



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**

Kitsap Community Resources Center

845 8<sup>th</sup> St

Bremerton, WA 98377

Saturday, June 14, 2014

**Regular Business**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Tashi Khamshitsang, Sofia Aragon, Debadutta Dash, Quang Nguyen, Gerardine Cabusao, Darren Pen, Lori Wada

Commissioners Absent: Lisa Dickinson, Ty Tufono, Frieda Takamura, Lynette Finau, Jeannie Lee

Commission Staff Present: Executive Director, Michael Itti and Executive Assistant, Amy Van

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion was made at 10:02 by Commissioner Dash and seconded by Commissioner Pen to approve the agenda with no amendments. Agenda approved.

**Approval of January 18, 2014 and March 15, 2014 Minutes**

Motion was made at 10:03 am by Commissioner Dash and seconded by Commissioner Pen to approve the minutes with no amendments. Minutes approved. 10:03

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **2014 Supplemental Budget:** The agency's 2013-15 budget has been reduced from \$420,000 to \$418,000 due to Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and State Employee Health Insurance adjustments.

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*Agency Overview*

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12- governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

- **2015-2017 State Budget Outlook:** The Office of Financial Management is anticipating a more challenging 2015-17 state budget than the previous one. Due to rising costs, projected revenue is about \$1 billion short of meeting demand for public education, health, debt service, and other investments. In addition, the state is under a Supreme Court order to increase spending for K-12 education by \$1.2 to \$2 billion.

## 2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Strategic Planning:** CAPAA began a strategic planning process in March to develop a 2015-18 strategic plan. The plan will outline goals, strategies, and tactics for CAPAA's priority areas of education, health and human services, and economic development. The plan is expected to be completed by September 2014.
- **Website:** The agency has embarked on a website redesign as a result of a recent study by the Office of Financial Management. The design and framework will be completed by the end of June 2014 and staff will migrate content to the new site. The new website will enable the agency to more effectively communicate policy and program changes that may impact the APA community.
- **Results Washington:** CAPAA is participating on the Prosperous Economy Goal Council and is working with other agency directors to reach our targets and goals. The Goal Council will present to the Governor in July.
- **Internship program:** Staff is partnering with the Commissions on Hispanic and African American Affairs to formalize a cohesive Legislative Internship Program.
- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an online casework system. The number of requests for assistance from the agency remains steady.

## 3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Regular Session:** The 2014 legislative session began on January 13, 2014 and adjourned on March 13, 2014. The next regular legislative session will begin in January 2015.

## 4. OUTREACH:

- **Community Connections:** Staff met with numerous community leaders and community-based organizations in our Community Connections Network to hear about issues and concerns facing their unique communities. When necessary, casework and policy issues are brought to the attention of the Governor's Office, federal agencies, state agencies, legislative members and municipalities.
  - **Asian Pacific Directors Coalition:** Staff attended the April and June APDC meetings with more than two dozen APA non-profit and community leaders. At the June meeting, staff distributed information about the new marijuana law for parents and families. Staff is monitoring community efforts to advocate for the renewal of a Southeast Asian student recruiter at the University of Washington. Community members have scheduled a meeting with UW President Michael Young in July to discuss the issue.

- **API Heritage Month Celebration:** Staff presented the Governor's API Heritage Month Proclamation at the event on May 4. The event was well attended and featured numerous live performances, visual arts, and hands-on activities. CAPAA also had a booth to provide information about the agency's programs and services to the community.
- **Korean American Chamber of Commerce:** Staff met with Chewon Lee, Executive Director, to discuss opportunities to support the community. The Chamber is holding an informational event for the community on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Tukwila Ramada Inn from 4 – 7 PM. CAPAA is encouraging state agencies to provide an informational booth at the event.
- **Community Events:** Staff attended community events including the Vietnamese Friendship Association annual dinner, Korean American Coalition reception, memorial service for Dr. Frank Kitamoto, Cambodian New Year, Aha Mele Hawaiian Festival, InterIm Gala, ICHS Bellevue Clinic Open House, ICHS Bloom Gala, ACLF Graduation Dinner, International Examiner 40<sup>th</sup> Gala, Eastside API Leadership Forum, and CISC Friendship Dinner.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in our state.

- **White House Initiative on AAPIs (WHIAAPI):** Staff was invited by WHIAAPI to present about CAPAA at the WHIAAPI State and Local Commission Roundtable in Washington, DC. Staff connected with other directors and commissioners from other state and local commissions.

CAPAA is coordinating with WHIAAPI, newly appointed WHIAAPI Commissioner Diane Narasaki, and API community leaders to convene a Regional Interagency Workgroup (RIWG) of staff from key federal agencies. The goal of the RIWG is to facilitate information sharing and coordinate on-the-ground engagement and technical assistance with and for API communities across the federal government's regional offices.

