



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 19, 2011

**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: Sofia Aragon, Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee, Tyati Tufono, Rey Pascua and Jagdish Sharma

Commissioners Absent: Debaduta Dash, Lua Pritchard and Tashi Khamshitsang

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

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2011 MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Takamura and seconded by Commissioner Pascua (for this meeting only) to operate business under administrative policy 1.50.20.20(2) which allows the commission to take action in the absence of quorum given Commissioner Aragon's approved delay in arrival.

Motion was made 10:15 a.m. by Commissioner Sharma and seconded by Commissioner Tufono to approve the minutes with no amendments. Minutes approved.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Takamura

- Provided an update on approval of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant for the AAPI community. Special thanks to staff and George Cheung. The grant will implement focus groups for families on how to navigate the education system, phone surveys, workshops, and state wide conventions.
- Participated in a conference on how to recruit and retain young people in the education system.
- API heritage month celebration will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>. An art contest is available on the CAPAA website.
- Wing Luke will have an exhibit on education. There is an advisory committee with a number of APIs on that committee but we encourage more participation. The exhibit will open August and will be featured in the front of the museum, in time for the start of school.
- Indicated that South Seattle Community College has an API higher education resource that is featured as a national resource. May Lukens has been spear heading this project.
- Announced that there will be a Talk Show / Panel Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 pm at South Seattle Community College.

Commissioner Lee

- Updated members on Korean American Grocers Association open house celebration.
- Indicated that there was a meeting with the Lakewood Mayor to discuss police actions on Korean store owners.

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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.

- Made updates for the following events; Feb 18<sup>th</sup> attended a tax simplification meeting with the Department of Revenue, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> hosted a radio program on property taxes and why housing value is down, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> participated in energy smart rebate for LED lights, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> attended the Korean consulate honorary citizenship celebration, March 1<sup>st</sup> attended the Korean independence movement march celebration, March 3<sup>rd</sup> met with the Korean Chamber of Commerce, March 3<sup>rd</sup> attended farewell event for Korean consulate event, March 10<sup>th</sup> met with member of the Senate to discuss better methods to educate Korean store owners, and on March 11<sup>th</sup> attended the NW Minority Supplier Award event.
- Indicated that Daniel H. Kim MISO WEB is volunteering his graphic design, website development or translation services.

#### Commissioner Tufono

- Updated members on work with Edmonds Community College PI students.
- Held meeting in January to discuss tuition hikes. Many AAPI students from Highline and Evergreen Community College attended API legislative day to express their concerns.
- Reflected on Washington DC meetings with Sen. Cantwell, Murray and Rep. Inslee on health care budget cuts.
- Expressed concern for the Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief effort. Commissioner observed a moment of silence for 30 seconds. Commissioner Tufono is on standby to head to Japan. She can provide any information or help with airfare.

#### Commissioner Pascua

- Concerned that their delegation to the Feb 17<sup>th</sup> APA leg day was considerably less, however, there were a lot of new faces such as a retired elementary school principal and a farmer. The focus areas were on: immigration, service cut backs, education, and economic development. Commissioner Pascua set up a meeting for eastern community members with their legislators.
- Indicated a reintroduction of the Filipino Heritage Month Resolution. House considering legislation this year and the Governor has already issued a proclamation.
- Reflected on the 60<sup>th</sup> Sukiyaki Dinner. The Japanese communities in the Yakima Valley have only a few families remaining and this is their main fundraiser.
- Announced outreach efforts in the Tri-cities area that has seen more AAPI businesses starting up.
- Announced the 59<sup>th</sup> Filipino Hall Celebration on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Pascua was reelected for the 13<sup>th</sup> year. Expecting 500 to 600 people to be present. The event will also include installation of officers and feature CAPAA Executive Director Yamaguchi as the keynote speaker.

#### Commissioner Sharma

- Made updates for the following events; January 29<sup>th</sup>, Indian American Republic Day of India event, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific New Year event at the Tacoma Dome, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, Ethnic Heritage Council in Seattle. Artists from Broadway brought information to the community.
- Thanked staff for their help and for providing information on the federal budget's impact on AAPI's.

### 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 \$221,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$437,000. The operating budget for FY 2011 includes a 6.3% reduction in compliance with Executive Order 10-04 where the agency made a fiscal reduction of \$15,000.

