



Southeast Asian Healing Center Timeline

Prior 17 Years	Southeast Asian elders served by Journey Mental Health Center's (JMHC) Kajsiab House program and longtime staff.
August 23	Volunteers convene to discuss the ending of Kajsiab House and Cambodian Temple mental health programs (eventually the group became a loose coalition named Friends of Kajsiab House). 15 attend representing Kajsiab House, UW-Madison, Freedom Inc, and the larger community. Meeting minutes reflect the intention to eventually transition Kajsiab House and Cambodian Temple into a new 501C3.
September 28	On the last day of Kajsiab House programming under Journey Mental Health Center, a Luncheon for Kajsiab House is held. Without communication with Friends of Kajsiab House, Mai Zong Vue announces Kajsiab House will become Hmoob Kajsiab under the organization, Hmong Institute, and be held at the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC).
November 7	Following Hmong Institute's decision to change program structure and services, the majority of previous JMHC Kajsiab House staff move Kajsiab House programming from CMC to Freedom Inc. Roughly 60 clients attend. This marks the first day Southeast Asian Healing Center has programming.
Last 16 weeks to Present	SEAHC houses the Kajsiab House and Cambodian Healing Temple programs, providing gap services for the Dane County area Southeast Asian community. 35-60 Hmong clients have been served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at Freedom Inc and 20-40 Cambodian clients have been served Mondays and Wednesdays at the Cambodian Buddhist Society of Wisconsin.

Southeast Asian Healing Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SEAHCWI/>

January 22, 2019

Dear Alders Kemble, Rummel, Phair, Baldeh, McKinney, Carter and Arntsen,

We request that you approve the allocated funds for Kajsiab House and Khmer Healing Temple services go to the Southeast Healing Center (SEAHC). Alternatively, we request a Request for Proposal (RFP) process so that SEAHC can compete for the funds they fought for back in 2018.

Background

Kajsiab House operated for 17 years until Journey Mental Health Services (Journey) shut the doors in September 2018. Hearing the news, several community members came together as Friends of Kajsiab House to seek funding to ensure services continued through 2018 and help support 2019. The city, county, and other supporters, after hearing the testimony from our Hmong and Khmer elders allocated funds for Kajsiab House services.

Since then, funding has been usurped by two individuals -Mai Zong Vue and Peng Her. They decided that their business the Hmong Institute and Anesis would create new services, management and hire new staffs. The elders/folks do not know or trust Anesis and Hmong Institute (both of these agencies were strategically introduced by Maizong and Peng as temporarily “solutions” without the support of Kajsiab House leadership and community). When we came to you last year, our intention was to provide gap services for the elders. You approved funding to follow the elders who came to you. No one went into this campaign to start new programs and reinvent the wheel.

We were all blindsided by the betrayal and takeover of SEAHC. We requested a meeting with Anesis and Hmong Institute to have them relinquish their control of our program and funds. We worked within the community for a month before we were forced to go public. Our clients/elders/folks, community, supporters, volunteers and staffs left Hmong Institute and Anesis mid October.

Southeast Asian Healing Center

Kajsiab House and the Cambodian Healing Temple now known as Southeast Asian Healing Center has not received nor benefited from funds approved by the City of Madison or County of Dane in 2018. In spite of this, the SEAHC continues to support the elders and meet three times weekly, Monday Tuesday, and Wednesdays from 9-1 p.m. (for Hmong clients) and Mondays and Tuesdays from 9-1 p.m. at the Cambodian Buddhist Temple. Since October we have worked hard to stabilize service and fill service gaps for our community. As Board president of SEAHC, I am working to secure SEA Healing Center’s non-profit status. In the meantime, ADE and its Owner Dr. Valerie Henderson hired two prior Kajsiab House staff to provide clinical services. Prior Kajsiab House staff including Doua, Shwaw, Mai, and Ann (totaling over 60 years of experience with the Hmong and Khmer communities) have stayed on to support SEAHC. Below is a table indicating the status of SEAHC:

