

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

June 14, 2014
Kitsap Community Resources Center
845 8th Street, Room 203
Bremerton, WA 98337

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2014 Supplemental Budget:** The agency's 2013-15 budget has been reduced from \$420,000 to \$418,000 due to Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and State Employee Health Insurance adjustments.
- **2015-2017 State Budget Outlook:** The Office of Financial Management is anticipating a more challenging 2015-17 state budget than the previous one. Due to rising costs, projected revenue is about \$1 billion short of meeting demand for public education, health, debt service, and other investments. In addition, the state is under a Supreme Court order to increase spending for K-12 education by \$1.2 to \$2 billion.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Strategic Planning:** CAPAA began a strategic planning process in March to develop a 2015-18 strategic plan. The plan will outline goals, strategies, and tactics for CAPAA's priority areas of education, health and human services, and economic development. The plan is expected to be completed by September 2014.
- **Website:** The agency has embarked on a website redesign as a result of a recent study by the Office of Financial Management. The design and framework will be completed by the end of June 2014 and staff will migrate content to the new site. The new website will enable the agency to more effectively communicate policy and program changes that may impact the APA community.
- **Results Washington:** CAPAA is participating on the Prosperous Economy Goal Council and is working with other agency directors to reach our targets and goals. The Goal Council will present to the Governor in July.
- **Internship program:** Staff is partnering with the Commissions on Hispanic and African American Affairs to formalize a cohesive Legislative Internship Program.
- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an online casework system. The number of requests for assistance from the agency remains steady.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Regular Session:** The 2014 legislative session began on January 13, 2014 and adjourned on March 13, 2014. The next regular legislative session will begin in January 2015.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Community Connections:** Staff met with numerous community leaders and community-based organizations in our Community Connections Network to hear about issues and concerns facing their unique communities. When necessary, casework and policy issues are brought to the attention of the Governor's Office, federal agencies, state agencies, legislative members and municipalities.
 - **Asian Pacific Directors Coalition:** Staff attended the April and June APDC meetings with more than two dozen APA non-profit and community leaders. At the June meeting, staff distributed information about the new marijuana law for parents and families. Staff is monitoring community efforts to

advocate for the renewal of a Southeast Asian student recruiter at the University of Washington. Community members have scheduled a meeting with UW President Michael Young in July to discuss the issue.

- **API Heritage Month Celebration:** Staff presented the Governor’s API Heritage Month Proclamation at the event on May 4. The event was well attended and featured numerous live performances, visual arts, and hands-on activities. CAPAA also had a booth to provide information about the agency’s programs and services to the community.
- **Korean American Chamber of Commerce:** Staff met with Chewon Lee, Executive Director, to discuss opportunities to support the community. The Chamber is holding an informational event for the community on June 29th at the Tukwila Ramada Inn from 4 – 7 PM. CAPAA is encouraging state agencies to provide an informational booth at the event.
- **Community Events:** Staff attended community events including the Vietnamese Friendship Association annual dinner, Korean American Coalition reception, memorial service for Dr. Frank Kitamoto, Cambodian New Year, Aha Mele Hawaiian Festival, InterIm Gala, ICHS Bellevue Clinic Open House, ICHS Bloom Gala, ACLF Graduation Dinner, International Examiner 40th Gala, Eastside API Leadership Forum, and CISC Friendship Dinner.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in our state.
 - **White House Initiative on AAPIs (WHIAAPI):** Staff was invited by WHIAAPI to present about CAPAA at the WHIAAPI State and Local Commission Roundtable in Washington, DC. Staff connected with other directors and commissioners from other state and local commissions.

CAPAA is coordinating with WHIAAPI, newly appointed WHIAAPI Commissioner Diane Narasaki, and API community leaders to convene a Regional Interagency Workgroup (RIWG) of staff from key federal agencies. The goal of the RIWG is to facilitate information sharing and coordinate on-the-ground engagement and technical assistance with and for API communities across the federal government’s regional offices.

- **National Hmong Grave Desecration Committee:** At the request of former Commissioner Vang Xiong, chairman of the committee, CAPAA contacted Washington’s US Senators to urge them to write the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, about sponsoring and introducing a protective UN Resolution or International Law to safeguard against present and future assaults against human graves.
- **Office of Representative Adam Smith:** Staff discussed issues of concern on the federal level including efforts to expand categories for Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups in regards to data collection.
- **Small Business Administration:** Staff met with Calvin Goings, SBA’s Regional Administrator, to discuss SBA’s programs and services. Staff discussed opportunities for SBA to connect with ethnic chambers regarding access to capital and technical assistance.
- **US Department of Agriculture:** Staff from various state agencies met with representatives from the federal department, which is in more counties than any other agency except the US Postal Service. An overview of Agriculture’s programs and services was provided in addition to efforts to increase access for limited English proficient populations.