- **National Hmong Grave Desecration Committee:** At the request of former Commissioner Vang Xiong, chairman of the committee, CAPAA contacted Washington's US Senators to urge them to write the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, about sponsoring and introducing a protective UN Resolution or International Law to safeguard against present and future assaults against human graves.
- **Office of Representative Adam Smith:** Staff discussed issues of concern on the federal level including efforts to expand categories for Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups in regards to data collection.
- **Small Business Administration:** Staff met with Calvin Goings, SBA's Regional Administrator, to discuss SBA's programs and services. Staff discussed opportunities for SBA to connect with ethnic chambers regarding access to capital and technical assistance.
- **US Department of Agriculture:** Staff from various state agencies met with representatives from the federal department, which is in more counties than any other agency except the US Postal Service. An overview of Agriculture's programs and services was provided in addition to efforts to increase access for limited English proficient populations.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff continues to connect with members of the agency's Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL Network). These check-ins serve as an

important way to cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues with state agencies.

- **Department of Commerce:** Commissioner Dash and three APA business leaders are representing CAPAA at the Minority Business Roundtable. The Roundtable is working to inform communities of color about the agency's programs and services and opportunities to work at Commerce.
- **Department of Enterprise Services:** DES and CAPAA are working to translate the Small Business Guide in Vietnamese. The Small Business Guide provides helpful information, links to valuable resources, and outlines the steps for starting and operating a business in Washington State. The Small Business Guide is currently available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. View the guide here: <http://go.usa.gov/9qUW>.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff met with our new liaison, Stella Ng, and discussed community engagement and technical assistance that the OIC conducts.
- **Department of Financial Institutions:** June is National Homeownership Month. The Washington State Housing Finance Commission is hosting free first time homebuyer education classes. View the schedule at [www.wshfc.org/buyers/scheduleBYDATE.htm](http://www.wshfc.org/buyers/scheduleBYDATE.htm).
- **Department of Health:** The agency hosted a *Diabetes Epidemic and Action Report Stakeholder Policy Prioritization Summit* in April. Staff and Commissioner Tufono provided feedback on prioritization of strategies to address the diabetes epidemic. CAPAA is pursuing opportunities to address the impact of diabetes among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.
- **Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance:** The Small Business Liaison Task Force, which is made up of staff from more than two dozen state agencies that serve small business, requested that CAPAA invite API small business owners to the meeting. CAPAA brought five small business owners involved in construction, hotel management, agriculture, and professional service. The owners, who were from Yakima, Snohomish, Thurston, and King counties, shared their challenges and provided suggestions for improvements.
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff met with our agency liaison, Rick Stedman, and discussed outreach opportunities in the API community. In addition, several policy changes were passed by the Legislature during the 2014 session. A summary is available at <http://go.usa.gov/8SF4>.
- **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff attended an interagency and stakeholder meeting to address a Results Washington goal to reduce underage drinking and marijuana use. Staff is also participating on the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (RUaD), which is expanding to include marijuana. At both venues, staff advocated for using culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies to effectively reach limited English proficient communities and recent immigrants. Due to the disproportionate impact of marijuana on communities of color, staff is advocating that equitable resources are provided to reduce the impact of Initiative 502.

Staff participated in a Results Washington strategy session hosted by DSHS Juvenile Justice

and Rehabilitation Administration to address a goal to reduce the number of youth of color in juvenile detention. CAPAA advocated for better data to gauge the impact on API sub-ethnic groups such as Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders and for more intervention strategies to reduce the school to prison pipeline.

- **Human Rights Commission:** The Commission reported that the State Supreme Court overturned a Court of Appeals opinion regarding reasonable accommodation of employee's religious beliefs. The case involved a lawsuit by employees of an airport concessionaire who were not permitted to bring their own meals to work for security reasons, and who challenged their employer's failure to provide meals consistent with their religious beliefs. The majority reasoned that the Washington Law Against Discrimination differs from its federal statutory counterpart in not explicitly requiring that an employer make reasonable accommodation of employees' religious beliefs, such a requirement was implied in WLAD's prohibition on religious discrimination. The Supreme Court overturned a 2012 Court of Appeals opinion in doing so, relying in part on arguments made in an amicus brief filed on behalf of the Human Rights Commission.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** CAPAA and OMWBE are working together on a Results Washington goal to increase state agency and educational institution utilization of minority, women, and veteran-owned business. Staff met with Debbie McVicker to discuss the agencies' preparations for an upcoming presentation to the Governor about strategies to achieve the goal.
- **Department of Ecology:** Staff met with Millie Piazza, the agency's Environmental Justice Coordinator, and discussed ways to inform and improve service delivery for limited English proficient populations. Communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens such as pollution and industrial facilities.
- **Washington Health Benefit Exchange:** HBE released an enrollment report showing more than one million total Washington residents have accessed health coverage through [wahealthplanfinder.org](http://wahealthplanfinder.org) from Oct. 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. Of those, 587,000 Washingtonians enrolled in new free or low-cost coverage during the first enrollment period—this number excludes renewals in Washington Apple Health. More than 164,000 have enrolled in Qualified Health Plans (private health plans). Of the 164,000, Asians account for 10.3 percent, Pacific Islanders 1.7 percent, and Hawaiian 0.1 percent. More than 20 percent did not report their race or ethnicity.

Staff will continue to work with HBE to address community concerns regarding technical challenges and cultural and language barriers in accessing health care from the Exchange.

