



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

Kitsap Community Resources Center,
845 8th Street, Room 203-204,
Bremerton, WA 98337
Saturday, June 15, 2013

REGULAR BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Sofia Aragon, Debadutta Dash, Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee, Tyati Tufono, Rey Pascua, Jagdish Sharma, Tashi Khamshitsang, Lisa Dickinson, Darren Pen

Commissioners Absent: Pearl Leung and Quang Nguyen

Staff Present: Executive Director: Michael Itti

APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2013 MINUTES

Motion was made 10:02 a.m. by Commissioner Tufono and seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the agenda with no amendments. Agenda approved.

Motion was made 10:06 a.m. by Commissioner Tufono and seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the minutes with no amendments. Minutes approved.

Executive Director's Report 6.15.13

Question from Commissioner Takamura on how the agency would be affected due to a potential government shutdown.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Department of Health

Presenter: Luisa Parada Estrada

Topic: Health Reform: The Washington Way (PowerPoint)

- The goal is to foster healthy communities and environments, public health is partnering with the healthcare system, preventing communicable disease and other health threats.
- The agency communicates with partners and puts the agenda for change action plan in practice by engaging with national partners and working closely with sister state agencies to identify policy and budgetary impacts to specific programs.

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.

- The implementation of grants are supported by the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Partner with APCAT. State Innovation Models initiative (SIM) – Community Transformation Grant (CTG), Immunization Grants, HealthPath Washington Initiative.

Washington Health Benefit Exchange

Presenter: Pamela Cowley

Topic: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law (PowerPoint).

- Exchange Governance – the Exchange hosts a series of functions and services which includes: developing and hosting a website, delivering customer support, providing a Quality Rating System, determining an individual’s eligibility, provides information on a user’s tax credits. As a business, the Washington HealthPlanFinder markets and performs outreach (e.g. advertising; customer support (e.g. navigators, call center).
- Cowley explained who the Exchange serves and who needs to connect to the Exchange, indicating that self-payers; Cobra Enrollee are the general audience the Exchange seeks to target.
- It is expected that 85% of Washington’s uninsured adults will have access to affordable coverage under full implantation of ACA. If an individual were to find that a premium is unaffordable, then he/she is covered under that mandate.
- The exchange has a navigator assistor. The Navigator/in-person assister provides public education, application-eligibility assistance, facilitates enrollment through the HealthPlanFinder.
- The program follows a medal tiers system– Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze with Medicaid eligibility based solely on income.
- Countdown to coverage – Washington HealthPlanFinder webinar series. Cowley presents the contents of the website indicating the following:
 - A calculator to figure out one’s premium.
 - Anonymous browsing
 - The HealthPlanFinder can verify an individual’s income so he/she does not have to re-certify each year.
 - Allows the user to select a Health Plan – for quality health plans, and fill an application so that they can review eligibility results. Tax credits are done behind the scenes but there is a portion that will indicate one’s tax credits.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Takamura asked who is the Exchange working with to translate the resources into 150 different languages? Is the program too web centric? Commissioner Takamura commented that the census is a wonderful model and recommended the Exchange replace the usage of the term “illegal” to “undocumented.”

- Cowley: Pamela will follow up with a partner list.
- Cowley: The Exchange does have dollars for in-person assistance.

Commissioner Dash requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and remarked on the role of foreign exchange students providing 30% of the revenue for the University of Washington and yet foreign students are paying huge premiums.

- Cowley: The program is working with the Universities on campus outreach.

Commissioner Dickinson asked what the Exchange offers in terms of dental coverage and information and providing a section on general questions and answers?

- Cowley: Dental coverage is available only for children. The Exchange does offer a FAQ section on its website and phone numbers.

Commissioner Aragon asked what the Exchange provides for a catastrophic plan and tax credits? Commissioner Aragon also recommends that we connect community groups to the ACA through letters of support.

- Cowley: It is an annual physical and hospital coverage – based on your income and it reduces your premium. Cost sharing decreases a user’s deductibles. She recommends going to their website to find plans.

Commissioner Pen asked where the community can get information and suggested to have community staff work directly with HCA on outreach. He remarked that word of mouth is the best method and the scope of outreach should include targeting the AAPI community.

Commissioner Tufono asked if the board diverse and whether recommendations are obtained from the community?

Commissioner Khamshitsang asked about the lead panel and methods in which members are recruited?

