both organizations which are dedicated to uplifting the experiences and struggles of cultural groups with intersecting marginalized identities. Currently, Sherrie works as an Employment Service Specialist with Asian Resources, Inc., providing mentorship and job readiness training to youth clients ages 18-24, ensuring that they are extensively prepared to enter the workforce and successfully retain employment. In their free time, Sherrie loves taking long walks down every aisle of Target and writing/performing spoken word poetry.

### *Jonathan (Tana) Lepule*

has over 20 years of experience working with communities to address health disparities, particularly among Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities in Southern California. He has also advocated for the NHPI communities at the Local, State and National level. Tana also served as a member of the California Governor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, a board of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, a former Executive Director of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), and a leadership role with other NHPI organizations. He is a graduate of San Diego State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies and a specialization in Mathematics.

### *Beemy Nguyen*

is a Prevention Project Assistant for Project Ohana in the Bay, a project focused on the prevention of HIV, Hepatitis, and Substance Misuse among young adults who identify with the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander community. Previously, Beemy had attended CSU Monterey Bay, was recognized on the Dean's List, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Human Communications with a History, Oral History, and New Media concentration. In her free time she dances, plays games, sews, enjoys discovering new music, and runs donation drives for her local animal shelters. She is currently enrolled at Johns Hopkins University and is expected to graduate in 2022 with a Masters in Communications focusing on Nonprofit and Corporate Communications. Her long-term goal is to work with diverse communities where she can help advocate, empower, and create opportunities for those in need.

### *Sambo Sak*

works for Families in Good Health under their young men's program: Educated Men with Meaningful Messages (EM3). He is the Youth Organizer for EM3. He uses his role to empower young men through expressive arts, such as poetry and performance. In this way, he helps his students to create and share their own stories and ultimately find self-identity. The stories are a powerful way to build dialogue between the young men; a way to address the challenges they are currently facing as men who identify as Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Sambo has an experience in tobacco control work since 2013 under the Com-PLEAT project with Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL). Sambo graduated from Long Beach City College with an Associate of Art degree in Communication Studies.

### *Jake Ryann Sumibcay*

is a Doctoral student at Claremont Graduate University School of Community and Global Health in Claremont, CA. Jake's training and concentration focuses on driving effective health engagement through ethnographic strategies among the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) adolescent and young adult population. His research experience and growing expertise has been applied in multiple areas such as cancer prevention, tobacco control, and mental health. Jake is also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar, where he works to promote health equity by empowering people of color to find value in personalized health and health within communities.

### *Baolia (Bao) Xiong*

is a Program Manager for the California Health Collaborative (CHC) regional tobacco control project termed as the Asian/Pacific Islander Partners & Advocates Countering Tobacco (API PACT) Program. The API PACT Program is tasked with reducing tobacco related health disparities and improving health equity among API residents living in the seven country region of the Central Valley (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare County). Bao has worked with CHC for 5 years under an array of health promotion and youth development programs from prescription drug abuse prevention to teen pregnancy prevention. Having called Fresno her home since the tender age of 5, Bao is committed to giving back to her community and in creating a space that allows for cultural representation in health and wellness. In her spare time, Bao enjoys traveling, nurturing her relationships with love ones, and practicing and teaching yoga.

# MEET OUR ASPIRE PARTNERS

## Carrying out important work across the U.S.

The ASPIRE (ASian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders network to Reach Equity in tobacco control and cancer) Program has chosen their 7 National Network Partners! These amazing community organizations will help carry out our work.



 **Oakland, CA**

Asian Health Services' mission is to serve and advocate for the medically underserved, including the immigrant and refugee Asian community, and to ensure equal access to health care services regardless of income, insurance status, language, or culture. They offer medical, dental, and mental health services for all ages.



 **Houston, TX**

Light and Salt Association (LSA) has had a mission of providing quality health care to the needy and vulnerable, promoting healthy living, and fostering a sense of community responsibility in the greater Houston area since 1997. In particular, we target the underserved, including first generation immigrants with limited English proficiency, those with limited financial resources, and a low socio-economic status. We focus especially on cancer patients and their loved ones and caregivers, as well as children and young adults with special needs and their families.



 **Atlanta, GA**

Our mission is "people" need people, where we seek to promote equity and self-sufficiency for refugees, immigrants, and the underprivileged in the metro Atlanta area through comprehensive health and social services. We provide health and social services ranging from: Health promotion (substance abuse prevention), employment, housing, refugee services, transportation, HIV prevention, immigration services, senior services, youth services, and many other programs.



 **Hilo, HI**

Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi is dedicated to improving the wellness and well-being of Hawai'i island so that all residents can Live Longer & Feel Better, Together. They serve as the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Hawai'i island, providing medical, behavioral health, and community education services with the sole objective of improving access to quality healthcare, education, and services for the people of Hawai'i County.



## 📍 Salt Lake City, UT

The National Tongan American Society is to advocate for, and empower all Tongan-Americans and other Pacific Islanders through programs and referrals that promote civic engagement, health, youth development, education and artistic, ethnic & cultural preservation.



## 📍 Mangila, GU

The Pacific Partners for Tobacco Free Islands (PPTFI) is a regional tobacco control coalition comprised of the six U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI). PPTFI works to advance tobacco control issues for the USAPI at the regional, national, international level. PPTFI's mission is to weave together our resources, appropriate practices, and experiences and draw strength from our cultures and relationships for a Tobacco-Free Pacific. PPTFI focuses on four primary areas: policy, education, training and technical assistance, and advocacy. This work takes place within and across jurisdictions.



## 📍 Chicago, IL

The Rohingya Culture Center (RCC) is a community based social service organization aimed at serving the needs of the Rohingya refugee population in Chicago as well as raising awareness of the persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar. RCC provides a variety of social services such as citizenship and ESL classes, tutoring, Koran classes, interpretation and casework, and serves as a social hub for the community. Additionally, RCC collaborates with local health clinics and researchers to improve community health and well-being.

# MEET OUR SPARC TEAM

As of April 2019, our SPARC team is fully staffed! We are working hard to finish the program year strong. Fun fact: Our birthdays are all within 3 days of each other!



*From left to right: Allison Barcelon (Communications Associate), Beatriz Aurelio (Program Manager), Cassandra Park (Program Associate)*



@appealforhealth



@APPEALhealth

424 3rd Street, Suite 220  
Oakland, CA 94607  
[www.appealforhealth.org](http://www.appealforhealth.org)

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL) is a national health justice organization working to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other underserved communities.