

NFI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 11, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Participants: There were 7 NFI Board members present: Nidal Omar, Crista McCandless, Monica Soto, Johanna Fajardo, Olga Mooney, Dave Jenkins, Matuor Alier

NFI members absent 6

CE unit staff: Nada Soliman and Luisa Hoyos

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** everyone present at the meeting takes 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves.
2. **Luisa** informs the Board that it needs a Chair. Anyone who would like to be considered can apply.
3. **Luisa** informs that the Board has a budget of 20,000 USD for 2024, and the Board members can apply for this money to fund projects in their communities.
4. **Luisa** thanks the individuals who participated in the surveys for the Strategic Plan, Objective 2.7, and who reviewed the Maternal resources.
5. **Luisa** thanks the individuals who planned the events she attended in Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, and Fargo. She expressed appreciation for their efforts in connecting the community.
6. **Luisa** asks the Board members about the events planned in their communities. Each member shares the projects. The members invite each other to their events and agree to send out flyers/ invitations.
7. **Board members** share experiences in organizing inclusive community events:
 - a. **To plan events, consider:**
 - i. Need to consider target audience and cultural preferences when planning events.
 - ii. Balancing different perspectives and catering to diverse tastes is crucial for successful community engagement.
 - iii. Organizing a community event involves determining the purpose and goal of the event.

- iv. Providing food and inviting experts to speak can attract people and ensure success.
- v. Articulate the benefits of attending the event to the community.
- vi. Have someone on the ground to directly communicate the event's uniqueness.
- vii. Choose a suitable location for the event, such as a museum, university, hotel, or other indoor venue.
- viii. Organizing outdoor activities in parks to attract people who don't go to church or private places.
- ix. Free food, music, and fun activities can draw the community.
- x. Providing translation and application assistance to newcomers in need.
- xi. Connecting individuals with available community resources.

b. Challenges in Event planning:

- i. Weather can disrupt outdoor events.
- ii. Due to their schedules, Men are the most difficult demographic to plan events for.
- iii. Teenagers are usually interested in something other than educational and cultural heritage events. They have many different activities and interests that take precedence.
- iv. Teenagers often feel alienated from cultural events due to time conflicts and lack of understanding.
- v. Preserving cultural traditions can be challenging for second-generation immigrants.
- vi. The NFI population often struggles to balance their heritage with their new environment.
- vii. Language barriers.

c. To focus:

- i. Women are the most attending; they bring their families, men, and children.
- ii. Focus on involving children in community events.
- iii. Consider family dynamics and preferences when planning events.
- iv. Multiple stations for different activities keep the lines short.
- v. Volunteers help overcome language barriers and assist non-English speakers.

8. **Board Members** share ideas for allocating the 20,000 USD, such as education / public translation certificates for members to keep helping the community.
9. **Luisa** informed the group that she would be sending out a link for the North Dakota Health Equity Training Initiative and highly suggested the Bias, NFI Communities, and Effective Communication to members prioritize.

Meeting adjourned. T

he next meeting will be held on July 30th.