- Cowley: The lead panel were selected via RFP on the health navigator and partners are already selected.

Washington State Health Care Authority (Handout)

Presenter: Vazaskia Caldwell

Topic: Health equity and disparity, and Medicaid expansion.

- Caldwell updated the board about health disparities and equity and explains how the WSHCA aims to provide health access to all communities.
- The Authority is sitting down to develop a strategic plan around disparity data on ACA.
- Challenges include gathering data and obtaining the trust of communities of color.
- Caldwell also serves on the Governor's Interagency Health Disparities Council, and is a member of the Exchange equity taskforce. These efforts are looking at policies around language access. These groups acknowledge that Chinese is one of the most largely spoken language, texts related to health need to be translated into Chinese as well.
- Partnerships with Puget Sound Health Alliance have been established to look into Medicaid data. Information about race, ethnicity and finding correlations between these factors and chronic illness. The group also works with CHIA, APCC, and Puget Sound Health Collectives on outreach and contract with tribes, health jurisdiction, schools and the Department of Health.
- These efforts will continue to do more to make sure people are covered. She gives the following statistics:
 - 75% of people that are qualified on Medicaid will be eligible.
 - Medicaid is a 50/50 match (state pays 50% and feds pay 50%).
 - Feds pays 100% of Medicaid but will decrease to 90% slowly.
 - One million will be eligible.
 - Only 300k will enroll.
 - Only 250k will be newly eligible. Outreach will be a significant component to these changes in Medicaid.
 - Part of the 300 thousand eligible belong within the communities of color and therefore advocacy, care coordination, SIMS grant and options such as HealthPhone are necessary.
- Caldwell recently went to Chicago for a conference on how to effectively reach out to communities and is reassured that Washington is progressive and is committing a lot of money for diverse outreach which will potentially save many lives.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Dickinson commented that a lot of individuals, particularly the young, have not filed taxes, and therefore finding ways for individuals to understand whether they qualify for Medicaid when they may not have a steady income or know their total income is an important factor to consider. She encouraged Caldwell to use CAPAA as a tool for outreach to diverse communities. Unity amongst the communities is important.

- Caldwell: An individual can sign up online with a profile. Most taxes are probably owed.

Commissioner Takamura remarked that disaggregated data is very important and to be careful of the clumping of "Asian" & "Pacific Islander" especially in realizing necessary language translation.

- Caldwell: We are trying to model after the new Report on Institute on Medicine regarding languages that should be covered.

Commissioner Dash thanked Caldwell for her work and commented that many kids are suffering and there is an urgency to cover more languages. He used the example that in India, there are more than 16 distinct languages and therefore effective outreach is important; one effective way to do so is through representatives like CAPAA and the presenters are needed for outreach.

Commissioner Lee thanked Caldwell and added that it's important to consider someone who cannot speak the language in the work that Caldwell does.

Commissioner Khamshitsang mentioned that he serves the entire community in North America and noted that Washington State is doing great and emphasized that this is important work and to continue putting in more effort.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Kitsap County Commissioner, Charlotte Garrido, provided information on the local county commission.

Kitsap Public Health District

Presenter: Pat Degracia.

- KPHD's work force is diverse, working primarily to prevent disease, health enrollment outreach, training and providing staff to their network organizations (such as Kitsap community organizations) to enroll clients. They are part of the

King County region that provides mammograms screening tests and they provide medical care for sexually transmitted diseases, they also have their own access to a language bank.

- They are currently trying to find 27 thousand people to enroll in the plan.
- They won the Grant on HealthPlanFinder – customer health plan finder.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Executive Director Itti asked what are the agency's guidelines are for contracting out services.

- Degracia: They are still testing the training and health exchange finder website.

Samoa Nurses Association of Washington – (Handout)

Presenter: Siniwa Drigger

- SNOW is located in APCC, their main office is in Tacoma but they have other offices in Seattle; their services include visitations to four senior centers to provide testing on blood pressure and blood sugar.
- The Samoan community is largely uninsured, and many suffer from high blood pressure and blood sugar. Drigger works with Tongans and Samoans. She is also a contracted provider and collaborates with other organizations such as APICAT.
- SNOW has recently turned to focus on the issue of Tobacco.
- She singlehandedly runs and organizes SNOW.
- Cross Cultural Collaborative of Tacoma – she is trying to recruit non-medical students from the community to become a health provider. She has 25 nurse volunteers, which has grown from a 5-8 personnel count.
- Commissioner Tufono works with Siniwa. They were able to have four teams over at Samoa to help with the tsunami disaster.

