



The State of Washington  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

210 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SW • RM 301 • ms 40925 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0925  
PH: 360.725.5667 • FX: 360.586.9501 • EM: [capaa@capaa.wa.gov](mailto:capaa@capaa.wa.gov) • WS: [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov)

---

***Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans***

**Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting**  
Korean Women's Association, Senior Center  
31635 23rd Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003  
Saturday, November 19, 2011

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Sofia Aragon, Jeannie Lee, Rey Pascua, Jagdish Sharma, Tashi Khamshitsang, Pearl Leung, Rey Pascua, Lisa Dickinson, Quang Nguyen

Commissioners Absent: Frieda Takamura, Ty Tufono

Staff Members Present: Executive Director: Kendee Yamaguchi, Executive Assistant: Justin Chan

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 MINUTES**

Motion was made 10:21 a.m. by Commissioner Leung and seconded by Commissioner Dash to approve the minutes with no amendments. Minutes approved.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Debadutta Dash

- Indicated that the Port of Seattle has formed its first sister port relationship in Dhamra, India, following an agreement signed between the port and officials from the Dhamra Port Co. Ltd., on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Isi Siddiqui, the U.S. Chief Agricultural Negotiator in October who provided key insight on a U.S. trade agreement with countries that include South Korea and Panama to increase exports by 2013 through trade tariff reductions.
- Attended a meeting with the former Consulate General of South Korea in late July.

Commissioner Jeannie Lee

- Made updates for the following events; September 20<sup>th</sup>, provided diversity training with the Liquor board, September 6<sup>th</sup>, attended a AAPI celebration at Clover Park, September 24<sup>th</sup>, attended the Radio Hankook's second K-Pop song contest for non-Koreans, September 28<sup>th</sup>, attended a meeting with the Department of Ecology 28<sup>th</sup> indicating that gas station owners require additional training to run the station starting August of next year, October 7<sup>th</sup>, met with Eddie Maiava with the Employment Security Department who was invited to the November 23<sup>rd</sup> radio broadcast, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, attended an American dentist event.
- Provided a final update on the Snohomish County issue with the Korean American community.
- Indicated that there is a food exhibition at the Wing Luke Museum which documents the Korean food experience at her home.

#### Commissioner Tashi Khamshitsang

- Participated in the second session of the Tibetan parliament in India for one week as the Tibetan representative of North American.
- Attended a delegate's meeting of the International Electrical Workers Union 77 in King County.

#### Commissioner Pearl Leung

- Attended the Asian Pacific American Women Safety Center Auction. There were discussions on human trafficking and abuse and suggestions on how to combat human trafficking. The Asian & Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center (API Safety Center) and Chaya are merging.
- Participated in the Northwest Asian Weekly Woman and Empowerment awards.
- Updated members on the work of the Wine Export Initiative. There was a meeting in Walla Walla with the Hong Kong Association of Washington to discuss the involvement of AAPI entrepreneurs in the wine industry and to have Walla Walla as an ED5 program regional center, making it a wine destination. Congressmen Jayslee's Office will be hosting a meeting on this topic in January.

#### Commissioner Rey Pascua

- Reflected on October Filipino American History Month. Information was sent statewide on the House resolution and the Governor's proclamation.
- Updated the commission on a recent event. The Filipino community of Yakima Valley held a recent harvest dinner in October.
- Provided an update on the recent AAPI Voices in Education Initiative which held a focus group with the Filipino Community in Wapato on November 10<sup>th</sup> which was attended by parents and children.
- Indicated that there will be a 60th anniversary celebration at the Filipino Hall in March. There is currently work on establishing planning committees.
- Informed members that a delegation of community members met with the new Catholic Bishop Joseph J. Tyson.
- Participated in a meeting with Sharon Prill, the new publisher at the Yakima Herald.
- Met with Tom Silva to discuss ways to increase more trade and apple exports to the Philippines.
- Attended a meeting with Macaw Tribe leaders in Neah Bay in an effort to produce research and books on Native Americans leaders who are usually half Filipino and Native American.

#### Commissioner Jagdish Sharma

- Spoke at the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi Statue at the Bellevue Public Library.
- Participated in the diversity conference at the Lynnwood Convention Center to discuss culturally appropriate business interactions.

