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COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
George Mason University

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MAP-EC Afghan Advisory Council

Guiding Culturally Responsive Health and Wellness Services in Northern Virginia

Our Mission

To strengthen trust, collaboration, and cultural understanding between the Afghan community and service providers by:

- **Promoting equitable access to medical, behavioral health, and social care**
- **Informing the MAP Clinic refugee best practices care toolkit**
- **Advising on sustainability strategies for long-term community health**
- **Supporting refugee workforce development, including Afghan CHW and student interns**

What Is the Afghan Advisory Council?

· The Afghan Advisory Council is a community-led group that partners with the MAP-EC community engagement pillar to improve health, wellness, and social support for Afghan refugees in Northern Virginia.

· The Council provides direct input and cultural guidance to ensure services meet the needs, values, and lived experiences of Afghan families.

Who's Involved

The Afghan Advisory Council includes:
Afghan community representatives and leaders
Faith-based and nonprofit partners
MAP-EC clinical, workforce, and community engagement staff
University and health system partners

Why it Matters

Thousands of Afghan refugees now call Northern Virginia home.
Many face barriers such as:

- Language and translation challenges
- Limited access to culturally appropriate care
- Stigma around mental health and trauma
- Difficulty navigating U.S. health and social systems

The Advisory Council helps bridge these gaps, ensuring Afghan voices lead the way in shaping programs and partnerships that serve their community.

Interested in partnering? Contact Dr. Patrice Winter pwinter@gmu.edu