- **Agency Outreach:** Staff continues to connect with members of the agency’s Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL Network). These check-ins serve as an important way to cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues with state agencies.
 - **Department of Commerce:** Commissioner Dash and three APA business leaders are representing CAPAA at the Minority Business Roundtable. The Roundtable is working to inform communities of color about the agency’s programs and services and opportunities to work at Commerce.
 - **Department of Enterprise Services:** DES and CAPAA are working to translate the Small Business Guide in Vietnamese. The Small Business Guide provides helpful information, links to valuable resources, and outlines the steps for starting and operating a business in Washington State. The Small Business Guide is currently available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. View the guide here: <http://go.usa.gov/9qUW>.
 - **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff met with our new liaison, Stella Ng, and discussed community engagement and technical assistance that the OIC conducts.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** June is National Homeownership Month. The Washington State Housing Finance Commission is hosting free first time homebuyer education classes. View the schedule at www.wshfc.org/buyers/scheduleBYDATE.htm.
 - **Department of Health:** The agency hosted a *Diabetes Epidemic and Action Report Stakeholder Policy Prioritization Summit* in April. Staff and Commissioner Tufono provided feedback on prioritization of strategies to address the diabetes epidemic. CAPAA is pursuing opportunities to address the impact of diabetes among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.
 - **Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance:** The Small Business Liaison Task Force, which is made up of staff from more than two dozen state agencies that serve small business, requested that CAPAA invite API small business owners to the meeting. CAPAA brought five small business owners involved in construction, hotel management, agriculture, and professional service. The owners, who were from Yakima, Snohomish, Thurston, and King counties, shared their challenges and provided suggestions for improvements.
 - **Department of Revenue:** Staff met with our agency liaison, Rick Stedman, and discussed outreach opportunities in the API community. In addition, several policy changes were passed by the Legislature during the 2014 session. A summary is available at <http://go.usa.gov/8SF4>.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff attended an interagency and stakeholder meeting to address a Results Washington goal to reduce underage drinking and marijuana use. Staff is also participating on the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (RUaD), which is expanding to include marijuana. At both venues, staff advocated for using culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies to effectively reach limited English proficient communities and recent immigrants. Due to the disproportionate impact of marijuana on communities of color, staff is advocating that equitable resources are provided to reduce the impact of Initiative 502.

Staff participated in a Results Washington strategy session hosted by DSHS Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration to address a goal to reduce the number of youth of color in juvenile detention. CAPAA advocated for better data to gauge the impact on API sub-ethnic groups such as Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders and for more intervention strategies to reduce the school to

prison pipeline.

- **Human Rights Commission:** The Commission reported that the State Supreme Court overturned a Court of Appeals opinion regarding reasonable accommodation of employee's religious beliefs. The case involved a lawsuit by employees of an airport concessionaire who were not permitted to bring their own meals to work for security reasons, and who challenged their employer's failure to provide meals consistent with their religious beliefs. The majority reasoned that the Washington Law Against Discrimination differs from its federal statutory counterpart in not explicitly requiring that an employer make reasonable accommodation of employees' religious beliefs, such a requirement was implied in WLAD's prohibition on religious discrimination. The Supreme Court overturned a 2012 Court of Appeals opinion in doing so, relying in part on arguments made in an amicus brief filed on behalf of the Human Rights Commission.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** CAPAA and OMWBE are working together on a Results Washington goal to increase state agency and educational institution utilization of minority, women, and veteran-owned business. Staff met with Debbie McVicker to discuss the agencies' preparations for an upcoming presentation to the Governor about strategies to achieve the goal.
- **Department of Ecology:** Staff met with Millie Piazza, the agency's Environmental Justice Coordinator, and discussed ways to inform and improve service delivery for limited English proficient populations. Communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens such as pollution and industrial facilities.
- **Washington Health Benefit Exchange:** HBE released an enrollment report showing more than one million total Washington residents have accessed health coverage through wahealthplanfinder.org from Oct. 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. Of those, 587,000 Washingtonians enrolled in new free or low-cost coverage during the first enrollment period—this number excludes renewals in Washington Apple Health. More than 164,000 have enrolled in Qualified Health Plans (private health plans). Of the 164,000, Asians account for 10.3 percent, Pacific Islanders 1.7 percent, and Hawaiian 0.1 percent. More than 20 percent did not report their race or ethnicity.

Staff will continue to work with HBE to address community concerns regarding technical challenges and cultural and language barriers in accessing health care from the Exchange.

- **Office of the Education Ombuds:** Director Stacy Gillett has been selected to represent the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee on the new state Paraeducator Task Force to look at training standards for paraeducators that work in ELL classrooms and support students who are transitioning bilingual.

OEO is working on a feasibility study on the costs and recommendations related to training interpreters for limited English speaking families to broaden the availability of trained interpreters in education settings.