- **Office of the Education Ombuds:** Director Stacy Gillett has been selected to represent the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee on the new state Paraeducator Task Force to look at training standards for paraeducators that work in ELL classrooms and support students who are transitioning bilingual.

OEO is working on a feasibility study on the costs and recommendations related to training interpreters for limited English speaking families to broaden the availability of trained interpreters in education settings.

- **Health Care Authority:** Staff nominated Marguerite Ro, Chief of the Assessment, Policy Development, and Evaluation unit of Public Health – Seattle & King County, for the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee, which was created by Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2572. Dr. Ro was selected as a member of the Committee that will inform public and private health care purchasing and will propose benchmarks to track costs and improvements in health outcomes.
- **API Network Luncheon Committee:** Staff is coordinating with contacts from various state agencies and community organizations to rekindle the committee of API state employees that previously met for networking and information sharing.

## 5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Commissioners:** Commissioner and Education Chair Frieda Takamura and Commissioner Quang Nguyen will be concluding their service as Commissioners on June 30, 2014. The Commission is currently working with the Governor's Office to fill the two positions. The Governor has reappointed Commissioner Lisa Dickinson and Commissioner Darren Pen effective July 1, 2014.
- **Board Meetings:** The Commission will hold its fourth board meeting in 2014 on September 20 at the Filipino Community Center of Yakima Valley in Wapato. Visit [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov) for more details and for the full 2014 schedule.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The Commission celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 15, 2014 at an event in SeaTac. More than 300 youth, community leaders, elected officials, and commissioners came together for a celebration of history and to inspire a new generation. The event, which was funded entirely by sponsors, provided an opportunity for information about CAPAA to be featured in numerous ethnic media including the International Examiner, Northwest Asian Weekly, Urban Forum Northwest, Radio Hankook, Seattle Pinoy TV, and Korean and Vietnamese publications. For stories about CAPAA's 40<sup>th</sup> event, visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml>.
- **Joint Ethnic Commissions Outreach Event:** More than 40 community members and public officials attended a joint Ethnic Commissions outreach event in Spokane. Commissioner Lisa Dickinson reported on CAPAA's 2014 goals and activities.

## 6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **Asian Pacific Islander Think Tank:** CAPAA Education Committee Chair Frieda Takamura convened a meeting of the APIATT on March 28. Agenda items included the newly formed Washington State Family and Community Engagement Trust, Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian Education Summits, and Southeast Asian recruiter at University of Washington.
  - **National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education:** Staff is assisting iCount researchers in an update of the 2008 opportunity gap reports. Data requests and information sharing agreements will need to be secured to update the reports.
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** The Commission continues to support grassroots efforts that were launched during the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative.

**Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition (SEAeD):** Preparations are underway to hold a second Southeast Asian American Education Summit on November 22 at South Seattle College.

**Our Future Matters:** Preparations are underway to convene a third Pacific Islander Education Summit tentatively set for October 4 at Green River Community College.

- **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC):** Staff presented to the EOGOAC at its meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> regarding community efforts to address the opportunity gaps.

The EOGOAC will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Washington State University in Spokane. Following the meeting, the committee will be hosting a community forum from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. where all those interested are invited to participate in a discussion about topics regarding closing the opportunity gap.

- **Student Discipline Task Force:** Zharina Angeles, an educator in the Renton School District, represented CAPAA on the Task Force at its May meeting. Angeles reported that a portion of Learning Assistance Program funds can be used to encourage behavioral success and form community partnerships. An OSPI panel is working to develop a list of best behavioral practices that schools can utilize for discipline.

The majority of the meeting was spent on definitions and data points for: education services during a suspension or expulsion, credit retrieval options, reengagement plans, and interventions. The committee received a presentation on readmission after exclusion, which led to a conversation on including a section of “appeals” in the definitions and creating data points for it. The Task Force will meet next on July 14.

- **Health Care and Human Services:**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** Commissioner Aragon continues to represent the Commission on the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities. Staff coordinated with the Council on securing a proclamation from Gov. Inslee for Minority Health Month in April.
- **Making Stomach Cancer a Health Priority:** Staff is providing recommendations on efforts to make stomach cancer a health priority among APIs and health care providers. Cornerstone Medical Services is hosting a summit on August 22, 2014 at the Clarion Hotel in Federal Way to bring community leaders, public officials, and health care industry representatives to discuss the health disparity.
- **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month:** Staff is preparing a media campaign to raise awareness of disparities for API communities around mental health for the month of July.
- **Marijuana excise taxes:** Due to the passage of Initiative 502, the state will begin levying and collecting an excise tax on the sale of marijuana. The initiative designates portions of the revenue to the Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services for marijuana education, prevention, and treatment. CAPAA is working this summer to distribute information and raise awareness among API communities through community events and ethnic media about the new law.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Minority Small Business Policy Workshop:** Staff is assisting with the workshop for small business owners and community members to learn about policies that affect small business. The workshop will occur on Thursday, June 19 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the South Seattle College Georgetown Campus. Participants will be able to engage with state agencies and minority business owners in a roundtable discussion to develop recommendations to foster greater economic development opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises in Washington State.

