



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**

Korean Women's Association  
123 East 96th Street  
Tacoma WA 98445  
Saturday, September 18, 2010

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee, Rey Pascua, Debadutta Dash, Lua Pritchard, and Tyati Tufono, Tashi Khamshitsang, and Sofia Aragon.

Commissioners Absent: Albert Shen and Jagdish Sharma

Staff Members Present: Executive Director: Kendee Yamaguchi, Executive Assistant: Veasna Hoy

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2010 MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Lua Pritchard, seconded by Commissioner Frieda Takamura to approve the minutes with no amendments.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioner Pritchard

- Noted that API Legislative Day is on February 17, 2011
- Discussed the "The Dream" initiative within the Asia Pacific Cultural Center
- Announced that immigration reform signatures are needed and can be sent to Diane Narasaki
- Snohomish Korean American seniors will receive funding due to a grant from United Way and thanks Executive Director for her efforts in assisting
- Senator Franklin read for the grand opening of the Buddhist temple
- Noted that the Health and Human Services Committee has been meeting for the past three months at Marie Callendar's in Federal Way
- Requested a task force for the Health Disparity Council

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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.

#### Commissioner Khamshitsang

- Noted that he has been the President of Tibetan Organization for seven years and is the first Tibetan-American to be appointed in history as CAPAA Commissioner
- Indicated that the Tibetan community very much appreciate of his appointment
- Noted that there are only 300 Tibetans in our state

#### Commissioner Lee

- Emphasized that the Snohomish Korean American elders issue is a long process to solve
- Thanked Executive Director for helping with the launch of the Korean American pilot radio program and noted that the radio program is conducted on the last Monday of each month for 30 minutes. It will help people with information on government resources and any subject ideas can be sent to her.

#### Commissioner Pascua

- Participated in several celebratory events including the Filipino American National Historical Society event where the Executive Director represented CAPAA in the opening
- Assisting with documentary which depicts the history of labor in the U.S. of farm workers
- Indicated that it was farming season in Yakima Valley and they are in need of farmers

#### Commissioner Takamura

- Thanked Danny Kaopuiki for attending today's board meeting
- Indicated that the CAPAA education committee continues to meet on a monthly basis and the achievement gap committee continues to meet
- Provided an update on the effort to pass HB3026 which enforces students civil rights. The language of the bill is still being finalized. This is the bill sponsored by Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos.
- Thanked Executive Director for help with the Civic Engagement Initiative and for facilitating Asian American and Pacific Islander representation on many standing committees and workgroups focusing on education issues
- Requested feedback from the community for the Wing Luke Asian Museum education exhibit which opens in April 2011
- Invited more community members who are interested in education to participate on committee

#### Commissioner Tufono

- Expressed happiness to meet Commissioner Lua Pritchard who is Samoan community activist
- Provided brief background of her public service which includes helping people affected by the Tsunami and continues to help Samoan community, especially senior citizens and is active in the labor movement
- Recently attended events such as the Pasefika festival and Utopia pageant, to help spread awareness of these underserved communities

#### Commissioner Dash

- Congratulated Commissioner Frieda Takamura on her receipt of the Northwest Asian Weekly Award in recognition of her work on education
- Thanked Executive Director for frequent updates on economic development issues sent to the community
- Indicated that the objective of economic development committee is to bring awareness of CAPAA to the community, assist small business owners of each ethnicity, match highly successful businesses to small businesses. The committee has a conference call every month on a Monday evening. Committee members representing our diverse community help disseminate important information to the public.
- Indicated the number one problem for small business owners is access to capital through bank loans
  - o Met with Senator Cantwell in June regarding access to capital
  - o Discussions are taking place regarding allocating private funds within the state without involving big banks, based on feedback from members of the Economic Development Committee
- Emphasized the need to work on a solution to reach out to businesses and help them gain access to the global market, as the outside market is doing very well. Education, especially higher education is a market bringing in billions of dollars.
- Provided an update on the India trade mission and the delegation that visited from India (which included 20 members from India and two ministers from Revenue and Education)
- Indicated the importance of signing MOU's which are being established frequently in China

- Requested that CAPAA continues to highlight our state's progress in economic development and the importance of trade missions and exports

Commissioner Aragon

- Noted that a forum will take place on September 23rd to help small businesses gain access to health insurance for their employees
- Indicated that there are federal health care grants available
- Noted that the Small Business Act may be passed in the House of Representatives
- Provided an update on two major issues concerning the ruling of the State Board of Pharmacy and encourages community representation on the board. She also discussed whether or not pharmacists are allowed to refuse access to care which greatly reflects AAPI's in rural areas.
- Identified that access to healthcare is still an issue for people of color
- Noted that the Conference on Race in Seattle was well attended and continues to grow every year. Issues presented were: how to do outreach so communities can comment on budget and individual bills and what are barriers to getting more involved in policy making in Olympia.
- Announced a hearing on healthcare will take place on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Olympia

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **Budget:** Provided update on the agency's operating budget, the temporary layoff of staff, and preparation for the possibility of across the board cuts. Updated commission on the submission of the 2011-2013 Biennium operating budget and the Governor's request to prepare for a 10% reduction. The agency may be able to manage in FY 2012, however, in FY 2013, the agency will not be able to maintain current staffing levels or have any discretionary funding.

