



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**

General Administration Auditorium  
210 11th Avenue, SW, Olympia, WA 98504  
Saturday, March 16, 2013

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Ty Tufono, Darren Pen, Jeannie Lee, Lisa Dickinson, Rey Pascua, Jagdish Sharma and Frieda Takamura

Commissioners Absent: Sofia Aragon, Debadutta Dash, Pearl Leung, Quang Nguyen and Tashi Khamshitsang

Staff Members Present: Executive Assistant: Justin Chan; Fellow, Grant Kagawa.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2013 AGENDA**

Motion was made 10:05 a.m. by Commissioner Takamura and seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the agenda with no amendments. Agenda approved.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2013 MINUTES**

Motion was made 10:06 a.m. by Commissioner Takamura and seconded by Commissioner Tufono to approve the minutes with amendments. Minutes approved.

Motion was made 10:08 a.m. by Commissioner Pascua and seconded by Commissioner Pen to approve of the appointment of Commissioner Tufono to the Health and Human Services Committee. Motion passed.

Motion was made 10:12 a.m. by Commissioner Takamura and seconded by Commissioner Pascua to support SSB 1680 and to provide a letter of support. Motion passed.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos**

- State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos of the 37th legislative district thanked the commission and commented on bills that are affecting the AAPI Community. Some legislation includes bills on court interpreters, civil rights, elder with disability healthcare, suspension of students, and the voting rights act. In regards to the budget, funding for naturalization programs and LEP Pathways is important. She announced that HB 1817 or the Dream Act, and HB 1413 or the Voting Rights Act both passed out of committee. She indicated that she is pleased to see many Pacific Island (PI) and Southeast Asian students attending the meeting and thanked the Commission for their support of HB 1680. She expressed the need to support language learners, disaggregated data, more AAPI teachers and guidance councilors, cultural competency training and overall accountability to our students.

**Our Future Matters**

- Lina Thompson with Our Future Matters (OFM) introduced the organization and the youth involved. Our Future Matters targets young Pacific Islander men and women and challenges them to lead, collaborate, take charge and take ownership of their journey through the education process. Their goal is to empower youth and establish a college bound and post high school goal oriented culture in preparation for the ASPIRE Summit. She indicated that she presented at the Pacific Island Education Summit and conducted a 12 week project with field research with the organization. Since December, they have met every week to develop a strategic plan and prepare for a summer program. They have met

with state lobbyist and representatives at their annual lobby day in January. She is working to expand the program in Pierce County and work on another Education Summit while pushing legislation.

- Maletino Hola is a 19 year old South Seattle Community College student who joined OFM back on April 1, 2013. As a dreamer, he hopes to become a computer science teacher. He indicated that he had no idea what he was getting himself into when he first started in OFM but now has no regrets.
- Nathan Leapai and Silia Ngauamo co-presented their experience in OFM. Silia indicated that she graduated in 2000 and wants to go to college to further her education in nursing. She is Tongan and Samoan, and comes from a family of four. Nathan indicated he is a senior and thanks OFM for helping him with his education. OFM empowered him to get involved and connect with eight different representatives during their lobby day.
- Glendal Correa discussed his experience with OFM. OFM started with the youth as a senior project. OFM is a movement centered on education and mentorship of PIs. He wanted to thank leaders like Commissioner Tufono for inspiring them to be engaged with the community.
- Matthew Vaena discussed his origins and experience with OFM as an adult coach. He graduated from the University of Washington this past summer and plans to attend Law School next year. He discovered OFM through Facebook and noticed that there are not enough PIs in the academia, and noticed that there are health disparities within the AAPI community. He grew up in Oklahoma and arrived here from the Air Force academy. He wanted to help his siblings with their homework and noticed saw that they didn't even have math books. He is worried at the lack of data disaggregation and education funding.
- Commissioner Pascua commented that he would like to connect OFM with PI students in Tri-cities.
- Commissioner Dickinson requested information on the Facebook and YouTube page. OFM has both platforms.
- Commissioner Tufono requested that the OFM expands their program to Snohomish County.

### **Education Panel: State Agency Representatives**

#### **Department of Early Learning**

- Amy Blondin, Government and Community Relations Director, described her work at the Department of Early Learning. She prepares families and students for early learning education. Washington State was awarded funding from the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge which focuses on improving early learning and development programs for youth children. They are focused on building and sustaining a cohesive and comprehensive early learning system such as WaKIDS, Early Achievers, professional development and IT systems. She would like to focus on marketing and outreach to community organizations and groups.