## **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Commissioner Pen: pictures and visuals for marijuana edibles

Commissioner Wada: Korean typo on marijuana translation

### **Mental Health Presentation:**

**Presentation: Kitsap Mental Health Services, Joe Roszak, *CEO*, and Etsuko Stephens, *Brief Treatment Clinician and Adult Outpatient Program***

- Kitsap County
  - overall growth of 1.1% in population
  - medium age is 40.8
  - population is collectively and demographically older in Kitsap
  - 4-5% growth in Asian Pacific Islander population
  - armed forces personnel in 2012 was 5% of total population
  - KMHS 4.1% patients treated are API.
- KMHS services: complex services: crisis clinic; outpatient care; foster care; housing units; has strategic partners in various institutions and locations.
- Whole person care
  - Mental illness has higher correlation to substance abuse, therefore chemical dependence team works closely with mental health services at the same time and within that same treatment team includes a primary care doctor and assistance on campus; bi-directional care model; onsite behavioral health specialist.
  - Advancement in recovery for people with mental illnesses; multidisciplinary care teams are integrated teams from various specialized fields in each patient file; shared care coordination is what KMHS pursue in the community which is a treatment protocol, health analytics with partnership with health information exchange of patients, translate data into information; four quadrant of care primary care.
- Common social stigma towards seeking behavioral health care unlike medical; amongst API population, there is reluctance to identify behavioral issues as a health concern because it may be culturally misinterpreted as “personal weakness.”

### **Remarks: Etsuko Stephens:**

- Worked over 10 years at KMHS; serves special population as consultant and practitioner including API; shared personal story about seeking counseling.

- For many API groups, language barrier in mental health services creates intimidation. A specialists' background may affect the clients' experience.
- In API population, there is a tendency to place needs of groups or family first rather than personal desire or needs. Therefore this suppression of individual needs for common well-being of a group is prevalent.
- The cultural differences in American vs. API have its pros and cons. There are various incidents of language barriers or misinterpretation of cultural practices. It is valuable to understand cultural specific behaviors and recognizing those bias or limitations as it may help others to understand the differences of behaviors.

## QUESTION AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Pen: One stop service is important in reducing fear and effectiveness in people using services.

Public comment: Willingness to leave comfort zone is important otherwise people tend to isolate themselves, which is why involvement in one's community is important; mental problems are labeled as taboo in a lot of communities, people in the health care industries need to educate themselves in diverse communities.

Public comment, Lennie Meder: API community tend to be closed off to health care services therefore services must do due diligence in outreach; suggests a directory of resources for multi-cultural services in the health care field

Roszak: KMHS re-established its cultural-diversity team; establish both internally and external (to include clients in the process) and community.

Public Comment, Leslie Daug: API is proud and reserved community; individuals are private about those issues therefore outreach is important.

Stephens: Concept of psychotherapy is Americanized; API clients tend to not utilize long term service as opposed to American clients

Public Comment: In certain cultures, the strength relies on family and neighbors for strength rather than medication, but when immigrants come to America they tend to be isolated.

Public Comment, Thomasina Rogers: Comprehensive health is important especially for children in the K12 system. Important to note that most of the students' parents come from the age and generation of substance abuse which affects the child which may not be visible physically. As a principal, she has experienced schools placing "secondary counselors" in classrooms but often these are not mental health counselors but rather test coordinators or other non-health titles. Important to acknowledge behavioral disorders beyond just ADD or ADHD, but other disorders that affects learning and development. API parents tend not to see these issues as biological but a parenting or systemic issue. Help families understand the process in the public school system for referring children with learning disability issues or behavioral issue; we need to reinforce parents to communicate with schools; children acting as primary care givers which also impacts the child well-being, including depression. Co-mingle approach is necessary, and dialogue is important with community. Having each Kitsap School District served by KMHS and knowing that a bed is available for each school on their facility is helpful, especially in student behavioral situations that is a healthier option rather than emergency expulsion.

Public Comment: Deborah Horn: Has worked as PCHS and is now Director of a senior meal program notes that KMHS is valuable in the community with their one stop shop. Serves senior in community through Meals on Wheels, meal site offers dancing and singing with meals for interaction, the program also delivers to home-bound seniors: primarily the interaction is key for the elders, in addition to nutritious food.

Roszak: We hope that the whole-person approach becomes a state standard.

**Presentation: Janina Dinio, MSW LCSW, Wellness Center, LLC. *Clinical Social Worker and Special Population Consultant***

Formal and informal resources to our community; Shares background in working with KMHS; now has private practice and specializes in Asian and Hispanic communities. Reiterates the challenges and barriers as a mental health specialist.

Treatment and resources: shares client anecdote, no services available with cultural or language interpretation, two different things that are necessary. Services outreach is important.