Staff	Sixteen: (two compensated through ADE, 4 compensated through fundraised monies, and 10 volunteers including Doua Vang, manager of SEAHC). Staff includes support staff, case managers, Qeej
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	Instrument instructors, nurse student intern, and in-kind staff support staff from Freedom Inc.
Clients	140 clients (100 Hmong elders, 35 Cambodian, 3 Laotian)
Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) is a voluntary, community-based program funded by the State of Wisconsin and operated by the Dane County Department of Human Services.	Three clients enrolled in CCS 10 on the waiting lists for intake 20 waiting to be referred (needs prescription or referrals, etc.)
Activities	Transportation to appointments Case management Primary care coordination Interpretation Meal program Wellness activities (bowling, walking, exercise, etc.) Food pantry Psychiatric evaluations, medication and treatment
Funding	Grants: about \$50,000 Fundraisers: \$6,000 Anticipated Revenue through CCS

How You Can Help the Elders

There have been false allegations from Peng Her about how Doua has threatened the elders. The Board does not take this lightly. These elders are our family members, our leaders, and our loved ones. I personally do weekly site visits and have informed elders that they are welcome to choose any service they desire. They are just now beginning to rebuild their lives after their support services were uprooted first by Journey and now by the Hmong Institute. They continue to want to work with the rehabilitation workers, drivers and staff they knew. This is not just preference but documented best practices for working with victims of war and trauma. You don't take away the support patients trust and ask them to seek mental health treatment from people they don't know. They don't know nor trust Anesis and Hmong Institute.

Last November, I along with Doua Vang and other SEAHC staff sat with Mayor Soglin. He told us to go back and work this out with Maizong and Peng. If we didn't work it out, he said it would go to RFP. We've asked for meetings with no response from The Hmong Institute and Anesis. We are asking for what was promised and what is fair and transparent- an RFP process to give the elders once again an opportunity to ask for these funds. You may also decide that two individuals does not speak for an entire community and bypass a unwieldy RFP process by allocating these funds directly to SEAHC through a trusted fiscal agent.

I am happy to meet to answer your questions. I can be reached via my cell at 510-282-1506 or email at: attylvue@gmail.com. Best times for me to meet are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays mornings 8-11 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. or Fridays 1-5 p.m. We also invite you to visit the SEAHC and meet and greet with the elders you met last September 2018.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vue Tran, SEAHC Board President

SEAHC Five Week Update
12/21/18

For the last 5 weeks, due to Journey Mental Health Center's ending of Southeast Asian mental health programming, the Southeast Asian Healing Center (SEAHC) has been providing gap services for the Dane County area Southeast Asian community. An average of 35 Hmong clients have been served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at Freedom Inc and an average of 20 Cambodian clients have been served Mondays and Wednesdays at the Cambodian Buddhist Society of Wisconsin.

Using a recovery model that has shown consistent success according to 10-20 years of experience from elderly clients, support staff, and mental health professionals, SEAHC has been providing high quality mental health services for Southeast Asian clients. That quality service includes a culturally appropriate and holistic approach to healing. Listed are some examples of the service: fun group socialization activities like bowling, bingo, and gift exchanges aimed to create safety and belongingness, culturally-specific spiritual healing like Buddhist prayer, one-on-one medication advising, and the integral transportation services for the majority elderly clients.

SEAHC has been providing high quality services solely through in-kind donations. About 12 people volunteer; many of which are past Journey Mental Health Center employees, making them knowledgeable about the recovery model and well connected with the existing clients. Along with the volunteering, transportation and food costs have also been donated. SEAHC has estimated that serving the average 35 Hmong clients 3 days a week and the average 20 Cambodian clients 2 days a week, about \$20,000 of in-kind volunteer labor and about \$5,000 of transportation and food costs have been donated in-kind for the last 5 weeks.