#### **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction**

- Gil Mendoza, Assistant Superintendent of Migrant, Bilingual and Native Education, described his work. His job is to ensure academic success for all students and reduce institutionalized racism in the public education system. AAPIs make up approximately 8% of our student population. 50% of those AAPI require language assistance and 17% make up of the total ELL learners in the state. There is a need for progress in the education system and that involves an attitude change and cultural competency training, especially in the re-certification process of teachers. He requests assistance from the Commission on finding an AAPI representative to sit on the State Bilingual Advisory Committee to provide a greater voice and feedback from our community during both the legislative session and interim.

#### **Office of the Education Ombudsman**

- Dr. Joel Domingo, Education Advocacy Program Manager at Office of the Education Ombudsman, presented information on his work and mission. The Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO) facilitates the resolution of complaints made by parents and students with regard to the state's public school system. It is based on data to identify obstacles and allow for greater parent and community involvement. They recommend strategies for helping parents and community members participate effectively in education. They identify and recommend strategies for improving the success rates of ethnic and racial student groups with disproportionate student achievement. They provide information to students, parents and interested members of the public regarding the state's public elementary and secondary education system. They provide the Governor, the Legislature, and the Board of Education with recommendations for the improvement of the public education system. They had a 13% growth from last year and worked in 144 school districts. They had 31% contact through website, 27% professional referrals and 19% referrals through school staff. For the first time in the agency's history, they had to institute a waiting list of 230 families as result of increase demand and staff reductions. 1 out of 7 calls come from those who do not have English as primary language and requires an interpreter. They have thin resources and would like the Commissions assistance on outreach.

#### **Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution**

- Rosie Rimando, Vice President of Student Services at South Seattle Community College, provided information on the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) at South Seattle Community College (SSCC). 26% of students and 17% of full-time staff at SSCC are AAPI. AANAPISI was first started by an AAPI advisory committee to identify issues and needs of AAPIs at SSCC in 2007 by then President Jill Wakefield. AANAPISI at SSCC addresses the model minority myth, asserts the needs of AAPIs by disaggregating data and developing cultural competency of faculty and staff. They redefine the college identity by challenging and expanding notions of diversity and inclusion.
- May Toy Lukens, AANAPISI Project Director, provided additional information on the AANAPISI at SSCC. The first year AAPI experience includes the Family Actions for College Success orientation, financial aid education, clustered learning communities and pre-advising via website. Additional strategies and resources include an AAPI study group, service learning, college success video series, professional development, AAPI Higher Education Resources Center and Talk Story forum where members of the community meet to discuss the importance of higher education. They are also focusing on AA degree with an API studies emphasis and an associate in elementary education. The next steps includes creating a model for providing targeted services and resources, specialized federal funding and APIASF partnership, building up programming and curriculum and expand partnerships with the AAPI community.

### **Asian American Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative**

- Michael Itti, Program Coordinator of the AAPI Voices in Education Initiative at the Win/Win Network, provided information on the Asian American Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative. The AAPI education summits included the following outcomes: focus groups and interactive workshops were conducted with over 200 students, families and faculty. They have engaged over 500 AAPIs in the two summits at SSCC and Highline Community College (HCC). The coalition advocates for the AAPI community and raises their voice in closing the opportunity gap. Subsequently, a Tongan advocacy group was formed. Next steps for the Asian American Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative are greater advocacy and implementing policy and legislation. They want to make sure it is rooted through the many diverse students and through capacity building on a statewide effort. Lastly, he thanked the Commission for their support on the grant that has been so instrumental in implementing the initiative.
- Sili Savusa, Executive Director at the White Center Community Development Association, provided information on her work. She thanked the Commission and OFM for their work in the community. The ASPIRE summit was the first PI summit in history and stands on the shoulders of our elders. She requested to organize our PI student clubs and to get our content across the state. She would like to create a pathway for other AAPIs and a framework for everyone to have a voice. Lastly, she thanked Michael Itti, Commissioner Takamura and Ay Saechao for their work.
- Ay Saechao, Chair and Co-Founder of the Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition, provided updates on his work. He thanked Michael Itti and the Commission for their work. The UNITE Summit was very successful with many information and productive workshops on how to make our students and children succeed. They are aiming to have a summit in 2013 and 2014. He emphasized the importance of data disaggregation and greater engagement. He is happy to announce that Latana Jennifer Thaviseth, who is Southeast Asian, was hired on as a recruiter at SSCC. He announced that there is a coalition meeting on April 4, 2013 at HCC. They are currently discussing proposals on college bound scholarships, STEM initiative and working on community results.
- Commissioner Tufono thanked Michael Itti for his tenacity and oversight on the funding.