Challenges faced as specialist in field:

- Clients often come in with different referrals and different recommendations
- Complexity of mental illnesses, gives anecdote of handling a schizophrenic client
- Presupposition of outreach means relationship, which conflicts with the inability for specialists to have dual relationships with clients.
- Prevention: detecting early on during childhood, build trust with communities
- Seeing culture as a strength and asset rather than barrier
- Positive impact of religion on mental health healing process, potentially helpful to involve faith institutions
- Take into the account of bi-racial children and the difficulties of belonging, which may lead to sense of isolation
- Chronic illnesses and diseases that are medical have relationship to mental health wellbeing such as diabetes
- Need to normalize health visits and help seeking
- Need to include family in treatment process

Public comment: Need to clarify cultural values

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lennie Meder: request a job description for commissioner, need for Kitsap County Commissioner

**Proposal for focus group on Diabetes among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders**

Question: Funding would go to outreach and focus groups, subgrant, propose additional funds in CAPAA budget to do this?

Answer: Federal sub-grant money will go to hosting research and focus groups.

Question: Comparison of ethnic groups with diabetes? Inclusion of all Asian community?

Answer: Grant money covers enough for specific PI study subjects.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

## **Education:**

Comment: Include timeline of when community members can get involved

Question: Who will write up the reports and data?

Answer: Through partnership with OSPI; formal request to entities for data

Question: Teaming up with government agencies and private entities for PSAs and public campaigns?

Answer: Will add.

Comment: Budget request, list the funding gaps and CAPAA's duties to reach the goals.

## **Healthcare:**

Comment: As a strategy, explore data from HBE and Disparity Council

Question: To what extent, i.e. Marijuana and obesity, can CAPAA help identify funding stream?

Answer: We notify about grant opportunities via Newsletter

Comment: Marijuana sales will generate revenue, taxes should be redistributed to education and needs to be shared fairly to other communities, and CAPAA needs to tap into those types of resources to continue educating the public.

Comment: We don't know the timeline in which revenue will go into preventative and educational aspects

## **Economic Development:**

Comment: Add statement on how to increase export market and looking at how APA small and medium businesses can play a role, beyond areas of just IT and aviation. CAPAA can promote minority contractors by working more closely with various counties (Port of Seattle and King County); training seminars or forum with funding prospect with Port of Seattle; attracting investment from outside countries to our local small businesses; specify why businesses should get certified with OMWBE; budget request for training opportunities.

Comment: Promote grant opportunities; and training opportunities

Comment: Look within microenterprise opportunities, if we want to help small businesses move up the economic ladder, we need to have infrastructure of micro to macro enterprise pipeline. An example would be house cleaning business, lucrative and easy to hire and has potential to grow into something larger.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Commissioner Nguyen: PhD group of students looking at APA data in terms of income and family structure and education, presentation within next few weeks, invites CAPAA to attend.
- Commissioner Wada: Korean Consulate has reached out to identify and connect with nonprofits in Korean community; encourages CAPAA to get to know other consulate staff

## **COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

### **Commissioner Aragon**

- Presented to a UW-Bothell school of nursing class on legislative issues affecting communities of color

- Continued to participate in Qualis Thought Leaders Forum on reducing health disparities in medicare readmission
- Participated in Seattle Roundtable on Working Families at the Seattle office of Civil Rights. The purpose of the roundtable was to inform the US Department of Labor. DOL seeks to bring communities together to gather information about the issues and needs of working families and to identify business practices that benefit working families. Such topics may include but are not limited to: employment discrimination, minimum wage, equal pay, workplace flexibility, and childcare.
- Met with Greg Garcia, Executive Director of WAPI Community Services to explore a potential project for marijuana youth education in south Seattle.
- Attended Governor's Council on Health Disparities meeting on behalf of CAPAA.
- Began participating on the Healthcare Personnel Shortage Taskforce. Part of this work is to develop strategies to increase the diversity of the state workforce.

### **Commissioner Cabusao**

- March 23, 2014 - spearheaded the Philippine Consular Services held at the Filipino Community Hall in Wapato on. The event was a huge success. Aside from the local community, consular services were provided to folks from Seattle and Spokane, WA, Idaho, Central Oregon as well as Portland, Oregon.
- April 29, 2014 -referred a constituent who was a victim of domestic violence to API Chaya, an organization who serves victims of sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking, etc. It is interesting to note that API Chaya was a merger of 2 organizations one of which was the Asian & Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center which was organized within the Filipino community in 1993 and sponsored by CAPAA due to the prevalence of violence against women in their community.
- May 7, 2014 - made a special trip to an islet in Northern Cebu Philippines, one of the hard hit areas by Typhoon Haiyan to follow up on projects that we (Filipino Community of Yakima Valley- FACYV) sponsored to help the villagers rebuild their livelihood. We visited the site where fishing boats were being built by the villagers themselves. Ten fishing boats from FACYV will be awarded to families in the village this month. Determination of recipients is done after careful assessment by the religious congregation (Sisters of Providence) who continue to provide ground work there.
- May 23, 2014- Helped with the Annual Graduate Recognition Dinner at the Filipino Community Hall where several scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors in the valley.