Although it has been difficult, SEAHC, our volunteers, our clients, and the community understand the importance of these services. Healing is about having a community where those in need feel safe. Having trusted service providers and using a successful, elder-informed model is the best way to create a safe community for our clients to heal. SEAHC will continue to serve the Southeast Asian community with professional, culturally-appropriate mental health services.

Before the year ends, both Kajsab House and Cambodian Healing Temple programs plan to hold programming next Wednesday.

Thank you for supporting the Southeast Asian Healing Center! We wish you a Happy New Year!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2018

Media contact:
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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN HEALING CENTER (SEAHC) CONTINUES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
FOR HMONG AND KHMER ELDERS AFTER KAJSIAB HOUSE CLOSES DOWN**

Madison, WI - Please join the Southeast Asian Healing Center (SEAHC) (formerly Kajsiab House) on **Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at 2pm-3pm at 1810 South Park Street** for an update on culturally specific mental health services for Hmong, Khmer and Laotian elders. In addition to clinical services, the SEAHC also provides clients with case managers on housing, benefits, and other social services.

Since Kajsiab House was closed on September 28, 2018, Doua Vang, Executive Director of SEAHC and his long time staff of 10-15 years have worked tirelessly to provide seamless services for Hmong and Khmer elders. In recent months, SEAHC have convened a board of directors and is establishing itself as a nonprofit and has secured a fiscal agent.

Lao, Hmong, & Cambodian elders who experience crippling anxiety and isolation, have received professional, culturally-appropriate mental health services from Kajsiab House and Cambodian Buddhist Temple for two decades. When Journey Mental Health Center, under the leadership of Lynn Brady, closed the doors to Kajsiab House, many elders were traumatized at the possibility of losing mental health care. After public outrage and organizing efforts from the community, funds were raised to continue serving the elders. Many elders testified at city and county board hearings to express their need for continued, wrap around mental health care. The elders succeeded in raising funds that were intended to fill in gap services for 2018 and provide funding for Kajsiab House services. For the elders, funding was intended to support the community of care that had helped them for 18 years.

Unfortunately, Hmong Institute, a newly formed nonprofit seized control of funding raised and has since, through its CEO Peng Her and his wife Maizong Vue, assumed control of Kajsiab House. Their actions were not in consultation with stakeholders such as the Friends of Kajsiab House, patients, staff or the Hmong and Khmer community and they have refused to work with SEAHC on a common transition plan. SEAHC has reached out to government officials to work on a transition plan but have been unsuccessful at redirecting funds to the SEAHC.

Despite having no access to the management of funds, SEAHC held their first program with 80 elders on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. The Southeast Asian Healing Center is staffed with those who are trusted and have years of relationship with the elders. Under the leadership of Doua Vang, SEAHC will

continue to provide trusted wrap around services and work with other allies to continue transition services for patients. #END#

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CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN, INC

1848 County Road MM, Fitchburg, WI 53575 (608)835-8136 Email: cambuddhistsocietv@gmail.com

December 24, 2018

Dear Anesis,

My name is Sien Boun Suon and I am the board president of the Cambodian Buddhist Society of Wisconsin. We noticed that you wrote a check to the Buddhist temple for \$150 and on the line item memo it states that it's for rent at the temple from Jan-March. We are unaware of any contract or agreement to provide your agency space at the temple. We are confused by the rent payment. We do not know who you are or what your agency does, and we do not have any working relationship with your agency.

The Cambodian Buddhist Society of Wisconsin is unaware of any contract or agreement to work with your agency and therefore we are returning this check to your agency. Any formal collaboration with the temple must go through the Board of directors and the Monks. Anesis and Hmong Institute is not allowed at the temple without permission.

Sincerely

SIEN BOUN SUON
President of Cambodian Buddhist Society of Wisconsin, Inc.
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Email: cambuddhistsocietv@gmail.com