#### Commissioner Lisa Dickinson

- Attended the Asian Bar Association's dinner which awarded numerous scholarships.
- Participated in the YWCA Woman of Achievement Awards in Spokane.
- Indicated her work on the board of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center which offers services child, youth and family services in Spokane.
- Informed members of her work on the Northwest Justice Project board as Vice-President.

#### Commissioner Quang Nguyen

- Attended meetings with stakeholders on a wider range of economic development issues in the International District and Southeast Seattle.
- Indicated that he received an award from the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation as the 2011 Alumni Achievement Award Recipient.
- Informed members that his focus will be on economic development and education especially in the back drop of government spending reductions.

#### Commissioner Sofia Aragon

- Attended the following events: ACLF legislative panel on the recession with legislative members at ACRS, 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Filipino American Community of South Puget Sound Annual Gala, Nurses Association Conference to discuss concerns of more AAPI participation in the nursing field, a meeting with

Teamster 117 and a delegation from Cambodia to discuss labor and woman's rights, an October joint conference on public health and health disparities that included discussions on the issue of disaggregated data, JACL panel at University of Washington to promote civic engagement, a meeting with Speaker of the House Frank Chopp and Council member Larry Gossett to discuss budget impacts on the AAPI community.

- Announced that the Governor is accepting nominations to the Health Insurance Exchange.
- Updated members of her work sitting on the board of the Asian Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment.
- Provided an update on the commission's AAPI Health Disparity Initiative that will launch this year and its focus areas.
- Thanked executive director Yamaguchi and staff for their work and research on the initiative.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### 1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2011-2013 Biennium is \$232,000 for FY 2012 and \$219,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$451,000. The agency will be able to maintain current staffing levels but will continue to have limited discretionary funding for printing, purchased services, supplies, and travel reimbursements.
- **Unemployment Claim:** Last month, the agency received an unanticipated unemployment claim from the Employment Securities Department for a former executive assistant. This directly impacts the agency's discretionary budget and severely limits all spending. It is unknown whether further monies will be needed at this time.
- **Governor's Budget Reduction Alternatives:** On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Governor presented a list of budget reduction alternatives which includes a 5% reduction applicable to all small state agencies. If it goes in effect, this would apply to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. A 5% reduction would amount to \$23,000 for the biennium with a reduction of \$11,600 and \$10,950 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. A 10% reduction would amount to \$45,000 with a reduction of \$23,200 and \$21,900 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. The agency may be able to manage in FY 2012, however, in FY 2013, the agency will not be able to maintain current staffing levels or have any discretionary funding.

### 2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Casework System:** The agency continues its implementation phase of an integrated online casework system to streamline operations, strengthen accountability, and offer top-rated customer service. This system was created in response to the community's growing needs and population increase. It expands our agency's ability to collect data on AAPI ethnic groups going beyond federal and state requirements and allows us to identify trends impacting the community. Since implementation, staff has seen a rise in requests related to employment discrimination, financial resources for education, and employment opportunities.
- **Public Records Request:** On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the agency received a public records request. Staff has met compliance and fulfilled the request.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Special Session:** On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Governor Gregoire announced that she will call legislators in for a special session, beginning on November 28, 2011. This announcement came after the state economist lowered the revenue forecast for the 2011-13 biennium by \$1.4 billion.
- **Regular Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session will begin on January 9, 2012 in Olympia. At the November board meeting, Commissioner Aragon, our legislative liaison, will circulate the 2012 legislative priority sheet for approval.
- **API Legislative Day Update:** API Legislative Day will not be taking place in February. Instead, the community will host a large summit at the Tacoma Dome in the fall of 2012.