#### 2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Governor's Proposal for Consolidation:** In December 2010, the Governor proposed a new agency, the Office of Civil Rights, which would consolidate five agencies: the Human Rights Commission, Office of Minority and Women's Enterprise, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, African American Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs. The bills relating to this proposal are: Senate Bill and HB 1958. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Tribal Relations & Elections was held. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, an executive session was scheduled but no action was taken. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Committee voted to move the bill without recommendation to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. This legislation is deemed necessary to implement for the budget and is therefore not subject to the usual cutoff dates.
- **Personnel:** A big thank you to Veasna Hoy for her dedicated service. We welcomed Justin Chan as our new executive assistant.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Legislative Session:** The Commission continues to provide legislative updates to the AAPI community on a weekly basis. We thank Commissioner Aragon, our legislative liaison, who provides our community an invaluable service by monitoring the budget, bills, and public hearings for issues that impact the AAPI community. In mid-February, the legislature came to an agreement on the supplemental budget. A proposed 2011-2013 budget is expected after the March 17<sup>th</sup> revenue forecast. The legislature will adjourn sine die on April 24, 2011. Information on the legislative session and bills being tracked can be found at [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov)
- **API Legislative Day:** On February 17, 2011, API Legislative Day was held at the capitol in Olympia. Governor Gregoire delivered remarks at the rally and met with over thirty community members to discuss several issues of importance to the community. Community members also met with the legislative leadership and the AAPI legislative members. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Pritchard and the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition for coordinating the day and the over thirty community organizations and individuals who traveled across the state.
- **Revenue Forecast:** On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the state revenue forecast came out having an impact on the development of the 2011-2013 biennial operating budget. The 2011-2013 budget will be about \$700 million less than what was forecasted in November.

### 4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami - Relief Efforts:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs expresses their deepest condolences and support to the many families and loved ones impacted by this event. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, our agency sent out a statewide informational alert to provide information to our community. We continue to assist the community, respond to inquiries, and connect groups/individuals to relief efforts. A new section on the front page of our agency's website provides more information on the earthquake in Japan, Pacific Tsunami, and ways to help.
- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** Governor Gregoire signed the 2011 proclamation recognizing this special month which can be found on our agency's website. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Takamura who serves as our liaison for the celebration at the Seattle Center on May 1, 2011 and Commissioner Pritchard who is planning an event in Pierce County.
- **Business Directory:** A business directory is currently in development that will feature Asian American and Pacific Islander state certified businesses. The purpose of this resource is to expand economic development opportunities for our community. Special acknowledgments to the National Association of Asian American Professionals – Seattle Chapter, the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, and Justin Chan.
- **Radio Pilot Program:** Commissioner Lee continues to provide a public platform to engage Korean-speaking Washington residents by hosting a monthly radio pilot program with Radio Hankook (a pioneer in Korean-language radio programming in the United States). The pilot program covers information and topics impacting the community. Our agency hopes the success of this pilot will result in the establishment of future radio programs for other AAPI communities.
- **Report on Race and the Criminal Justice System:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs participated in a task force on race and the criminal justice system. This task force was called by the Honorable Steven Gonzales, Chair of the Washington State Access to Justice Board and King County Superior Court judge and the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality in response to remarks made by two sitting justices. On March 2, 2011, a preliminary report was made to the Washington State Supreme Court.

### 5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Over 80 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred since the last board meeting, not including the numerous events our commissioners have attended.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
  - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** On March 7-8, 2011, CAPAA provided support and assistance to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on

an English Learner Stakeholders Summit held in Seattle which brought together key stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue on how to achieve a quality EL education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Congresswoman Judy Chu who serves as the chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus provided the opening remarks.

- **Federal Budget's Impact on AAPI Community:** On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, White House senior administration officials discussed President Obama's 2012 federal budget and its impact on the AAPI community. The president's budget was released on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with our agency liaisons. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** A regional consolidation reducing six DSHS regions to three is underway. The regional hubs will be located in Spokane, Seattle, and Tacoma. Community members may also be interested in knowing that a temporary legal restraining order is in place on the elimination of the Food Assistance Program.
  - **Employment Security Department:** On February 11, 2011, Governor Gregoire signed into law several enhancements to unemployment benefits. People who file new unemployment claims during the time period of March 6 - November 2011 will receive an additional \$25 a week.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** On February 20-27<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Financial Institutions launched "Washington Saves Week" to encourage residents to commit to saving.
  - **General Administration:** Vendors should note that the Westside Vendor Education Seminar will be taking place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.
  - **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff met with Cathy Canorro to discuss economic development opportunities for AAPI small business owners and current policies impacting the community. OMWBE held a public hearing in Olympia on February 8, 2011 on CR-102. The intent of these rules are to establish a new, less time-consuming and less costly process for appealing office decisions regarding decertification, denial of certification and the assessment of penalties under chapter 39.19. RCW. AAPI businesses should also save the date for an upcoming event on March 30, 2011. A regional contracting forum will be held at the Washington State Convention Center. Agency representatives will be available on-site to provide information regarding solicitation, contracting, and award processes. There is no cost to register.
  - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff continues to work on an outreach plan with Cathy Liu to ensure the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has access to information about education, especially parents with limited or no English proficiency. More recently, staff provided advice and consul on outreach strategies relating to the ethnic media.
  - **Human Rights Commission:** The Human Rights Commission has completed an update to their website and automated phone message to ensure the AAPI community is aware of language assistance services when filing a complaint. Our agency is currently working in collaboration with HRC to analyze data on complaints filed by the AAPI community to determine if outreach to the community in particular regions may be necessary.
  - **Department of Early Learning:** The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy eligibility changes that were slated to take effect on February 1<sup>st</sup> will not. Details on the implementation of the changes are being finalized and latest updates can be found at [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov)
  - **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser to discuss current programs and policies affecting business owners and employees within the AAPI community. Discussions on a second appearance for L&I on the radio pilot program are underway.
  - **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Doron Maniece to discuss current policies and proposed rules impacting the AAPI community. On February 22, 2011, the Department of Licensing held a hearing on a proposed amendment to WAC 308-104-014 requiring that applicants for all drivers' licenses who do not have a social security number sign an affidavit stating that they do not have a social security number. It also

