



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

Vedic Cultural Center
1420 228th Avenue Southeast
Sammamish, WA 98075
Saturday, November 20, 2010

REGULAR BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee, Rey Pascua, Lua Pritchard, Tyati Tufono, Tashi Khamshitsang, Sofia Aragon

Commissioners Absent: Albert Shen, Jagdish Sharma, Debadutta Dash

Staff Members Present: Executive Director: Kendee Yamaguchi, Executive Assistant: Veasna Hoy

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Lua Pritchard, seconded by Commissioner Tashi Khamshitsang to approve the minutes with no amendments.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Pritchard

- API legislative day will take place on February 17, 2011
- Continues to sit on the Governor's Interagency Council for Health Disparities
- Asia Pacific Cultural Center is holding an event in Tacoma featuring Thailand on February 12, 2011 and hosting a cultural trip to ten cities which include five cities in China and five cities in Taiwan
- Continues to attend meetings for the Chronic Disease Coalition with Commissioner Aragon
- Participated in a health event for Samoans sponsored by the Tacoma Pierce County Nurse Association and the Pierce County Health Department
- Continues to hold meetings with legislators and asks community and CAPAA to support efforts with immigration reform and making it equitable for all
- "Cultural Treasure Trunks" which is held in schools will focus on Cambodia in January 2011 and India in April 2011

Commissioner Khamshitsang

- Noted that there are only 300 Tibetans in our state
- Continues effort to revive the Tibetan Youth Group in Seattle through the Tibetan Association
- Currently working on conducting outreach to various ethnic groups within the King County area

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.

Commissioner Lee

- Emphasized continued issues among the Snohomish Elders Association and Snohomish County regarding the allocation of funds and the difficulty in providing meal programs geared towards a specific ethnicity
- Updated commission on radio pilot program and recent topics covered
- Indicated that the City of Seattle is providing a 2 million dollar grant to fund a program to promote the sale of healthy goods within convenient stores
- Acknowledged and thanked the Governor for sending representation to the Korean Grocer's Association event
- Currently is facilitating workshops for a one hour training on different cultures and communication through body language for government health officials

Commissioner Pascua

- Highlighted Filipino Heritage Month which included several celebratory events such as the Filipino American National Historical Society and the 1st Annual Pinoy Reporter Tagumpay Awards
- Met with school superintendents of the Seattle school districts to advocate for incorporation of Filipino-American history within school curriculums
- Noted that the Mayor of the City of Seattle provided a proclamation for passage of the resolution declaring October as Filipino-American History Month
- Continues to support start up grants and funding for farmers
- Highlighted an award received by Rep. Santos at a state multicultural event on October 30, 2010

Commissioner Takamura

- Announced that API Heritage Month will take place on May 1st in the Seattle Center and will be coordinated by the Asian Pacific Director's Coalition
- Indicated that the Achievement Gap Committee continues to focus on two issue areas: establishing language for anti-bullying which includes racial and ethnic specification and enforcing civil rights within districts
- Requested feedback from the community for the Wing Luke Museum education exhibit which opens in April 2011
- Noted the adoption of the 24 credit high school graduation requirement by the state board of education and the dual objective is to increase college preparedness and promote parent involvement
- Reflected on the Edtrust conference in Washington D.C. and indicated that data was not disaggregated by specific AAPI ethnicities and representation was minimal at the event
- South Seattle Community College is launching a national website
- Tacoma School District is implementing a program to provide cultural training and education to teachers

Commissioner Tufono

- Continuing to assist with a food program for Samoan seniors in her region
- Noted that the redevelopment of resorts and restoration of crops in Samoa while in attendance of the one year anniversary memorial and that many Samoans are in good spirits although there is a decrease in FEMA presence
- Indicated that one of the Civic Engagement workshops was held for U.T.O.P.I.A.
- Expressed that U.T.O.P.I.A. is looking forward to participating in API Legislative Day
- Working to create API workshops in Lynwood as there is a growing population of Fijians, Tongans and Samoans

Commissioner Aragon

- Highlighted opportunities for community involvement:
 - o Revenue coalition to address issues regarding state budget cuts in health and education and the impact it will have on communities
 - o Health reform joint select committee advocating for issues on health disparities, workforce development for communities of color
 - o State health reform conference at the Hilton Seatac on January 5, 2011 which will address how to increase the workforce in minority communities and how to assist health care professionals who are working abroad in receiving credentials

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2009-2011 Biennium is \$216,000 for FY 2010 and \$236,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$452,000. In compliance with Executive Order 10-04, the agency submitted a 6.3% reduction package for the 2011 biennium which resulted in a fiscal reduction of \$15,000. The new FY 2011 budget is \$221,000. The agency identified goods and services as areas for reduction. The financial report provided by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS) indicates that the commission ended the third fiscal month with a savings of \$1,733.

- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** Staff updated the commission on the submission of the 2011-2013 Biennium operating budget to the Office of Financial Management. The operating budget is \$237,000 for FY 2012 and \$221,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$458,000. The Governor asked agencies to prepare for a 10% reduction. This is a reduction of \$23,700 and \$22,100 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. The agency has identified supplies, printing, purchased services, and miscellaneous as the areas for reduction. 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:

- **Agency Closure Dates:** ESSB 6503 requires agencies to close on the dates listed in the bill unless the agency has a compensation reduction plan approved by the Office of Financial Management. The agency will be closed on December 27, 2010 and January 28, 2011. Regular service will resume following the closure date.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Launch of Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL-Network):** The Commission completed its launch of a statewide agency network with over 20 participating agencies to build a long-standing infrastructure to ensure that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has access to education, health care, human services, economic development, etc.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** Ten statewide events are in progress connecting our community to information on how the government works and important state resources during these critical times. These workshops are in partnership with community groups and organizations. The civic engagement workshops provide a curriculum that includes cultural-specific information, civic engagement tools, and background on government processes.
- **Website Translation:** The Department of Information Services has completed the addition of a new *Google* feature allowing for the translation of our agency's website content into multiple Asian languages. The agency intends to expand the website into more languages, as they become available.
- **Immigration Resource Tab:** A new tab focusing on government services for immigrants is now available.
- **Policy Papers:** Following the release of our agency's first comprehensive report on the *State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington*, CAPAA has entered into an agreement to continue working with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality. The center is currently producing white papers on our priority areas for possible dissemination to policymakers during this upcoming legislative session. White papers are reports that focus on particular issues or problems and are commonly used by decision makers to help inform policy development.
- **Radio Pilot Program:** Special recognition to Commissioner Lee for her continued work on the monthly radio pilot program with Radio Hankook (a pioneer in Korean-language radio programming in the United States). We hope this pilot program will be successful and similar radio programs for other communities will be established.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Over 75 meetings and events with stakeholders and governmental entities have occurred since the last board meeting, not including the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
- **Federal Outreach:** In addition to statewide and agency outreach, staff met with several national organizations and federal agencies.
 - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Staff met with Daphne Kwok, newly appointed chair to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, to discuss national policy efforts impacting our community and future partnership opportunities. Congratulations to Hyeok Kim who was also appointed as a member to the national commission representing our state.
 - **Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP):** In November, staff met with J.D. Hokoyama, President and CEO of LEAP, a national organization focusing on corporate and community leadership to explore possible partnership opportunities in the Pacific Northwest region.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff met with 20 agency liaisons since the last board meeting.

- **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff met with new cabinet member Victor Chacon, Senior Director of Diversity, on the impact of the recent budget cuts on the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Further discussions on the naturalization program occurred with Jackie Sledge, administrator of the program.
- **Employment Security Department:** Staff met with Tim Gugerty to discuss ways to partner with ESD to better provide opportunities and assistance for jobseekers and employers in the AAPI community given our challenging economic times. The agency is offering unlimited free access to Microsoft's comprehensive e-Learning library to help our community gain computer skills and be more competitive in the job market. ESD also has a Shared Work program providing businesses greater flexibility in retaining employees at reduced hours rather than laying them off.
- **Department of Financial Institutions:** The *Investor Education in Your Community* program offers free, unbiased information on the basics of investing and how to avoid being a victim of investor fraud. Also available is a homeownership hotline (1-877-894-HOME) that helps homeowners and hopeful homeowners with free counseling and access to legal aid if there is evidence of illegal activity or fraud in a foreclosure case.
- **General Administration:** AAPI small businesses should be aware that the annual vendor training is coming up in 2011 and that it will host several training modules providing the community assistance in government contracting.
- **Office of the Attorney General:** Under current development is a program on *Immigration Assistance Fraud*. Data indicates that high rates of immigration assistance fraud are occurring in the Vietnamese community. Many victims report waiting months or years for clearance from immigration officials regarding paperwork that was never filed, or filed incorrectly.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Last month, staff participated in *Retooling Washington's Workforce*, a statewide conference held by WTECB. The agency provided input on an initiative to be implemented this fall to help the unemployed gain skills for jobs, meet employers workforce needs, and outreach to unemployment insurance exhaustees. The community should be aware that WCTEB is currently accepting applications for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) that pays undergraduate educational tuition for two years at an accredited public or private college or university, or licensed vocational school.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** In September, the agency entered into an interagency agreement with OMWBE to provide support and consul in the certification of AAPI businesses. Business owners should be aware of the upcoming seminars and workshops hosted by OMWBE.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Our agency will be working in partnership with OEO on an outreach plan for our community to ensure parents have access to information about their children's education, especially parents with limited or no English proficiency.
- **Human Rights Commission:** The Human Rights Commission is currently developing a community based "Know Your Rights" program and is looking to partner with community organizations.
- **Department of Early Learning:** The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WAKids) pilot is currently underway. It is being implemented in 120 classrooms in 54 school districts across the state and focuses on bringing together families, teachers, and early learning providers to support each child's learning and transition into public schools. Community members provided input on this program earlier this year.
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** The community should be aware that L&I is available to assist immigrant workers in helping them understand their labor rights. Workers who get injured on the job may open an L&I claim.
- **Department of Licensing:** Assistant Director Ralph Osgood met with staff to discuss the unlicensed activity of cosmetologists. Community members practicing in this field should be aware of the requirement to obtain a professional license.
- **Secretary of State:** A recent increase in the annual business reporting fee to \$10.00 became effective in August. The executive director also met with the newly hired Minority Language Education Coordinator,