### 4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **E-Jobs Alert:** In August, staff began developing a new resource for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in response to a rise of requests and data indicating that those Asians unemployed face longer durations of unemployment in comparison to other groups. Expanding on our preexisting webpage on jobs, staff will begin sending out regular electronic alerts of job listings received by our office. Community members can sign up to receive our *E-Jobs Alert* by visiting the main page of our agency’s website and entering their email address and clicking on “government services” or contacting agency staff.
- **Community Connections:** Removing barriers and increasing access for our community is the main catalyst behind the development of a new program which will be launched at the beginning of next year called, “Community Connections.” The aim of this program is to institutionalize a longstanding infrastructure within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community that allows for regular direct in-person exchanges of information and offers an alternative forum for the community to raise issues of concern.
- **Reports Page:** Building off of the August updates to our state agency’s data page which included information on population data sorted by race, demographic characteristics, and population by county and legislative district, staff launched *Phase One* of a new “Reports” webpage. A collection of recently issued reports and publications on AAPI issues is hosted in this section. *Phase One* focuses on education. To follow will be sections on the commission’s remaining priority areas of health, human services, economic development, and immigration.
- **Initiatives:** After successfully partnering with the community on its launch of an AAPI education initiative earlier this year, the commission is exploring the development of future initiatives in the areas of health disparities and economic development. Commissioner Aragon is the lead for the health disparity initiative and Commissioner Dash is the lead for the economic development initiative. Staff is conducting research on state and national models. Community members are invited to offer ideas, recommendations or input by contacting the respective commissioners.
- **Filipino American History Month:** Special recognition to Commissioner Pascua for his successful efforts in establishing October 2011 as Filipino American History Month in Washington State. For the past two years, he has worked with the legislature on the passage of resolutions and the Governor’s Office on a proclamation recognizing this special time. He was instrumental in working with school districts, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and numerous organizations to raise awareness of this month.
- **Accepting Applications for the CAPAA ACLF Fellowship:** Celebrating the third year of the fellowship program sponsored by the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF), we invite future leaders to apply. The fellowship is based in Olympia during the regular legislative session beginning in January 2012.

## 5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Over 110 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.
  - **AAPI Community Members Meet with Governor’s Staff:** On November 8<sup>th</sup>, at the request of the statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, CAPAA assisted in setting up a meeting between the community and the Governor’s Office. The meeting focused on several issues impacting the community ranging from human services to immigration.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies and national organizations to stay apprised of policies impacting the AAPI community in our state.
  - **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published final standards for data collection on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability status. The final standards add seven Asian subgroups (Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Japanese, Korean and other Asian) and four Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroups (Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan and other Pacific Islander). The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs provided public comment on this issue and advocated for the inclusion of more subgroups based on our state’s population.

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** Staff connected with Renée Dagseth at the Environmental Protection Agency to request that specific outreach be conducted to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on the contamination of fish along the Duwamish. There is a concern that the community is fishing more in this area. A presentation will be made available to community based organizations to raise awareness on this issue in the near future.
- **National Conference Call of Asian American and Pacific Islander Commissions:** On September 29th and November 4th, our commission participated in two national conference calls hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders where we learned about the work of Minnesota's AAPI Council and the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs.
- **Advancing Justice Conference:** In October, the executive director participated in the Advancing Justice Conference which the commission was a co-sponsor. The Advancing Justice Conference is a national civil rights and social justice conference that aims to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders in one place to address a broad range of issues facing the AAPI community. It is a joint project by the Asian American Institute (Chicago), Asian American Justice Center (Washington, DC), Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (Los Angeles). At the conference, a landmark report was released called, *A Community of Contrasts, Asian Americans in the United States: 2011*.
- **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:** Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, provided an update on the agency's proposed reductions and how they may impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
  - **Employment Security Department:** Staff continues to meet with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison, to discuss ways to provide more assistance for jobseekers in the AAPI community given that our community faces longer durations of unemployment once unemployed. Upon the request of our commissioners, an agency representative met with members from the Samoan and Korean communities. The agency will also be featured on our Korean radio pilot program on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss available state resources.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff connected with Lyn Peters on programs of interest to the AAPI community. Our agency made a recommendation that more materials be translated into Asian languages. Brochures in Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean on the Foreclosure Fairness Act and Mediation program which include information for homeowners facing foreclosure will be available in the near future.
  - **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff continues to meet with Elena Granados on policies affecting the AAPI community and to advocate for outreach programs.
  - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** The Workforce Board is currently focusing on youth unemployment and came out with a plan which can be found at [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov). Our commission has requested data on AAPI youth unemployment in our state.
  - **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff continues to provide policy recommendations and input through our representation on the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. The committee is currently working on procurement reform recommendations. The executive director also continues to meet with Cathy Canorro, our liaison, on a monthly basis to discuss economic development opportunities for AAPI small business owners.
  - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff met with Joel Domingo, a new program manager at the Office of the Education Ombudsman, to provide recommendations on a program in development called, "No Parent Left Behind." This program will provide classes on education advocacy for parents of K-12 public school students and also train members from diverse communities to teach classes for parents.
  - **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, provided an update to staff on programs and events of interest to the AAPI community. Our commission will be presenting at a future board meeting for the Human Rights Commission to update members on our work and the current issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