### **Commissioner Dickinson**

- Attended the annual Sukiyaki Dinner and craft event at Highland Park Methodist Church, one of the two Japanese-American churches in the area.
- Planned and attended a joint Eastern Washington Commissioner legislative event and reception with the Commission on African American Affairs and the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. This was the first joint-Commission event in Eastern Washington. Various legislators and the mayor of Spokane were in attendance. Spoke about the work of CAPAA and met with various community members.
- Attended Asian Bar Association of Washington meetings as President-Elect.
- Attended meeting in Las Vegas with the American Bar Association's GP Solo and Small Firm Section as a Diversity Fellow. Attended Diversity Breakfast. Participated in a panel at Boyd

School of Law in regard to careers in the law. Assisted in compiling a diverse panel of speakers to speak to the students.

- Attended meetings in Boca Raton Florida with the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Ethics and Professionalism Committee and Business Litigation Section. Also attended Membership Development meeting with focus on attracting new diverse members to the Section.
- Unable to attend June CAPAA meeting as attending a National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Western Regional Conference in Portland to meet with other Asian Pacific American attorneys. Topics include a meeting with Justice Goodwin Liu, Dinner with David M. Louie, Attorney General State of Hawaii.

### **Commissioner Dash**

- Indian Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar visited the Washington State during Monday May 5-7, 2014. An evening reception was held at the Westin Bellevue on May 5<sup>th</sup> and was hosted by the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle. The Ambassador addressed local business leaders about changes in the business climate and policies that could open up opportunities for Washington state businesses doing trade with India. Ambassador Shankar visited Starbucks, Boeing, Microsoft, and Amazon and also called on Governor Inslee before leaving Seattle on May 7, 2014.
- The 2014 Inaugural Leadership Luncheon for the Dept. of Communication was held at the UW at the HUB Lyceum on 05/08. The event showcased how the Dept. Of Communication builds great leaders for our community's future. Assunta Ng, the founder and the publisher of the Northwest Asian weekly was the keynote speaker. Assunta is also the UW Communication Alumni Hall of Fame (1979).
- The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Leaders Program Dinner Gala of the Asian Community Leadership Foundation Northwest was held on May 10, 2014 on Seattle. ACLF Northwest is a community-based, nonprofit organization that trains and supports the leadership and civic engagement of Asian Pacific Islanders with a commitment to social justice, community empowerment and public service. During the event heartfelt tributes were given to its founder Late Kip Tokuda who passed away last year. Joel Ing, the past Board President of ACLF was the winner of this year's Kip Tokuda Award.
- An Interfaith Cultural event was held at the Rainier Center on June 8, 2014 celebrating the passage of Senate Bill 5173 sponsored by Senator Bob Hasegawa. More than 35 faith based organizations participated in this event. The Bill allows state workers being entitled to two unpaid holidays and allowing students to be excused from school for reasons of faith or conscience. The detailed summary of the Senate Bill 5173 is available at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5173-S%20SBR%20FBR%2014.pdf>.

### **Commissioner Finau**

- Meeting with Dr. Nancy Coogan - Tukwila School District Superintendent  
As an attempt to create and recruit more teachers of colors (reflective leaders) in the classroom, I met with the Tukwila Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Coogan, in a two hour meeting to respond to her article "Diversity in Demand" in the March 2013 issue of Teachers of Color Magazine. Dr. Coogan was very responsive and open to discuss inclusive district policies and practices necessary for recruiting and retaining teachers of color. We discussed the complex demographics

of the district population and students deserving equal access and differentiated support to be successful. Questions posed, "How is the potential of teacher candidates to provide this differentiated support assessed in the hiring process? Is cultural attainment valued by the district? If so, how is it reflected in the hiring practices? Changes are in place for mentoring and hiring practices & policies for teachers of color in the Tukwila School District.

- **CIVICS FOR ALL INITIATIVE - Seattle Public Schools**

CIVICS For All Initiative is a classroom based, K-12 policy proposed to Seattle Public Schools. This presentation was prepared for Superintendent Banda's Equity & Race Advisory Committee (ERAC) of which I am a member of and WA Alliance for Black School Educators (WABSE).

**POLICY:** It is a non-partisan policy proposal to dramatically increase and improve civics education in ALL Seattle schools for ALL children.

**OPPORTUNITY:** To substantially increase academic achievement and civic engagement for 50,000 students.

**A DREAM TO REALIZE:** Seattle will become the model civics education city in the nation. The city will thrive as more Seattle [Washington] youth become involved in civic affairs, in and out of school. The issue is research and experience show that Civics (with its enticing relevance, current-events-connections, and ethics based argumentative discourse) is perhaps the best implement in a teachers tool belts to elevate students to the highest levels. Why do students need Civics? Civics is not a priority in the Seattle Public Schools (SPS), SPS and the state of Washington require a shockingly low amount of Civics instruction - one semester of senior government and only one week of civics is required in 5th, 7th, and 12th graders performed at the advanced level. Worse, many of our Seattle youth display a profound sense of alienation and apathy about their government and civic life, and less than 20% of 18-29 year olds vote in mid-term elections. The Civics Gap - Equity, Race, and Civics Education. 1) Small civics requirements hurt low income/kids of color the most. 2) Civics engagement and knowledge - low income/kids of color consistently score lower on virtually all measurements (e.g., NAET). 3) Voter turnout (other than election influenced by the "Obama Effect") highlights the Civics Gap - substantial disparities indicate that our educational institutions are disenfranchising low income/citizens of color. 4) Efficacy & Empowerment - our low income/kids of color who need to feel Efficacy and Empowerment more than anyone feel the least amount of it.