requires that a submission of additional documentation establishing the applicant's Washington residence address be made.

- **Secretary of State:** The Charities and Nonprofit Outreach and Education program will be hosting free workshops across the state. AAPI community organizations can schedule a presentation for their next meeting.
- **Department of Revenue:** From February 1 - April 30, 2011, the Department of Revenue will be running a temporary amnesty program waiving penalties and interest on certain unpaid Washington State business taxes. Eligibility requirements, exclusions, and more information can be found at [www.paymytax.org](http://www.paymytax.org)
- **Department of Commerce:** Joe Olson is our new agency liaison. As its tax season, the Department of Commerce wants to ensure the AAPI community is aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that helps low to moderate income working families and individuals by reducing their federal income tax burden. This year families may receive up to \$5,666 cash back but they must file and claim EITC to get this benefit. To find a free tax preparation center, call 2-1-1.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to meet with Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction intends to amend Chapter 392-190 WAC – Rules for Equal Educational Opportunity – Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited. Several public hearing to receive comments on the proposed amendments occurred in January 2011.
- **Washington State Liquor Control Board:** Staff met with Ruthann Kurose to discuss programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The Liquor Control Board is scheduled to appear on our agency's radio pilot program.
- **Department of Health:** Staff met with Jovie Swanson, our agency liaison, who provided an update on programs, policies, and legislation impacting the AAPI community. The HIV Client Services' Early Intervention Program (EIP) made some recent changes that decrease costs and keep clients with the greatest health needs on the program. EIP clients were asked to complete verification forms. However, almost 500 clients did not complete the form. For more information, contact the Department of Health. Additionally, the community should be aware that *Dear Me* ads addressing smokers in Washington are currently running. Federal funding has made these ads available in Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor's Office:** On March 3, 2011, the Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner Lee, and the executive director participated in a Building Bridges Roundtable sponsored by the Washington State Korean American Chamber of Commerce, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea assisted by the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle for a discussion on building bridges between the Korean American business community and local chambers and business leaders.

## 6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** 2011 board meetings will take place on June 18, September 17, and November 19<sup>th</sup>. Special acknowledgments and appreciation to the Japanese American Citizen's League – Olympia and the API State Employee Network for their support and participation in our most recent meeting.

## 7. 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. There is currently a bill to change the name of achievement gap to opportunity gap.
  - **Education Workgroups:** CAPAA representatives continue to sit on the following committees or workgroups: QEC, ELL, LAP, Highly Capable, Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards. Representatives from our community also remain on the Early Learning Workgroup, Gangs in Schools Workgroup, and the Ed Tech Workgroup.
  - **Pacific Islander Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair.

- **Grant Update:** Through the assistance of CAPAA, the AAPI community submitted a grant proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In March 2011, the proposal was approved. An update was provided by Commissioner Takamura.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on this council. The council is currently working to develop areas of concentration that align with the priorities of our community.
  - **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. Through the assistance of our Health and Human Service Committee, an action plan is being finalized. The purpose of this project is to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations to create a nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people.
- **Economic Development:**
  - **India Trade Mission Follow-Up:** Commissioner Dash recently returned from a follow-up trip to India with the Washington State Trade Relations Action Committee. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Port of Seattle formed its first sister port relationship in India, following an agreement signed by port CEO Tay Yoshitani, and officials from the Dharma Port Co. Ltd.
  - **Department of Commerce:** Based on Governor Gregoire's meeting with community leaders on APA Legislative Day, in April, Commissioner Dash, the Executive Director, and several community members from the Economic Development Committee will meet with Secretary Rogers Weed about economic development issues facing our community.
  - **Department of Revenue:** On February 18, 2011, Commissioner Lee along with many small business owners met with the Director of the Department of Revenue Suzanne DelBene and Kathy Oline to identify ways to reduce the complexity of the state's tax system.
  - **Governor's Response to the Japan earthquake and tsunami:** The governor will announce today a coordinated relief effort with Washington state companies and will challenge all Washingtonians to contribute towards relief efforts. The Governor's Office has been coordinating with Washington companies who are joining us in this effort – the Washington-Japan Relief effort. There will be implementation of call and texting services to connect with love ones.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### Human Rights Commission

