



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting

North Bellevue Community Center

4063 148th Avenue NE

Bellevue, WA 98007

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Regular Business

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Sofia Aragon, Lisa Dickinson, Mohan Gurung, Jeannie Lee, Zer Vue, Lori Wada, Lynette Finau, Debadutta Dash, Darren Pen, Ty Tufono

Commissioners Absent: Tashi Khamshitsang, Gerardine Cabusao

Staff: Executive Director, Michael Itti, Project Manager, Amy Van

Executive Director Report

Director Itti provided Director's Report overview.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the amended agenda and seconded by Commissioner Pen. With no further changes the agenda was unanimously approved at 10:15 am.

Approval of November 15, 2015 Minutes

Motion was made at 10:16 am by Commissioner Tufono and seconded by Commissioner Dash with no amendments and unanimous approval.

Racial Equity Team

Heather Villanueva and Chris Lampkin

Background:

- Racial Equity Team (RET) has two arms: lobbyist team in Olympia and community leaders and activists to communicate and liaison what is happening in Olympia to what is happening in the community to reduce disparities and inequities in laws and policies.
- The impact of the 2010 cuts to the budget disproportionately affected communities of color. However, when examining the group of lobbyists and advocates in Olympia, RET founders realized a lack of individuals representing communities of color. The RET was developed to increase capacity, communicate and coordinate and promote usage of racial equity messaging within broader community.

Structure:

- Education, communication, and coordination includes legislators of color, legislative leadership, and representatives from the Governor's office, allies, community organizations and ethnic commissions.

Importance of community organizing:

- Decisions are being made every day in community, RET aims to de-mystify the idea that decisions are only made in Olympia. How do we strengthen ties in community to better coordinate efforts and change in Olympia?

Bills on Racial equity team "Watch List" includes bills that help and may harm communities of color:

Short list:

- WA voting rights act – people of color are often disenfranchised in the voting system which affects the level of engagement in civic activities from those communities.
- Adequate and equitable revenue – to relieve burden of current tax system on the poor and those within the lower income bracket.
- Intent to cover all – access to health care and highlight importance of prevention by 2020
- Real ID (RET oppose)
- Family Unity Act

Question: How is RET funded or is it volunteer basis?

RET members work on a volunteer basis; some organizations donate in-kind staff time to be part of team; organizations that have capacity to give are asked to support

How to get involved:

- Email list serve and email updates, every Friday the team sends out a community organization call

Question: Best way to reach out to newer communities – example: Nepalese community? For the first few years immigrants come to the country, people concentrate on surviving and civic engagement is not necessarily priority, need to increase awareness of CAPAA or other resources to refer

Answer: Cost benefit in giving up time from schedule to lend to RET's efforts: through partnership between community and RET, it can increase community's accessibility and better educate and resolve communication issues. Example: intent to cover health care for all – if lobbyists were to meet, RET will communicate to community groups to seek attendance and participation

Comment: Tools available through legislative website to register and have bills updated

Question: Data disaggregation on watch list?

Yes, RET to connect with Commissioner Vue

Question: Other tools to connect? How does RET work with limited capacity to seek representation with your team or issues of concern? Such as educators? What have you done with work regarding API students?

Example: Senator Habib will hold town-hall like teleconference; RET to do similarly for those who live outside of western WA.

- Real ID (Oppose): Federal government passed law for all states to comply with Real ID which is a type of identification that indicates proof of legal status. In Washington state, acquiring driver license does not require proof of legal residency – Federal government wants to impose this law otherwise those with no Real ID cannot access commercial airlines or federal government buildings; Department of Licensing working to introduce a bill to change standard license with disclaimer. RET is concerned this could lead to racial profiling and negatively impact low income communities and those who are undocumented as those seeking identification cards need to have proof of passport or demonstrate immigrant status to access federal buildings and airports. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition has taken opposition on the Real ID as well.

Question: Bill Number of Real ID?

Response: Not yet introduced

Question: Same as California?

Response: California is doing similar, however has two tier system (with mark of documentation status)

Question: This law is strongly pushed by Federal government, what is the impact if we don't comply?

Response: The message from the Federal government is that without Real ID, individuals will not have access into federal building or commercial airlines; however the messaging and compliance have not been consistent, the Federal government has given other states extensions; one state has refused to comply and Homeland Security allowed a waiver.