- **Writing Team for Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity Plan and for Increasing Achievement of African American Male Scholars Plan:**

I have been invited to participate in a research re-writing team, gathering historic data stemming from an OSPI 2008 report – data affecting academic achievement, graduation rates, college matriculation, suspensions, poverty, incarceration, etc., of African American males and the economic impact. Original goals were many, but as a team we are trimming it down and/or combined AND make sure it has funding behind it. It will need implementation and clear strategies, working phases something like a ten-year plan. In the plan, there will be an extensive list of community engagement. We will report the summary and look at the opportunity gap analysis, specifically for African Americans and it MUST be research-based, have it tied in to SPS Strategic Plan and disaggregate the data. Funding will be proposed from Federal and Gates Foundation.

### **Commissioner Nguyen**

- In early June, commissioner Nguyen attended the National CAPACD (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development) Convention in Washington DC to discuss economic justice

issues in the AAPI community with activists and economic development professionals from all over the nation

- On June 5th, SCIDpda's (Seattle Chinatown/International District Preservation and Development Authority) Director and Real Estate Development and Commissioner Nguyen spoke in front of the Seattle City Council about the Little Saigon Landmark feasibility study. The findings of the feasibility indicated that the three components of the project - a 21,000 sq ft Vietnamese cultural/community center, up to 45,000 sq ft of retail/commercial space for micro and small businesses, and up to 100 affordable housing units - would be financially feasible. Next steps is to look at potential funding sources and start to assemble the financial package while further developing the architectural concept
- At NYC in May to participate on a panel discussing economic development issues in the AAPI community. Event organized by AAFE (Asian American for Equality) based in NYC
- March-May, helping connect small businesses in Seattle's International District to elected officials on the issue of the \$15 minimum wage proposal
- Feb-June, Commissioner Nguyen has been a key player in SCIDpda's project to develop approximately 4,000 sq ft of raw space in the ID into a coworking space for tech, design, and creative entrepreneurs. This coworking center will be launched by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2015

### **Commissioner Pen**

- In March, Commissioner Pen arranged to have Mr. Steve Goolie, Road Compliance Supervisor for the City of Tacoma talks about "Neighborhood Parking" to:
  - 58 Vietnamese seniors on Monday, March 10.
  - 104 Cambodian seniors on Tuesday, May 11.
  - 135 Korean seniors on Wednesday, March 12.
  - 65 Chinese, Japanese and Pilipino seniors on Thursday, March 13.
  - 18 Samoan seniors on Friday, March 14.

The audience was very appreciative with the helpful information and answers. The meetings, places, date, times and the interpreters were arranged by Commissioner Pen. He is also interpreting for the Cambodian group.

- In April, Commissioner Pen arranged to have Mr. David Westbrook, Governor Inslee's South Sound Regional Representative attended to hear from the community about the issues that are important to them, and spoke about the Governor's priorities including his work to support the needs of senior citizens and Washington's aging population to:
  - 75 Vietnamese seniors on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>
  - 120 Cambodian seniors on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 160 Korean seniors on Wednesday, April 22.

The audience was very appreciative with helpful information and all answers. The meetings, places, date, times and the interpreters were arranged by Commissioner Pen. He is also interpreting for the Cambodian group.

- On Saturday, April 12 & 19, Commissioner Pen invited U.S Representative Derek Kilmer, Washington State Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, Senator Steve Conway, Governor Jay Inslee's South Sound Regional Representative David Westbrook, City of Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma Deputy Mayor Victoria R. Woodards, Tacoma City Councilmember Joe Lonergan, Tacoma Assistant Chief of Police Michael Ake, City of Milton Interim Chief of Police & Interim City Administrator Mark Langford, Dave Lovrak, 911 Communications Officer, Michael Itti, Executive Director, WA State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Tacoma Police Sector 4 Commander Lieutenant Corey Darlington, U.S Representative Derek

Kilmer's staff Andrea Roper to speak and to attend the Khmer New Year at Cambodian Buddhist Temple in Tacoma..

- On Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Pen was invited by the owners of the New Hong Kong market to join with the Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland and the Tacoma City Council Marty Campbell for a ribbon cutting ceremony for their brand New Hong Kong Market which they had invested 1.5 million dollar on it.
- On Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Commissioner Pen invited Mr. David Westbrook, Governor Inslee's South Sound Regional Representative attended to hear from the community about the issues that are important to them, and spoke about the Governor's priorities including his work to support the needs of citizens at "Emergency Disaster Preparedness & Responding Procedure Presentation" Presented by the City of Tacoma Emergency Management Team and the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division. The meetings, places, date, times and the interpreters were arranged by Commissioner Pen.
- In May, Commissioner Pen arranged to have a city of Tacoma's Code Enforcement Officer Ken Ketter to come and to talk about Marijuana' Laws, Policy, Prevention & How to report on Violators to:

- 68 Vietnamese seniors on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>
- 112 Cambodian seniors on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

The audients were very appreciative with helpful information and all answers. The meetings, places, date, times and the interpreters were arranged by Commissioner Pen. He is also interpreting for the Cambodian group.