- **Health Care Authority:** Staff nominated Marguerite Ro, Chief of the Assessment, Policy Development, and Evaluation unit of Public Health – Seattle & King County, for the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee, which was created by Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2572. Dr. Ro was selected as a member of the Committee that will inform public and private health care purchasing and will propose benchmarks to track costs and improvements in health outcomes.

- **API Network Luncheon Committee:** Staff is coordinating with contacts from various state agencies and community organizations to rekindle the committee of API state employees that previously met for networking and information sharing.

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Commissioners:** Commissioner and Education Chair Frieda Takamura and Commissioner Quang Nguyen will be concluding their service as Commissioners on June 30, 2014. The Commission is currently working with the Governor's Office to fill the two positions. The Governor has reappointed Commissioner Lisa Dickinson and Commissioner Darren Pen effective July 1, 2014.
- **Board Meetings:** The Commission will hold its fourth board meeting in 2014 on September 20 at the Filipino Community Center of Yakima Valley in Wapato. Visit www.capaa.wa.gov for more details and for the full 2014 schedule.
- **40th Anniversary:** The Commission celebrated its 40th anniversary on May 15, 2014 at an event in SeaTac. More than 300 youth, community leaders, elected officials, and commissioners came together for a celebration of history and to inspire a new generation. The event, which was funded entirely by sponsors, provided an opportunity for information about CAPAA to be featured in numerous ethnic media including the International Examiner, Northwest Asian Weekly, Urban Forum Northwest, Radio Hankook, Seattle Pinoy TV, and Korean and Vietnamese publications. For stories about CAPAA's 40th event, visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml>.
- **Joint Ethnic Commissions Outreach Event:** More than 40 community members and public officials attended a joint Ethnic Commissions outreach event in Spokane. Commissioner Lisa Dickinson reported on CAPAA's 2014 goals and activities.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**

- **Asian Pacific Islander Think Tank:** CAPAA Education Committee Chair Frieda Takamura convened a meeting of the APIATT on March 28. Agenda items included the newly formed Washington State Family and Community Engagement Trust, Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian Education Summits, and Southeast Asian recruiter at University of Washington.
- **National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education:** Staff is assisting iCount researchers in an update of the 2008 opportunity gap reports. Data requests and information sharing agreements will need to be secured to update the reports.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** The Commission continues to support grassroots efforts that were launched during the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative.

Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition (SEAeD): Preparations are underway to hold a second Southeast Asian American Education Summit on November 22 at South Seattle College.

Our Future Matters: Preparations are underway to convene a third Pacific Islander Education Summit tentatively set for October 4 at Green River Community College.

- **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC):** Staff presented to the EOGOAC at its meeting on April 15th regarding community efforts to address the opportunity gaps.

The EOGOAC will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Washington State University in Spokane. Following the meeting, the committee will be hosting a community forum from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. where all those interested are invited to participate in a discussion about topics regarding closing the opportunity gap.

- **Student Discipline Task Force:** Zharina Angeles, an educator in the Renton School District, represented CAPAA on the Task Force at its May meeting. Angeles reported that a portion of Learning Assistance Program funds can be used to encourage behavioral success and form community partnerships. An OSPI panel is working to develop a list of best behavioral practices that schools can utilize for discipline.

The majority of the meeting was spent on definitions and data points for: education services during a suspension or expulsion, credit retrieval options, reengagement plans, and interventions. The committee received a presentation on readmission after exclusion, which led to a conversation on including a section of “appeals” in the definitions and creating data points for it. The Task Force will meet next on July 14.

- **Health Care and Human Services:**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** Commissioner Aragon continues to represent the Commission on the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities. Staff coordinated with the Council on securing a proclamation from Gov. Inslee for Minority Health Month in April.
- **Making Stomach Cancer a Health Priority:** Staff is providing recommendations on efforts to make stomach cancer a health priority among APIs and health care providers. Cornerstone Medical Services is hosting a summit on August 22, 2014 at the Clarion Hotel in Federal Way to bring community leaders, public officials, and health care industry representatives to discuss the health disparity.
- **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month:** Staff is preparing a media campaign to raise awareness of disparities for API communities around mental health for the month of July.
- **Marijuana excise taxes:** Due to the passage of Initiative 502, the state will begin levying and collecting an excise tax on the sale of marijuana. The initiative designates portions of the revenue to the Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services for marijuana education, prevention, and treatment. CAPAA is working this summer to distribute information and raise awareness among API communities through community events and ethnic media about the new law.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Minority Small Business Policy Workshop:** Staff is assisting with the workshop for small business owners and community members to learn about policies that affect small business. The workshop will occur on Thursday, June 19 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the South Seattle College Georgetown Campus. Participants will be able to engage with state agencies and minority business owners in a roundtable discussion to develop recommendations to foster greater economic development opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises in Washington State.