- Sharon Ortiz, director of the Human Rights Commission, discussed her history with the Washington State Human Rights Commission starting in Yakima the ESL department. The Human Rights Commission is a civil rights enforcement agency. The agency started in 1949 with the enacting of the first statute on protecting worker employment rights after African Americans were discriminated. The agency only deals in the areas of discrimination including: employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and insurance and state whistleblower retaliation. Discrimination is currently harder to prove but we make it easier for you to file complaints. Call our office, fill a complaint form online and we will triage it. Our role as investigators is neutral and we attempt to resolve and investigate allegations through analyzing evidence, making recommendations, and addressing public policy issues. If you are discriminated, make sure to report it and get it in writing because key evidence is documentation. File complaints through WSHRC, HUD or EEOC, Private Fair Housing Group, DOJ, US Department of Education, legal services, private attorney, advocacy group (NAACP, Disability rights etc).

### Department of Social and Health Services

- Sue Bush, director on emergency management at DSHS, provided information on her role and how to be better prepared in a disaster. Her role is to plan mass care, housing, and human services at the state level. In a disaster, the three main things you need are water, food, and blankets. As a model for the refugee community, preparedness includes putting together a plan, building a kit, and getting involved. A plan includes emergency routes and contact information. A kit involves a minimum of three days food, water, clothing, first aid, medication, spare batteries, etcetera. To get

involved, take a red cross class, first aid, and CPR. Red Cross holds community disaster education and is available to talk to any groups through presentations tailored to specific languages.

#### **Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises**

- Vicky Schiantarelli, agency support manager, discusses her work with certification for minority, women businesses and the agency's supportive role. She works with state agencies on best practices on procurement and contracting services. The agency provides information for competitive bidding, goals, supplier diversity, firm relationship building, etcetera. The agency works with sub contractors, primes, and owners. She gave an overview of the certification process and the Link Deposit Program. Through a quarterly report on loans made, of the 14 loans made that amounted to 5.1 million, 5 went to APA and comprised more than half of the funds with 2.9 million dollars. A majority of the loans have gone to the AAPI community.

#### **Japanese American Citizens League**

- Reiko Callner, provided a background on the JACL, history of Olympia chapter, and the current disaster response. The national JACL was founded in 1929 with 112 chapters, and over 23 thousand members committed to cultural preservation and the heritage of Japanese Americans. There are multiple scholarships, a bi-monthly newspaper and a youth leadership training. JACL is also a leader in the Redress Movement and created a legacy fund. The legacy fund is used to promote website, programs and community cohesion, further civil rights efforts, and awareness. The Olympia chapter is working on a bill on civil rights education material, cosponsors a Japanese mid-summer festival of remembering your ancestors, works on smaller JACL events like New Years and events promoting civil rights issues through partnerships with other AAPI communities. The chapter has also been active with law enforcement issues and has a local scholarship program. Aid is currently needed for the Japanese earthquake and tsunami disaster relief effort. Please donate to Direct Relief International, privately funded organization who works directly with first responders.

#### **API State Employee Network**

- Brian Lock, head of the API State Employee Network, provided background information on the group. The network is an informal group of API employees, directors, appointees, and legislators that advocate for the increase of AAPI participation in state government. Current goals are to get more AAPI's interested and involved. He hopes to work with young AAPI's interested in becoming part of state government.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jim Medina reflected over the social organization of the API State employee network and the decrease in participation. He expressed his concern with the civil rights agenda. He discussed his previous experience and work with OMWBE and on previous initiatives bills, and programs. On the issue of supplier diversity; Native Americans and Pacific Islanders are missing in the statute and he is requesting CAPAA ask governor to clarify the statute. He also expressed his concern for equal opportunity in state government, the decrease of minority participation, regional contracting forums focusing on buyers, and I-200 issue with affirmative action.
- Jerry Matsui discussed his work in sales and city government work through WSDOT. He discussed issues in WSDOT and the governor's initiative. He indicated that each agency department must develop a plan and it is the agencies discretion to implement the plan. He highlighted that it is the department's discretion to implement the Governor's directive.

Commissioner Pascua motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 2:04 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Takamura with unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Justin Chan.