

The State of Washington

# CAPAA

COMMISSION ON  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



## **Executive Director's Report**

January 12, 2013  
Asian Counseling and Referral Services  
3639 Martin Luther King Jr. Way South  
Seattle, WA 98144

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**1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium is \$234,000 for FY 2012 and \$212,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$446,000. A request for \$12,000 in FY 2013 and FY 2015 was made to the Office of Financial Management to cover basic operating expenses.

**2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an online casework system. Requests on data related to the Asian American and Pacific Islander population and employment opportunities remain steady.

**3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

- **Regular Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session begins on January 14, 2013 in Olympia. In November, the commission approved its 2013 legislative priorities in the areas of: education, healthcare, human services, economic development and immigration. We thank Commissioner Aragon for her work in serving as our legislative liaison.
- **Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Day:** API Legislative Day is on February 19, 2013 in Olympia. This event is organized by the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition with over thirty community organization sponsors. More information can be found on our website.
- **Ethnic Commission Legislative Reception:** The annual ethnic commission legislative reception is scheduled for February 5, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Columbia Room on the capitol campus. We invite community members to meet state legislators, board members of the commissions and representatives from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.

**4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:**

- **Memo of Understanding on Responding to Emergencies in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is working on a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Justice, Emergency Management Division, Human Rights Commission and the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in follow up to the creation of A Guide for Responding to Emergencies in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities. Access to information and resources during emergencies is critical for the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in our state. This guide was developed to assist agencies in working with diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in an emergency, disaster or a culturally sensitive issue. The development of a standing infrastructure to respond to emergencies with interagency involvement on a state and federal level is in progress.

- **Marine Debris Task Force:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs continues to serve on the Washington State Marine Debris Task Force and as a lead to the Cultural Heritage Workgroup. This workgroup continues to provide counsel on cultural competency issues and ways to reach out to diverse communities relating to our state's work on the Japanese tsunami marine debris. Most recently, the workgroup provided guidance on a list of ethnic media contacts to the Department of Ecology to assist in the distribution of information and public notices. Residents who encounter potentially hazardous marine debris should use the state's toll-free reporting and information line at 855-WACOAST (855-922-6278).
- **Commission Initiatives:** The commission continues its work on two statewide initiatives: the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative and the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. More information can be found on our website.
- **CAPAA ACLF Fellowship:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) is pleased to announce the selection of the 2013 Fellow, Grant Kagawa. This is the fourth year of the program.

## 5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct community outreach and provide advocacy on policy related issues facing the AAPI community and outreach to underrepresented populations. Over 125 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
  - **Community Connections:** Staff continues to meet with over twenty community leaders and community based organizations on a regular basis 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. Some recent issues raised by community liaisons include: preserving financial assistance for Asian American and Pacific Islander students, access to employment resources and requests for support on securing state funding in this upcoming legislative session for clinics and community centers serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander population.
  - **Remembrance for Elaine Akagi:** The commission recently presented a letter of condolence to the family of Elaine Akagi. Elaine Akagi was a tireless community worker and an advocate for civil rights. She is remembered for her admirable work in the Japanese American Citizens League and for dedicating her life to advocating for those members of our society discriminated against.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in our state.
  - **Federal Policies Impacting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Staff continues to participate in monthly calls with federal agencies on policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Issues range from health, education, the economy and immigration. Federal agencies include the Department of Justice, White House and the Federal Trade Commission.

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture:** Staff provided recommendations to Chris Bieker with the farm service division on outreach to organizations that engage with Asian American farmers in Washington State. This agency provides federal financial assistance to farmers.
- **Federal Trade Commission:** In December, staff participated in the testing of the Federal Trade Commission's Website to provide recommendations on accessibility and cultural competence. Staff is also monitoring data on consumer protection cases and continues to make recommendations for the collection of disaggregated data in our state.
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with our agency liaisons on a monthly basis. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff connected with Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on programs, policies and data. The commission received a briefing and continues to provide recommendations on the implementation of ESSHB 2536 pertaining to an inventory of evidence based practices for children and juveniles. The commission also continues to monitor data on the number of Asian American and Pacific Islanders utilizing the department's services.
  - **Employment Security Department:** Teresa Eckstein is our new agency liaison. With the departure of Eddie Maiva, a staff member who worked on outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the commission is advocating for the hire of an immediate replacement. The commission continues to advocate for outreach to the Pacific Islander community given our state's data showing that this demographic faces one of the lowest rates of unemployment.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff continues to meet with Lyn Peters on programs and policies of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continues to advocate for an increase of translated materials on consumer protection issues. Community members should be aware of a consumer alert where individuals are fraudulently representing companies on unpaid loan transactions. This is a debt collection scam. To determine whether a lender is properly licensed to conduct business, you can access the "Verify a License" feature at [www.dfi.wa.gov](http://www.dfi.wa.gov).
  - **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff connected with Paul Corning on a standing request for the collection of disaggregated data on consumer protection complaints. The commission continues to advocate for more translated materials in Asian languages and disaggregated data. Most recently, the commission submitted a proposal for a statewide consumer protection campaign for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
  - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** The commission is working with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board on the release of statewide data on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the workforce. This data will be made public at the commission's board meeting in January 2013. The board recently released its High Skills, High Wages 2012-2022: Washington Strategic Plan which included policy recommendations from the commission. The commission provided recommendations on the inclusion of high school dropout and retrieval programs and wrap-around models for diverse

populations. Several community members also participated in public forums on the draft plan in Everett, Tacoma, Spokane and Yakima.

- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** The executive director continues to meet with Chris Liu to discuss policies, programs and opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander business owners. The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises will be featured on a panel sponsored by the commission in January where all known Asian American and Pacific Islander chambers of commerce will be in attendance.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff connected with Cathy Liu Scott on current programs, data and policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission requested data on the number of cases filed with the Ombudsman Office from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Recommendations were also provided on outreach strategies to ensure the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is aware of the services of the Office of the Education Ombudsman.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, continues to provide updates on proposed policy changes and the number of discrimination complaints filed by the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission is working with the Human Rights Commission on ways to outreach to the community on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity since rule making is currently underway. Community members should be aware that the Human Rights Commission is holding a board meeting on January 24, 2013 in Snohomish County.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Staff connected with Amy Blondin on early learning programs and policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continues to provide recommendations on the creation of videos for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on the Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines. Community members should be aware that the department will be releasing a report that includes disaggregated data on how children are doing in January 2013.
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff continues to meet with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, on changes in law and policies that may impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The Department of Labor and Industries announced that there is no overall increase in workers' compensation insurance premiums in 2013. This is the second year in a row that the Department of Labor and Industries has held overall rates flat. The commission will continue to monitor the Department of Labor and Industries review of premium rates next year and any adjustments to cover the anticipated costs of claims that will be filed.
- **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Josh Johnston who provided an update on proposed rules impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission is conducting research on the development of a specialty license plate. In December, the Department of Licensing expanded a new program allowing driver training schools and school district driver training programs to conduct driver knowledge and skills testing for new driver license applicants.
- **Secretary of State:** Our agency liaison, Patrick Reed, provided an update on policies and publications of interest to the community. The commission is working with the Secretary of State on outreach to Asian American and Pacific Islander Chambers of Commerce to ensure businesses are aware of existing policies and programs.

- **Department of Revenue:** Staff connected with Rick Stedman. The commission is working with the Department of Revenue on outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on policies and programs. Community members should be aware that the local sales tax rates changed in San Juan County and the cities of Sequim and Spokane on January 1, 2013. More information can be found at [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov)
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Chewon Lee, our agency liaison, provided an update to staff on policies, programs, resources and outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continues to monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its potential impact on students studying here from abroad.
- **Department of Commerce:** Leigh Felton, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies and programs of interest to the community. Community members should be aware that Select USA is hosting an event for investors from China. The Washington State Department of Commerce also awarded more than \$65 million from the Housing Trust Fund for 49 affordable housing projects in 23 counties across the state. The projects will provide a total of 2,349 units of affordable housing for low-income households and will generate an estimated 2,866 jobs.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to connect with Phouang Hamilton, our agency liaison. The commission recently received a briefing on the agency's legislative priorities and is working with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction on providing recommendations for representatives to serve on the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program Committee.
- **Department of Health:** Jovi Swanson, our agency liaison, provided updates on programs, policies and events of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The Department of Health recently filed a home health care aide emergency rule. The department also revised marriage certificates to conform with the new same-sex marriage law giving couples a full range of options - gender neutral or gender specific terms. The new form is effective December 6th.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Staff connected with Antonio Sanchez who provided an update on his work with many representatives from Asian countries. Commissioner Leung continues to work with the office on potential trade missions to Japan, South Korea and China.
- **Department of Ecology:** In December, the executive director met with the agency's communication and education office on policies and programs of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continues to work with the agency on a range of issues, including: tsunami marine debris to fish consumption rates.
- **Legislative Outreach:** Upon the request of legislative members, the commission provides briefings on the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community and its work.
  - **Asian Pacific American Legislative Members Briefing:** The executive director met with Representatives Santos, Hasegawa and Ryu to provide an update on programs, services and the interagency work of the commission on November 20, 2012. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.

## 6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The commission will be holding board meetings in 2013 on March 16, June 15, September 14 and November 16. Special thanks to the Asian Counseling & Referral Service for providing a venue for the January meeting and Commissioner Dash for the refreshments.
- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services and economic development. Most committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call.

## 7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** In November, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative released a summary on its key findings and proposed next steps for 2013 and beyond. From the community meetings and the culmination of two summit gatherings, the Initiative produced recommendations to support the success of Asian American and Pacific Islander students which include: coordinating community-based efforts and organizations on grassroots advocacy efforts, facilitating partnerships and building family support groups to close the opportunity gap. The initiative is currently working to produce a list of Southeast Asian ethnic groups to be included on the University of Washington's admission application.
  - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to serve as our community representatives on this committee. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update and more information on the release of the committee's annual report to the legislature.
  - **Education Workgroups:** Community representatives continue to sit on the following workgroups: Early Learning, Gangs in Schools, Ed Tech, QEC Compensation Workgroup, the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee and the OSPI & External Partners Dropout group.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** The commission continues working on the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in our state. The focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention and education on the Affordable Care Act. There are continuous discussions on monitoring, surveying and analyzing current trends in health legislation in other states that impact Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and determining whether any of this work can be utilized in policymaking for Washington State. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.
  - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director serves as a representative to this council on behalf of the commission. Most recently, recommendations were provided to the council on evidence-based practices for delivering services to children and juveniles. The council also recently finalized the State Action Plan to Eliminate Health

Disparities which includes policy recommendations for the areas of: poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, adverse child experiences, health reform implementation and its potential impacts on health disparities.

- **Puget Sound Health Alliance:** At the request of the community, the commission provided a letter of support on the inclusion of Asians, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in the Puget Sound Health Alliance proposal for Aligning Forces for Equality.
- **Economic Development:**
  - **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** A special thanks to the many representatives who continue to serve on statewide committees working on economic development issues. Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, serves as a representative on the Small Business Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dash sits on the Export Initiative which hosts quarterly working group meetings. Maiko Winkler-Chin is working with staff on the Microenterprise program and Mohan Gurung on the Efficient Regulation exercise.
  - **Washington Wine Asia Export Initiative:** Commissioner Leung continues to work with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a wine export initiative.