- **Department of Early Learning:** Last month, the application for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant of \$60 million over four years for our state was submitted with a letter of support from our commission. Community members may be interested to know that applicants are being sought for the Trainer Approval Board which reviews and qualifies trainers for child care provider continuing education.
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** The Department of Labor and Industries has proposed a 2.5 percent average increase to workers' compensation premium rates. This is the lowest workers' compensation rate increase in five years. A series of six public hearings took place last month.
- **Department of Licensing:** Community members may be interested to know that the Department of Licensing recently introduced several new services to its website. The latest additions enable drivers and ID card holders to change their address, replace a lost or stolen card, and get a copy of their driving record.
- **Secretary of State:** Patrick Reed, our agency liaison, has been working with several state agencies in an effort to consolidate the many business resource guides provided to new and prospective businesses. AAPI businesses may be interested in checking out this new consolidated resource, the *Washington State Small Business Guide*, which contains a wide range of information including sections to plan, start, run, and grow your business.
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff met with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs for the AAPI community. The Department of Revenue has received a number of questions from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on taxes which are currently being addressed.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** The Office of the Insurance Commissioner recently produced an online *Appeals Guide* in Chinese to assist community members in appealing health denials. This resource can be found at [www.insurance.wa.gov](http://www.insurance.wa.gov). OIC also completed their "Consumer Assistance Program" where over 25% of the events held were specifically for the AAPI community. Our commission was a co-sponsor on these events.
- **Department of Commerce:** Staff recently connected with Wilford Saunders, Broadband Policy & Program Manager, to discuss outreach efforts for the AAPI community on broadband issues. At the request of the agency, a representative from Commerce will be at our board meeting to discuss the Export Initiative which targets small and medium sized businesses to encourage companies to develop new international markets and customer bases, and increase the total export sales out of Washington.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to meet with Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison for policy updates on the Bullying Workgroup, Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, Gangs in School Taskforce, and the Dropout Prevention Team. Staff and representatives from our AAPI community sit on each of these groups. Community members may also be interested in a series of public forums that OSPI is hosting about implementing the Common Core State Standards. More information can be found at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)
- **Department of Health:** The Department of Health is working on a new user friendly website. Our commission is advocating for the inclusion of Asian languages on the website for those community members that may have limited English proficiency.
- **Department of Ecology:** Recently, the Department of Ecology was featured on our commission's radio pilot program to discuss environmental requirements and other resources of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A special acknowledgment to Commissioner Lee for also providing diversity training to the Department of Ecology's Underground Storage Tank inspectors on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Antonio Sanchez is our new agency liaison. Staff connected with our former liaison, K.D. Chapman-See, to discuss some upcoming work by our commissioners on wine exports to Asian countries.
- **Washington State Minority and Justice Commission:** On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the executive director represented the commission to provide feedback on how the Minority and Justice Commission might be more effective, how to better fulfill their mission, and how our organization might assist. The Minority and Justice Commission is charged with determining whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of

Washington and to the extent that bias exists, taking creative steps to overcome it. Several minority bar associations and all ethnic commission representatives were present.

- **Washington State Coalition for Language Access Summit:** On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the executive director participated in the opening panel of WASCLA's annual summit addressing language access barriers in state government.

## 6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** Please save the dates for our board meetings in 2012 which will be on January 14<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup>. Special acknowledgments to the Korean Women's Association for being a partner for our November board meeting and providing a venue and refreshments.
- **Standing Committees:** Special acknowledgment to Lua Pritchard for her service as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Commissioner Sofia Aragon will be serving as the new Chair of the committee.
- **Special Acknowledgments:** A big thank you to Commissioner Lua Pritchard for her most valuable and dedicated service. Commissioner Pritchard was recently appointed to serve on the board of trustees for the Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood.