### **Evergreen State College**

- Tomoko Ulmer, Asian Studies faculty at Evergreen State College, provided information on her work. She provided information on the Way of Tea ceremony which teaches Japanese culture through a one year program. The Tea House is built by the students according to tradition. The Japanese tea ceremony was developed during the 15th century and consists simply of tea preparation and drinking in a minimalist setting composed especially for the purpose. And yet Chanoyu is much more than simple tea drinking. It is a ritual that embodies many of the most important aspects of Japanese philosophy and aesthetics and employs iconic representations of traditional Japanese art, literature, architecture, and craft. She is an advocate for greater Asian Studies programs in higher education. She tries to invite API students as paid Teacher Assistants or volunteers. In order to create an inclusive culture in our communities and to promote greater trade globally, Asian Studies programs should be encouraged. She would like assistance from the Commission on promoting Asian Studies and encourage more Asian faculty, especially in Evergreen State College. They currently only have two full time Asian faculty.
- Daryl Morgan, faculty at Evergreen State College, presented information on the class called Chanoyu: Traditional Japanese Culture and the Way of Tea. This one year-long program examines traditional Japanese culture, aesthetics, and classical architecture through a consideration of Chanoyu, the Way of Tea. The students participate in core exploration of classical Japanese culture and aesthetics. The students designed the mountain temple gate on a route that is walked on the most. He indicated that Evergreen State College is trying to recruit more AAPIs. He requests assistance from the Commission on conducting outreach.
- Hirsh Diamant, faculty at Evergreen State College, presented information on the class called Business and Culture Along the Silk Roads. His work encompasses Chinese studies and the Silk Roads. For centuries, the ancient Silk Roads

moved ideas and goods between the great civilizations of Asia, Pacific Rim, the Middle East, and the New World. He teaches a program that focuses on the interconnections between business, economy, and culture, with a specific application to trade, cultural exchange, and community development along the Silk Roads. He showed a website that was designed by his students to communicate with students in China as a way to develop cultural ties and relationships. Chinese students can create a profile on this website about sustaining green businesses and eco-friendly buildings. He announced they recently had a Lunar New Year Spring Festival and Celebration at Evergreen State College. He emphasized the importance of intercultural connections and exchanges that can sustain world peace. He talked about the work of Master Chunglian Ai Huang on Asian Cultures in Secular and Sacred Relations: Past and Present, a faculty development program. He would like more students and scholarships at Evergreen State College and raise the importance of Asian Studies.

## **Public Comment**

### **University of Puget Sound**

- David Wright, Director for Spirituality & Justice at University of Puget Sound, delivered remarks about the University of Puget Sound. He indicated that they have been hiring new faculty. They have a small undocumented student population who still receive scholarships. Currently, half of the undocumented students are AAPI. There is an AAPI student union which has been around for 30 years. Only 30 percent of AAPI student groups are active. The Hawaiian student club is the largest club with over 200 students. 18 students are selected each year to travel to Asian countries to engage with the community and culture. They also have a large Lunar New Year celebration. They also work in partnership with Tacoma Community House on providing housing for AAPIs. They are trying to expand and recruit more AAPIs and would like to Commission's assistance on outreach.
- Commissioner Tufono recommends that the University of Puget Sound table at more community events.
- Commissioner Pen thanked David Wright and the University of Puget Sound on providing an education to his daughter who graduated six years ago. She went to Thailand and is now a consultant.

### **Shen Yun**

- Jenny Hu, representing Shen Yun, provided a brief introduction on Shen Yun 2013 concerts. Shen Yun Performing Arts is a collaboration of over a hundred of classically trained Chinese dancers, choreographers, musicians, and vocalists. Based in New York, Shen Yun Performing Arts includes members who practice Falun Gong. The company aspires to create original performances that more deeply educate, enrich, and inspire. The company's repertory is drawn from the pages of history and universal themes. All choreography and music performed are original.

## **Announcements**

- Commissioner Pascua announced He was re-elected as president of Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley. The Filipino Hall Anniversary Celebration will be in Wapato next weekend on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Japanese American Community of Yakima Valley held their annual sukiyaki dinner and fundraiser. The Commission had a moment of silence to honor former U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and former Vice President of Student Development Services Roy Flores.
- Commissioner Pen announced that he is doing outreach on the new smoking ban. He is engaging with the community and developing relationships. The Cambodian New Year celebration is occurring on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1:30 pm with 3000 community members and law makers expected to attend. Lastly, he thanked the Commission for their work.
- Commissioner Takamura announced that the Second Annual AAPIPRC Policy Convening: Grounding the AAPI Policy Voice through Survey will be at University of Washington on April 17<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that Representative Santos wants all community members to call their representative or senator in regards to the HB 1680. The Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration is on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Seattle Center. Please encourage your community members to run for school board.

Commissioner Takamura motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 1:31 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pascua with unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Justin Chan.

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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.