MOTION

Commissioner Tyati Tufono motioned at 11:55 for a CAPAA letter of endorsement. Dash Seconded and the motion was passed.

Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) (pamphlet)

- The mission at KCR is to help people reach self sufficiency. They provide headstart services for early learning as well as various programs and education and support. They have housing and homeless services and provide information on the best location for housing resources. They have a weather efficiency program and have various community support services like the Veterans and Christmas Angel program.
- KCR is also a host site for the federal program, Americorps. They work with Work First programs and job assistance programs. They no longer use the DRIVE program.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Pen asked if KCR has received a grant from the Health Exchange

Commissioner Tufono asked how KCR is doing on data collection and on language?

- KCR: We collect data on services offered and we have a language pool. We see approximately 17,000 clients through KCR.

Commissioner Pascua asked if clients bring their family in through WIC?

- KCR: No, the service is for emergency services

Frank was unable to attend the meeting and therefore did not speak.

Commissioner Sharma (PowerPoint)

- **Official Congressional Ceremony** at the U.S. Capitol Visitor, Co-hosted by Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and U.S. House Democratic Leadership. This year's Theme – "A Path Forward on Comprehensive Immigration Reform." The ceremony featured remarks by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer, Judy Chu, Mike Honda, Ami Bera & several CAPAC members. The Keynote Speaker was Jose Antonio Vargas of Define American, an undocumented individual from the Philippines.

- **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders** featured several Federal Officials talking about the Affordable Care Act, commonsense Immigration Reform and policies that creates ladders of opportunity for struggling families
- **Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)** held a Gala Awards Dinner where Vice President Joe Biden delivered the keynote remarks to nearly 1000 AAPI state, and local community leaders. In his deliverance, he paid tribute to late Senator Daniel Inouye and described importance of commonsense immigration reform to AAPI community & to strengthening American economy and growing the middle class.
- **National Park Services** included the Federal former Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar, who announced that National Park Service will undertake an AAPI theme study to investigate stories, places & people of AAPI heritage National Historic Landmark program will develop a theme study to guide future nominations of National Historic Landmarks and National Register properties. The Wing Luke Museum became an Affiliated Area of National Park Service and the U.S. Dept Interior hosted first-ever White House Forum on AAPI Heritage which covered the topic on how the National Park Service can better tell the story of AAPI experience in America. The National Park Service will work with AAPI scholars to explore ways to celebrate and interpret these feat.

Commissioner Aragon

- Aragon works for the Washington State Nurses Association as Government Affairs Director and provided a legislative update.
- The Supreme Court stated that we are underfunding education.
- The regular legislative session ended in April, followed by a special session and now a second special session. The fiscal year ends on June 30th and a state budget must be approved in order for state government to continue full operations.
- Aragon explained the dynamic of the House and Senate. The House is controlled by Democrats and the Senate is controlled by Republicans. There is an impending government shutdown due to a \$300 million dollar budget gap.

Pacific Northwest Ilocandia Association (PNIA)

Presenter: Rudy Nartea (President of PNIA)

- Nartea introduced the makeup of Kitsap county's AAPIs, majority being Filipinos who were recruited from the Navy and eventually settled in the vicinity.
- Nartea assisted in the creation of the PNIA and they provide services that include feeding the homeless and serve as a congregational place for elders and other AAPI groups, including around 170 Filipino families, Hawaiian and Ilocano.
- In terms of funding, PNIA remains in need for more financial support. Nartea has never heard of CAPAA and would like to participate more often. He mentioned that Panera Bread donated 300k worth of high quality bread to their organization to help feed the homeless.
- PNIA does have a building to have elders meet and serve lunch but this is only part time. Nartea argued that these services can be running at full capacity if funding from the state was available. He also mentioned that many different organizations share the building and expenses Nartea said that their organization needs a place to congregate and provide services such as serving Filipino foods.
- PNIA is working to secure resources to operate a certified kitchen to better serve seniors, the homeless and the community.

MOTION

Commissioner Tyati Tufono motioned at 11:55 for a CAPAA letter acknowledging PNIA's contributions to the community. Commissioner Pascua seconded and the motion was passed.

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.