## 7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **South Seattle Community College AANAPISI Grant:** In September, South Seattle Community College received a federal grant to support their work serving Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders. This AANAPISI grant focuses on educational planners to help our AAPI students through their journey to degree attainment, cultural specialists to engage them, and online learning to provide access options. Asian American and Pacific Islander students are one of the highest demographics attending community colleges. Our commission applauds their continued efforts and work.
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Advisory Council met which is comprised of AAPI leaders in early learning, K-12, and higher education. The first phase of the initiative is underway and focuses on community based research on the challenges and opportunities for AAPI's in the education system. Statewide focus groups are being held with parents from the Korean, Tongan, Cambodian, Bhutanese and Laotian communities. More focus groups are planned with other AAPI communities. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative.
  - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our community on this committee. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update at the next meeting.
  - **Education Workgroups:** Representatives from our community continue to sit on the following workgroups: Early Learning, Gangs in Schools, Ed Tech, QEC Compensation Workgroup, and the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee. Staff also recently attended the OSPI & External Partners Dropout Meeting.
  - **Pacific Islander Education Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director represents the commission on this council. The council is currently developing a plan to create policy recommendations for their new priority areas of: poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, adverse child experiences, health reform implementation, and the state system and its potential impacts on health disparities. The council also discussed the creation of advisory committees.
  - **AAPI Health Disparities:** In 2012, the commission will be holding three events on health disparities impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In partnership with community groups and

the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, the commission will be bringing speakers into the community to discuss particular health issues and the resources and preventative measures that can be taken.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, continues to serve as a representative on the Small Business Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dash serves 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.
- **Governor Gregoire's Trade Mission to China:** In September, Governor Gregoire led state and territorial governors on a trade mission to China to strengthen business relationships, encourage economic trade and ultimately create jobs as part of her state Export Initiative.
- **President of the Republic of Korea visits Washington:** Commissioner Lee attended the forum with President Lee and his wife on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss opportunities to strengthen ties between Washington State and Korea. Our state is home to more than 60,000 Korean Americans and Korea was Washington's fourth largest export market last year.
- **Washington Wine Asia Export Initiative:** Under Commissioner Leung's leadership, the commission is meeting with the Wine Commission, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, trade organizations, businesses, and Congressmen Jay Inslee's office to gather information and develop a plan to facilitate and promote the trade of wine between Washington and the Pacific Rim. Special thanks to Commissioner Leung for her work.

- **Immigration:**

- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Ceremony:** On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Commissioner Dash was the keynote speaker at the very first naturalization ceremony at Bellevue City Hall. There were 51 individuals from 21 countries who became naturalized US citizens on that day.

## DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMMISSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Aragon and seconded by Commissioner Dash. The legislative priorities were approved unanimously with amendments.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### Department of Commerce

- Andrew Crowder, commerce specialist at the Department of Commerce, discussed the overall picture of Washington's trade activities and provided highlights on the Korea U.S. trade agreement, export and import trade statistics and trade promoting activities. Washington exports in 2009 were 76 billion dollars in goods and services, a third of which was in the aerospace sector. A portion of exports were in specialty goods and produce such as cherries and apples and services such as insurance, banking and agriculture and design services. The top export nations are China, Canada, Japan and Korea. The top import nations are Canada, Taiwan, Korea, China, and Japan. This highlights the importance of the Asian region as a whole. The Department of Commerce works with small and medium businesses to increase exports with grants and resources. A Small Business Credit Initiative to increase trade in Washington is underway. The STEP program awards 1.6 million dollars to help small businesses access the market in places like China.
- Rick Torrence, managing director at the Department of Commerce, provided information on the Foreclosure Fairness Act. The housing crisis is estimated to have produced 40,000 foreclosures in Washington which equates to lost jobs and revenue. This act reduces unnecessary foreclosures and strengthens consumer protections. Washington is a non-judicial foreclosure state. The program is funded by fees associated with each default; 80% goes to housing counseling and 20% goes to the departments for administration costs. In terms of counseling and mediation, banks must send a notice to lenders 30 days before foreclosure. The telephone number for foreclosure counseling is 1.877.894.HOME. Counseling results in the number of foreclosures being reduced by half. This act only applies to owner occupied



residential properties who have received a notice of default for foreclosure until the trustee posts a sale. There are 700 referrals for mediation and they have roughly 175 mediators.

