



**Basic Needs Committee (BNC)  
Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2021**

Committee Members							
	Koji Uesugi, Co-Chair	X	Marisa Fierro		Sgt. Brian Owen	X	Kaitlyn Yrineo
X	Pauline Swartz, Co-Chair (fac)	X	Renu Katoch	X	Romelia Salinas	X	Lorena Cordozo (guest)
X	Christina Cammayo (fac)	X	Shelly Laddusaw	X	Julia Walker	X	Jeze Lopez (guest)
X	Thuy Pham (fac)	X	Rosie Esparza		Diana Giannone (Community)		Bill Lambert (guest)
X	Rigo Estrada	X	Irene Martinez	X	Courtney Darcy (Student)	X	Amelia Simek (guest)
X	Barbara Carrillo		Ken McAlpin		Shawal Bhalli (Student)		Brenda Ricarte (guest)

**I. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

*We will begin this meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.*

*Mt. SAC is geographically situated on the traditional lands of the Tongva peoples. I ask you to join me in acknowledging their community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. May we honor the land and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. Thank you.*

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes for April 19, 2021 (5 min)**

**III. Updates (15 minutes)**

- Basic Needs Resources (Rigo): Rigo announced that the new Basic Needs Assistant has started with the program, this is her 3<sup>rd</sup> week on the job and introduced, Lorena Cardozo. Lorena shared that she is a current grad student from APU, received her Bachelors from CSFU, and worked as a case manager for 3 years at a Homeless Shelter. Lorena is a 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students, so she understands the needs of this populations and can relate to our students. Looking forward to bringing her expertise and learning from the program. She has extensive experience with outreach, does a lot on Instagram live, so this will be great for our program and students.
  - CalFresh Outreach (regular updates – Rigo/Brenda): CFO continues to promote and engage with students. Numbers have been steady, working with REACH to see how to better engage with the Reach students. Fifteen students have applied for CF since our last meeting. CFO has started to collect student testimonials; this helps with data collection.
  - Mountie Fresh Food Pantry (Rigo): Has not met numbers as expected, seeing a decrease, averaging 225-230 attendance. Still working in finalizing the summer schedule and what the return to campus will look like for the food pantry. Trying to be intentional with food we offer. Rigo thanked Barbara for assisting with purchasing the food. Will have a Cinco de Mayo theme with the food that will be distributed this Wednesday.
    - Next Drive-Thru Pantry @ Lot A on 5/5/21 from 10:00-12:00
  - Tzu Chi USA Together We Rise announcement: Rigo reported that Tzu Chi will be announcing the 15 students that have been selected to receive this grant and asked that if you know any of the students, please keep this to yourself. We were notified that Tzu Chi has increased the amount to \$3,000, this is a nice surprise.

- DPSS Training feedback: Diana provided 2 sessions for DPSS La County training. Rigo and his team participated, they learned a lot and felt it was very well-rounded training. This training was a good reminder to see all the different programming that exist within DPSS. Shelly also participated and learned a lot; she said the information was very thorough and is looking forward to receiving the presentation that was shared so she can share it with her program.

#### **IV. Presentations and Q&A (20 min)**

- REACH (Jeze)

#### **V. Discussion (45 min)**

- What can faculty, staff, and students do to better support students in the fall? (Rigo and Pauline)
  - Break-out brainstorming activity; think, pair, share. Topic of discussion will be what we can do as an individual, as an office/unit and as a division to support students facing basic needs challenges. Some suggestions were:
    - Factoring basic needs into program and services planning, open hours, resources needed, etc.
    - Engaging the community
    - Collaboration with faculty. Faculty needs to be more involved. Maybe provide trainings for them on referral process. Reaching out to additional divisions.
    - Remind students via Canvas announcements or following up individually. Inform department faculty about BNC services (and Pantry reminders).
    - Educating our students on how Basic needs can impact their academics. Our students often may think they are struggling in classes because they are not studying as much or getting tutoring. However, are they sleeping and eating well? Helping them connect that to academic performance. They don't know what they don't know.
    - Continue to offer Basic Needs presentations for Inter-Club Council and Associated Students so our student leaders are aware and can share with their clubs/orgs
    - EOPS/CARE typically provides a survey or questionnaire during our 2nd contact timeframe where those who share they are housing insecure or food insecure and I work with them to refer them out or assist students with the CalFresh application process.

#### **VI. Good of the Order (All) (2 min):** EOPS/CARE is now accepting applications for fall, please contact Kaitlyn if you have any questions.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

- May 17, 2021 (Zoom)

#### **VIII. Adjourn**