Cristina Labra, to advocate for outreach strategies for the AAPI community. The agency made a recommendation for more Asian languages, beyond the Section 203 requirement, to be featured on a website that is currently being developed. These recommendations were based on the predicted population growth of our community that may be reflected in the census data to be released.

- **Department of Revenue:** Thanks to the agency and Commissioner Lee's efforts, material is available on a number of taxes and programs in Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Chinese at www.dor.wa.gov.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Because OIC recently received two federal grants, CAPAA is partnering with the agency on two programs for the AAPI community slated to roll out in the next few months focusing on Medicare fraud and providing assistance to those community members in the Affordable Health Care Act appeal process.
- **Department of Commerce:** Deputy Director Jan Marie Ferrell is our agency's liaison. The Governor recently signed Executive Order 10-05 aimed at assisting our state's economic recovery by helping small businesses succeed and expand. In addition to working on the development of new strategies to streamline or eliminate regulatory procedures, DOC has been directed to work with small businesses to develop a plan to submit for federal funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative this month. The AAPI community should also be aware that funding still remains for the Cash for Appliances program which helps people upgrade to new, energy-efficient appliances while offering rebates. Details and eligibility requirement can be found at www.cashforappliances.wa.com
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff met with Susanne Beauchaine who continues to be our agency liaison for OSPI. An update was provided on education policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee, and HB 3026.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs:** Commissioner Pascua continues to provide translation assistance on a service pamphlet for the Filipino American community.
- **Washington State Liquor Control Board:** Recently, the liquor board conducted outreach to the Korean American community on licenses, processes, enforcement, and taxes. Some key documents have been translated into Korean. A few partnership opportunities that CAPAA is exploring include: expanding translation services and alcohol awareness information to the AAPI community.
- **Department of Health:** Staff met with Jovie Swanson, our agency liaison, about current programs and policies impacting the AAPI community..

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** Please save the dates for our board meetings in 2011 on January 15, March 19, June 18, September 17, and November 19th.
- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. Committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call. All three committees continue to host roundtables to gather input on issues and policies impacting our community.
- **API Legislative Day and Legislative Session:** The legislative session begins on January 10, 2011. API Legislative Day will be on February 17, 2011 in Olympia. CAPAA should continue to support the legislative priorities from the previous biennium year that align with our strategic plan. The priority areas are: education, health care, human services, and economic development. A 2011 legislative priority sheet will be circulated for review at our board meeting by our legislative liaison, Commissioner Aragon.
- **Special Acknowledgment:** A big thank you to Commissioner Albert Shen for his most valuable and dedicated service. Commissioner Shen was recently appointed to serve on the board of trustees for the Seattle Community College. Policies restrict him from serving multiple board appointments; however, he will continue to be an active member of CAPAA's economic development committee.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**

- **Oversight Achievement Gap and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our commission and community on this committee. A report on the committee's recommendations and their implementation status, HB 3026, and several content briefings were made. Rep. Santos and Sen. Curtis King are now co-chairing the committee.
- **Education Committees:** CAPAA representatives sit on the following committees or workgroups: QEC (ELL, LAP, Highly Capable), Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards. Outcomes from many of these committees and workgroups will be presented to the Legislature in the near future.
- **Pacific Islander Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force was recently created and has been meeting on a regular basis over the past few months with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair. On October 28, 2010, members from the Micronesian, Tongan, and Samoan communities gathered to discuss education policies impacting their communities.
- **Early Learning Workgroup:** Alisa Torres, Janice Deguchi, Ben Kodoma, and Rochelle Fonti continue to represent our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities on this workgroup tasked with reviewing the guidelines in *Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks*.
- **State Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program Technical Working Group:** This group is tasked with making recommendations for a funding model linked to effective programs that support the academic needs of English Language Learners in our state. Final recommendations from this group were presented on November 17, 2010. Minh-Ahn Hodge is representing our community.
- **Gangs in Schools Workgroup:** Mustapha Math and Joseph Seia are serving as representatives for our AAPI community on this workgroup and Tyati Tufono is the identified alternate in their absence.
- **Ed Tech Workgroup:** Kao Saechao and Ekkarath Sisavatdy are serving as CAPAA's representatives.
- **Washington State Association for Multicultural Education's Annual Conference:** On October 30, 2010, Commissioners Takamura, Pascua, and staff attended WSAME's annual conference bringing together individuals from a variety of fields to discuss issues related to multiculturalism and diversity. Commissioner Takamura presented Rep. Santos with the 2010 Multicultural Excellence Award.