#### **Department of Health**

- Jovi Swanson, health services consultant, and Larry French, public health advisor at the Department of Health provided information on the proposed Food Rule for 2012 and the Health and Food Safety program. Each county has their own food program with 1 to 50 food inspectors that are trained by their department. The department deals with research and enforcement of retail food safety as well as numerous food recalls. AAPI's occupy more than 50% of restaurants by theme. A draft of the food rule brochure will be amended with recommendations from the community. This involves food safety at not just retail locations but at home. It is recommended to have food temperatures 41 degrees below or 140 degrees above but any temperature in-between could be a safety hazard. Do not forget to wash your produce and wash your hands with soap.

#### **Department of Social and Health Services**

- Victor Chacón, senior director of diversity affairs at the Department of Social and Health Services discussed his agency's cultural competency policy. The cultural competency policy is a set of values that allows workers to effectively work across cultures in accordance with the strategic values of the agency. This policy addresses work place attitude and actions to allow for more efficient and effective interactions with diverse communities. The policy addresses the importance of culture and equity in bringing about more inclusion as a driver for diversity and fairness.
- Eddie Rodriguez, statewide community engagement manager at the Department of Social and Health Services provided members information on the department's budget reductions. The department is proposing big cuts that amount to 10% service reductions on top of a 3,000 employee reduction since 2008. There is a 42% caseload increase due to the poor economy in combination with the additional cuts. We will see a 36% decrease in services with 2,000 affected cases which include reductions in the disability lifeline program, state food assistance program, age blind and disabled program, and the electronic benefits transfer cards program.

#### **Office of Minority Women's Business Enterprises**

- Cathy Canorro, acting director at the Office of Minority Women's Business Enterprises, provided a brief update on the link deposit program. She first thanked CAPAA for their partnerships and executive director Yamaguchi for her part on the ad hoc advisory committee and in providing procurement recommendations. The Ad Hoc advisory committee gave Irene Reyes, Filipino American owner of Excel Supply Company Inc, the Supplier Diversity Champion Award for disadvantaged business and established entrepreneur. In regards to the link deposit program, the AAPI community is excelling in the program which provides affordable financing to companies who are OMWBE certified. The AAPI community is far exceeding other ethnic communities in the program, as seen with the enrollment of two AAPI banks, Cathay bank and East West bank. In fiscal year 2011, 142 loans were given and 70 of those loans were given to AAPIs. 832 jobs were created from this program and we applaud companies for taking advantage of this service and being successful.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

##### **Korean American Coalition of Washington**

- Shari Song from the Korean American Coalition provided information on the 2nd Korean Home Preservation Event on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Korean Baptist Church in Federal Way. The community based home foreclosure prevention event will have language interpreters and housing counselors who will follow-up with home owners for proper loan modifications and to make sure the process is covered from start to finish.

##### **Korean Women's Association of Washington**

- Peter Ansara from the Korean Women's Association gave a brief update on the organization. The Korean Women's Association was started four years ago with a 20 million budget, offering services such as health education, a domestic violence shelter, immigration and naturalization assistance. However, with the recent budget reductions, most of the services are being reduced. In January, Initiative 1163 to require increased nursing training will be implemented, but this initiative will reduce KWA's revenue, limit expenditures and affect numerous programs in the organization.

### **Korean American Bar Association of Washington**

- Dan Chen from the Korean American Bar Association provided some background information and updates on their organization. The Korean American Bar Association has approximately 150 lawyers and is involved in two main programs to increase diverse participation and awareness on the bench. The first program is the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluations Committee that grades judges based on their awareness of AAPI issues, competency, integrity and fairness. The second program is Judicial Institute that supports and encourages AAPIs to higher judicial positions. On January 31<sup>st</sup> there will be training with potential AAPI judges. KABA is also involved in setting up a pro bono clinic workshop and a student mentoring program with SU and UW law students.

### **Questions and Answers**

- Question to Andrew Crowder regarding how to provide additional services and regional business trade with India.
  - Recognizes there is a substantial difference in business culture and the agency does training and consulting.
- Question to Andrew Crowder regarding how CAPAA can help promote trade.
  - Get the word out. There are free service to small businesses and we want to have businesses make money.

Commissioner Dickinson motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 1:55 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Dash with unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Justin Chan.