PowerPoint will be provided on CAPAA website

- Family Unity Act: local law enforcement should not be honoring administrative hold as it violates civil rights to hold an individual; to help victims of crimes and domestic violence

Question: Do you work with law enforcement to collect data? Crimes in Tacoma community has increased and law enforcement needs support from Asian community

Commissioner Pen to connect with RET

Senator Pramila Jayapal

Commissioner Dash introduces background: first Indian American Senator in Washington State; represents 37th district, founder of Hate Free Zone, now OneAmerica; recognized as White House Champion of Change; immigrant from India, attended Georgetown with a business background

2015 Legislative Overview:

- Rule Change: 2/3rd majority vote needed in the Senate for any new tax increases –in previous years this rule change was declared unconstitutional by Supreme Court, however due to the way it was embedded in the rules, unsure if it will be maintained
- Responsibility around fully funding education and mental health services: we cannot fund education if we cut other support services especially for families; big challenge this session is to get a comprehensive revenue plan: in the Governor's State of State address, one of the things he says is this state has one of the most regressive tax system in the country, in which the poorest pay a disproportionate share of their income in taxes compared to the wealthy. The challenge is bringing in more revenue into the State and lessening the burden on the poor and middle class; challenge in keeping pace with economic growth, and for API community, so many programs and services are funded out of general fund and highly utilized; if we move those dollars, we need revenue to keep those programs alive
- Senator Jayapal will have website translated in 5 different languages

Education:

- Funding – how much? The numbers depend on how you look at the dollars, we need \$1.5-2.5 Billion, Initiative 1351 on small class sizes increases that number. It is important to not only fund McCleary but also include money for COLA increases.
- Where will the money come from and how will we spend it? API community need to make sure dollars go to addressing opportunity gap issues, not all legislatures are thinking of that. The Senator is currently working on a proposal to look at bill that will examine equity impact on all educational policies from cradle to college; working with educational department to implement these policies and to look at unintended negative impact of these policies or positive impacts. Early Start bill will be introduced, this bill promotes early learning.

Other Issues:

- Workforce development issues, embedding cultural and linguistic competency into the workplace
- Real ID – no sponsor in the Senate yet;
- Help to inform communities about DACA/DAPA

Q. There are many APIs waiting to be reunited with their families. Are the changes fair to those already waiting?

- WA advocates have been vocal about the need to include family reunification in immigration reform.
- Citizenship programs: New Americans program

Healthcare:

- Tremendous number of APIs who have gotten covered because of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansions.
- Mental health and Medicaid integration will be a priority and stress the importance to address mental health as upstream as possible

The Senator has placed a Resolution on Senate Floor to recognize Republic Day for Indian Americans and contributions of Indian Americans to Washington.

Question: What are the languages available on your website?

Response: Vietnamese, Spanish, Somali, Chinese, and Hindi.

Question: District 27 and 29 to do so as well with their website?

Response: Caucus leadership is supportive of translating websites.

Question: Revenue for state?

- Educate community on our tax system and proposal for changes
- We need 3 legged system for stable tax system (different sources of revenue); needs to grow with economy
- Need for revenue: we hope to have town hall meetings for government officials to educate community members; large charts will be made to show what tax system and changes will look like

Question: Senator Cantwell's proposal for small businesses?

Response: That bill is congressional; at state level the issue is the B&O tax system; we could do good things by changing the revenue threshold, tax rates compared to small/large corporations and industries.

Question: Challenge in taking on this task?

Response: This is not an easy task but it is necessary.

India: Outbound Opportunities by WASITRAC Commissioner Debadutta Dash

Introduced members of the Indian Community present:

- Lalita Uppala – President of Indian Association of Western Washington
- Lakshmi Gaur – Former President
- Pran Wahi – leader

India: Outbound Opportunities

- Promoting revenue via trade – opportunities with India
- The Rupee has 17 languages on the bill to demonstrate diversity in the country
- Percentage of business with India – less than 1% in Washington
- China has shown the ability to grow faster than most countries; however in financial turbulence, India has shown more resilience
- India's economy is growing - 65% of population is 35 years old and younger
- We need to promote more trade with India, including tourism. India Outbound means people coming into the US and Washington from India, which equates to investing into the state and creating jobs
- India has the world's 9th largest civil aviation market; the tourism demand is expected to grow by 8% year after year and fastest; meaning every big city in India plans to have an airport
- On average, a Chinese foreign traveler will spend \$7,000 in the US whereas an Indian foreign traveler will spend around \$6,800.