- **Health Care and Human Services:**

- **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on this council. On behalf of the community, she is working with the council to develop areas of concentration that align with the priorities of our community.
- **Interagency LEP Workgroup:** Staff also participated in an Interagency LEP Workgroup hosted by the council that created a forum for state agency representatives to exchange knowledge, resources and best practices towards the goal of ensuring meaningful language access to state services. Agency representatives discussed assets and challenges facing agencies in regards to language access services, policies, and programs and ways that the workgroup can serve as a resource.
- **Grant Proposal Update:** Funding was recently approved by the federal Office of Minority Health for the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities to work with the commission to host Health Equity Roundtables.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Convening of statewide AAPI Chambers of Commerce:** On October 28, 2010, the commission held a meeting to convene all of the statewide AAPI Chambers of Commerce to discuss economic initiatives and possible partnership opportunities in the best interest of the collective community. The chambers discussed working together to build a long-standing infrastructure with the goal of assisting and supporting businesses, educating and providing resources to the community on state and federal programs, and developing tools to assist AAPI businesses. All known chambers were invited to attend.

- **Trade Mission:** From November 12 - 24, 2010, Commissioner Dash led our state's trade delegation to visit Orissa, India to expand economic and trade interaction between India, which is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia and in the world. The trade mission was sponsored by the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee (WASITRAC).
- **Immigration:**
 - **Immigration Reform:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to work on immigration issues on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. On October 14, 2010, Commissioner Pritchard along with APIC and several community leaders held a press conference launching a statewide campaign for comprehensive immigration reform.

GUEST SPEAKERS

India Association of Western Washington

- Dr. Lakshmi Gaur, Director of the India Association of Western Washington, stated that the objectives of the organization were to achieve a common identity, promote cultural integration from young to old, form a cultural, social, and educational platform for advancement and create an association beyond boundaries, applicable to sixteen distinct languages. IAWW also provides educational scholarships and recently awarded scholarships to 30 students. She also highlighted reaching out to different types of communities and organizations including ACRS, CAPAA and Folk Life Festival.

Department of Social and Health Services

- Victor Chacon, Senior Director of Diversity Affairs, gave an update on the state budget on behalf of the Department of Social and Health Services and indicated three aspects within diversity affairs: trust, respect, and community. He also expressed the agency's continued effort in strengthening refugee services, shared governance within communities, a sustainable future, and representing authentic voices.

The Governor's Office

- Alexis Oliver, Policy Advisor, gave an update on the state of budget and discussed the \$385 million loss in revenue and the need to solve a budget deficit of \$5.7 billion for the next biennium. The governor has created a supplemental budget to cover the shortfall for the current biennium. Legislators will also be addressing the 2011-2013 operating budget. This will impact many seniors and low-income children and families.

Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises: Programs Update

- Cathy Canorro, Acting Director, gave an update on programs within the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises.
 - Highlighted the long history of partnership between CAPAA and OMWBE
 - Discussed the Link Deposit Program and the certification tool and noted that the Link Deposit program has thrived despite the economic downturn
 - Discussed the interagency agreement to assist AAPI start-up businesses and enterprises
 - Provided a brief description of upcoming workshops and trainings with banks to offer access to equity

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Question regarding income tax:
 - Alexis Oliver indicated that the tax revenue will be discussed during legislative session
- Question regarding business certification:
 - Cathy Canorro noted that the Link Deposit program is a great resource for new businesses and directed people to the website and hand-outs
- Question regarding medical help for non-citizens:
 - Troy Hudson, Assistant Secretary of Economic and Healthcare Services, noted that there are two programs that are available but that they will be affected by the budget cuts
 - Executive Director indicated that there is a link on the CAPAA resources page which offers referrals to state agencies and services
 - More information on low cost health insurance can also be found with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner
- Question regarding CAPAA's efforts toward education:
 - Commissioner Takamura discussed working with educational stakeholders to ensure AAPI students' needs were met and promoting ethnic specific data on the achievements and disparities of minorities in schools

- Referred to the National Association of Multicultural Education Website and the Washington State Association of Multicultural Education Website
- Question regarding the immigration and naturalization process:
 - Commissioner Pritchard indicated that APIC and One America advocate for comprehensive immigration reform

Commissioner Pascua makes a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Takamura. Unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Veasna Hoy.