In May, Commissioner Pen arranged to have Mr. David Westbrook, Governor Inslee's South Sound Regional Representative attended to hear from the community about the issues that are important to them, and spoke about the Governor's priorities including his work to support the needs of senior citizens and Washington's aging population to;

- 65 Chinese, Japanese and Pilipino seniors on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>
- 17 Samoan seniors on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

The audience was very appreciative with helpful information and all answers. The meetings, places, date, times and the interpreters were arranged by Commissioner Pen. He is also interpreting for the Cambodian group.

- On Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Pen was invited by Maralise Hood Quan, EJD, Executive Director for Pierce County Center for Dispute Resolution to sit on panel to share about the Asian Pacific American cultures, his experiences daily with Asian Pacific American citizens in communities and to answer to 25 mediators who were there. These are what the Pierce County Center for Dispute Resolution needed helped with;  
During the first 20 years of life, PCCDR's volunteers and clients have not been representative of Pierce County diverse population. Why is that?  
Would you be willing to join a special panel to meet with our dedicated mediators to explore these issues?

Some questions we ponder:

--How do 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation immigrant families deal with conflict?

- In their neighborhood
- In their family
- In their business or other legal relationships?

Could mediation at our center meet their needs?

What about other non-immigrant ethnic groups in our community,

- How do we recruit volunteer mediators?
- How can we make our services useful to them?

We are very aware that there are many obstacles:

- Our name gives the impression that we are a county based organization,
- The majority of our referrals come from court or legal community,
- All our volunteers seem to be about the same color and age,
- As small non-profit, we have not done outreach to diverse populations,
- “What the heck is mediation anyway?”

The audients were very appreciative with helpful information and all answers given.

- On Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Pen had brought 10 Asian citizens to attend the CAPAA’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which included Dr. Anthony Chen, Executive Director of the Pierce County health Department, college students and two teachers.

### **Commissioner Takamura**

- Attended meetings and community forum of the Education Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee in Olympia, Highline College and Washington State University (Spokane)
- Participated in the planning of the CAPAA Fortieth Anniversary Celebration
- Met with community members and administrators at the University of Washington about the Southeast Asian recruiter position
- Attended meeting of the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition
- Attended meeting of the South Seattle College ANAPISI Advisory Committee
- Attended meeting of the Equity in Education Coalition;
- Attended the social activism exhibit opening at the Wing Luke Asian Museum
- Attended the event at the Seattle Center for the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration; Attended dinner event linking API new community leaders with experienced, older community activists
- Met with the Diversity Director of the Puget Sound Educational District.

### **Commissioner Tufono**

April:

- Attended the Department of Health Summit on Diabetes
- Participated as a Commissioner for the Lynnwood Diversity Commission Meeting.
- Guest Speaker at the Lynnwood City Council Meeting to speak on CAPAA's mission and how Lynnwood can partner with our CAPAA services and connections to educate city leadership more about Lynnwoods' fast growing API community.
- Participated in the City of Lynnwood Budget meeting workshop ensuring Lynnwoods committment to hiring a diverse employee group reflecting the growing population of API's who reside within the City and whom are the fastest growing ethnic group and largest group of small business owners.

- Was asked by Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith to participate on a hiring panel to interview applicants for the next Lynnwood Fire Chief, ensuring that the process focused on diversity and a fair look at applicants of color.
- Attended the Hmong Celebration at Seattle Center
- Guest speaker at the PACS event at South Seattle Community College.
- Hosted "Da Coconut Wireless Radio Show", a radio show created to highlight contemporary Polynesian Music from Pacific Islander Artists of the South and North Pacific Oceania and mainland USA.

May:

- Attended the SPECTACULAR CAPAA 40th Celebration Event!
- Participated in the Public Health Focus Group on Communicating Public Health Concerns Information to communities of color.
- Participated as a Commissioner for the Lynnwood Diversity Commission Meeting and Lynnwood City Council Meetings.
- Attended the API Heritage Celebration at Seattle Center
- Guest Speaker at the South Seattle Community College API Student LUAU.
- Guest Speaker for the Everett Naval Station API Heritage Celebration Event.
- Hosted "Da Coconut Wireless Radio Show" a radio show created to highlight contemporary Polynesian Music from Pacific Islander Artists of the South and North Pacific Oceania and mainland USA.
- Guest Speaker for the Nooksak Indian Tribe API Luau in Bellingham, WA.

June:

- Attended the Philippines Cultural Celebration at Seattle Center
- Hosted "Da Coconut Wireless Radio Show" a radio show created to highlight contemporary Polynesian Music from Pacific Islander Artists of the South and North Pacific Oceania and mainland USA.
- Participated in CAPAA Nominations Committee to recommend Commissioners for our next appointments.

Motion was made at 2:00 by Commissioner Pen and seconded by Commissioner Dash to adjourn the meeting with unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Amy Van.