- Washington is not on the map for foreigners to come here to travel; International corporations not as familiar with Seattle compared to New York; however Indian companies do have offices in Seattle
- Indian weddings: Thailand benefits because Indian families will shift wedding location to Bangkok and feed into its tourism economy; Bollywood is important (produces more movies than Hollywood)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Vo, Sam Le and Vyla Phavong

Presentation on the All Student Count Act, a federal bill that aims to collect further disaggregation of student data:

- Screening on January 30th at the Wing Luke Museum
- The group is reaching out to legislators for support of data disaggregation
- Commissioner Tufono wants to connect with group for radio show
- Commissioner Dash wants to connect with group for more information for IAWW

Bettie Luke:

- Background includes involvement with various multicultural organizations over many years; conducts diversity trainings across the state; Representing the Chinese American Citizens' Alliance
- Provided information about proposal to recognize and acknowledge impact of Chinese Exclusion Act and contributions of Chinese in Washington.
- Helped organize rally in memory of 125 years since Seattle excluded Chinese immigrant
- National CACA conference in August 6-9
- Working to create curriculum to implement into schools to teach Chinese American history, seeking endorsement of conference; and package of curriculum

Question: Curriculum for high school?

Response: Currently working on a trial curriculum

Nadine Shiroma

- Update on Hepatitis B issue: currently working through the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to open discussion with Department of Defense and will write up recommendations on resolving this issue.
- Half of 2 million affected by Hepatitis B are Asian Americans, fewer than those are affected by HIV and yet military has policy allowing those with HIV to serve on force, which describes the inequity in who is excluded and who is allowed to serve; open up educating efforts for community to understand stigma surrounding Hep B; opportunity for Department of Defense to step forward.

Hannah Su

Chinese Institute of Engineers (CIE)

- Looking to seek further collaboration with other API organization

- CIE promotes STEM with students and youth; holds a scholarship and convention every year; 2017 national CIE convention will be in Seattle
- Founded a new organization called Flourishing the Lives of Asians that is community service based for youth and young professionals
- Founded first Boeing mentoring committee; sits on the Bellevue Middle School social emotional committee

Arlan Harris from DES

- Request for next CAPAA agenda to include DES for presentation on how they can support small agencies.

2015 Budget Proposal Overview

- Reinvesting in Washington: Governor's goal is to strengthen schools, promote healthy lifestyles, and have clean air and a fairer tax system
- Government to have a more sustainable budget through lean efforts
- State revenue projection in 2001, with recession, indicates that the revenue has not kept pace; since 2008 we've had a revenue shortfall which impacts the services for students and healthcare; that gap has resulted in deep spending cuts in last 6 years
- Lean initiative to look for efficiencies and streamlining amongst government agencies' operations; DES lean has helped save 8 million on state leases over the next 5 years
- K12 spending has been on decline but will increase with McCleary; with education in budget, the Governor proposed to expand early learning and reduce class sizes; holding tuition steady and provide teachers COLA; increase programs and services for mental health; no cuts to LEP (in proposal). State employees will see raises; natural resources restore funding for state parks and maintenance; carbon reduction program and reducing toxics in our water.

How do we pay for this?

- Revenue increase, without new revenue: cut state need grants, reduce prison sentences, programs for reentry for former offenders, close hatcheries
- Sales tax does not keep up with needs of state as source of revenue with increasing population; Washington is below average in the nation of collecting local taxes; Governor's proposal leads to fairer tax system and is more sustainable.

Strategic Plan

Comment: Pierce County schools working on education about marijuana with law enforcement

Response: Working with Governor Staff and state agencies.

Question: Conflict between those wanting to open up a small business for a smoke shop even though commission's work on health issues and tobacco?

Response: The commission doesn't have a stance, but follow rules and procedure to prevent underage use.

Amendment: On page displaying CAPAA logic model, correct the word, "policies."

Motion was made by Commissioner Dickinson adopt strategic plan with the amendments and was seconded by Commissioner Tufono with no further discussion and unanimous approval.

COMMISSIONER REPORT OUT

Commissioner Finau: Sits on TBIP task force and will attend the next meeting.

Commissioner Dash: January 26 is Republic Day of India celebration

Commissioner Tufono: Radio station has new show: Village Voices

Commissioner Dickinson: Elected new President of the Asian Bar Association of Washington

Motion was made by Commissioner Tufono to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Dash with no further discussion and unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Minutes prepared by Amy Van.