

The State of Washington

# CAPAA

COMMISSION ON  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



## Executive Director's Report

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

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**1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **2013-2015 Biennial Operating Budget:** Staff is closely monitoring the various budget proposals for the agency's 2013-2015 operating budget. Current proposals range from \$417,000 to \$421,000, compared to the current two-year budget of \$446,000 through June 30, 2013. The reduction is due to efficiencies in the administrative services provided by the Department of Enterprise Services for small agencies like CAPAA.

**2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

- **New Executive Director:** Michael Itti joined the agency on May 20, 2013. Itti is a second generation Thai-Chinese American born and raised in Washington. Previously, he was the program coordinator for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative at the Win/Win Network.
- **Departure of Executive Assistant:** Justin Chan transitioned from the agency in June after more than two and a half years of dedicated service to the AAPI community. Chan will continue his public service as legislative aide to Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw.
- **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:**

- **2013 Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session adjourned on April 28, 2013 in Olympia. The agency provided weekly updates to the AAPI community on pertinent bills moving through the legislative process via the weekly E-Legislative Updates.
- **Special Session:** On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Governor Inslee called for a special session lasting up to 30 days, which ended on June 11<sup>th</sup>. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, a second special legislative session was called to finish the 2013-2015 state operating budget. The Legislature has until June 30th to pass a budget or risk an unprecedented shutdown of state government. The Governor and state leaders are taking a pro-active approach by conducting contingency planning in case lawmakers are unable to reach an agreement. Staff provided an update to the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition on the various budget proposals. Staff will be monitoring this situation very closely and will provide updates to the AAPI community.

**4. OUTREACH:**

- **Statewide Outreach:** The new Director and staff have attend more than 40 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities and community organizations in the last four weeks, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
  - **Ethnic Commissions Reception:** The Governor's office hosted an Ethnic Commissions Reception on May 31st. CAPAA Commissioners and more than one hundred community leaders from Washington State's ethnic commissions and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs joined the Governor for the first ever reception for the state's ethnic commissions hosted at the Executive Residence.

- **Community Connections:** The new Director has begun meeting with over twenty 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.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in our state.
  - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** The Chair represented the Commission at the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders meeting with state and local AAPI commissions. Commissioners heard from federal officials regarding the Affordable Care Act, common sense Immigration Reform, and Administration-wide efforts focused on education, housing and the economy. They also discussed issues like language access and data disaggregation, best practices, and how local and state commissions can best make a difference in their communities.
- **Agency Outreach:** The new Director has begun introductory meetings with members of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network). These monthly check-ins will continue to serve as an important way to cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues.
  - **Department of Enterprise Services:** Staff met with Director Chris Liu, Small Agency Financial Services Manager Gwen McClanahan, and the Commission's DES team in an Open House for CAPAA. Staff was informed about the range of services and support that DES provides to the Commission.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff met with Colleen Yamaguchi and Esmeralda Crosson with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to discuss DSHS's efforts to provide culturally competent services.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff connected with Lyn Peters on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. Staff has responded to a request from DFI for translation services on an informational piece to promote the Foreclosure Fairness Act Mediation Program.
  - **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff connected with Kendee Yamaguchi and colleagues on current programs and outreach efforts by the AG's office to inform the AAPI community on issues such as consumer protection.
  - **Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises:** Staff met with outgoing director Chris Liu and Debbie McVicker to discuss opportunities to increase certification of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses with OMWBE.
  - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff connected with Cathy Liu Scott on efforts to support parent engagement and student achievement in the AAPI community.
  - **Human Rights Commission:** Staff connected with Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, and reviewed HRC's areas of responsibility and resources for the AAPI community.
  - **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, and reviewed DNI's areas of responsibility.

- **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Josh Johnston and reviewed DOL's services to the community.
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff connected with Rick Stedman and discussed outreach efforts to ethnic business chambers and the AAPI community.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff met with Phouang Hamilton, our agency liaison, and discussed career and technical education opportunities that could benefit AAPI students.
- **Department of Health:** Staff met with Maria Gardipee to discuss the services offered by DOH.
- **Legislative Outreach:** The new Director has begun meeting with legislators about issues of importance to the AAPI community.

## 5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The commission will hold future board meetings in 2013 on September 14 and November 16. More details can be found on our website.

## 6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** The Commission will continue to support grassroots efforts to raise the voices of AAPI students, families, and community members around closing the opportunity gaps and increasing access to higher education.
  - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to serve as our community representatives on this committee.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** The Commission will continue to support the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in our state. The focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention and education on the Affordable Care Act.
- **Economic Development:** Staff is closely monitoring numerous opportunities to engage the AAPI business community in discussions around state contracting, the regulatory environment, and small business support.