**2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Agency Closure Dates:** The agency will be closed on the remaining dates of October 11, 2010, December 27, 2010 and January 28, 2011. Regular service will resume following the closure date.
- **Exemptions:** An exemption for reimbursements was granted for twelve Commissioners and two staff members for the January, March, and June meetings in calendar year 2011. The Office of Financial Management also approved an exemption for the use private facilities for the September, November, January, and June meetings.
- **Public Disclosure Request:** On August 3, 2010, the agency received a public records request. On behalf of the agency, the Department of Information Services is providing a response.

**3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** Starting this month and continuing over the next few months, in partnership with community groups and organizations, CAPAA will be holding 10 statewide civic engagement events.
- **Radio Pilot Program:** Under Commissioner Lee's leadership, the commission launched a radio program for the Korean American community with Radio Hankook. It's composed of a 30-minute live on-air segment between 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month over the next year. These segments can be heard on KSUH 1540 AM and KWYZ 1230 AM and come at no cost to the agency. The pilot radio program provides governmental related outreach and education to the Korean speaking community.

- **Affordable Health Care Act Events:** Along with several state agencies and community organizations, CAPAA is sponsoring a series of statewide events focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act and how it impacts the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Interpretation will be available in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Korean.
- **Website:** CAPAA is currently in discussions with the Department of Information Services to add a *google* feature to our website allowing for the translation of content into multiple Asian languages. Also, in development is a new tab focusing on government services available to immigrants.

#### 4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Over 55 meetings and events with stakeholders have occurred since the last board meeting, not including the numerous events our Commissioners have attended. In August 2010, the Executive Director traveled to eastern Washington and met with community members in Yakima County and the Tri-Cities area.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff met with the following state and federal agencies.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff met with DSHS Secretary Susan Dreyfus along with many other community groups and agencies to advocate for programs and services for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community during the department's 2011-2013 budget development process. The Commission emphasized the need for access to quality, affordable and culturally appropriate health and social services.
  - **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** CAPAA staff was provided updates on education policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee, and HB 3026.
  - **Department of Commerce:** Commissioners Dash and Shen along with the Executive Director met with Secretary Rogers Weed at the Commerce Connections event held in Tacoma focusing on growing and improving jobs in our state. Commissioners participated in a briefing and comment period on the department's current work and future projects.
  - **Department of Veterans Affairs:** A request was made and a commitment obtained by the agency for two pamphlets to be translated into Korean and Tagalog, as Korean-American and Filipino American veterans make up the highest percentage of Asian Pacific Americans utilizing the programs and services provided by Veterans Affairs. With the assistance of Commissioner Pascua, the Tagalog translation is in progress
  - **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** CAPAA is supporting several statewide events in partnership with OIC focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act and how it impacts the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
  - **U.S. Department of Labor:** Regional Representative, Mark McDermott, met with staff and the chair to discuss new federal initiatives for pay equity and workplace flexibility. Issues of work/life balance, parental leave, child care, and family leave insurance program usage were also discussed in context to the needs and demographics of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
  - **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:** Staff participated in a national stakeholder teleconference along with other state and local agencies to provide input on USCIS policies, goals,

and initiatives. Announcements on new programs to combat the unauthorized practice of immigration law, public charge and benefits eligibility, resources and immigration options available to victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and immigrant integration were discussed.

## 5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **New Commissioners:** Governor Gregoire recently appointed Tyati Tufuno and Tashi Khamshitsang to the commission.
- **Board Meetings:** Future board dates were noted and can be found on CAPAA's website.
- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development.

## 6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **Oversight Achievement Gap and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our commission and community. At the last meeting, a presentation from the Office of the Education Ombudsman, update on HB 3026, discussion of the committee's work plan, and content briefings were made. Requested recommendations from CAPAA for representatives to sit on the following committees or workgroups have been fulfilled or are in progress: QEC (ELL, LAP, Highly Capable), Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards.
  - **Education Workgroups and Committees:** The Executive Director provided a detailed update on our community's representation on all workgroups and committees involving early learning, k-12, and higher education.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on the council. The council is currently developing areas of concentration. The Executive Director provided public testimony to the council in recommendation of concentration areas. The council has also submitted a grant for federal funding. If funding is received, our commission plans on working in partnership with the council to host Health Equity Roundtables.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services Spoken Language Interpreter Services Program Stakeholder Meeting:** On July 21, 2010, staff and several community members attended a stakeholder meeting to provide feedback and input on Interpreter Services Program activities.
- **Economic Development:**
  - **Stimulating Change Roundtable:** On June 25, 2010, Commissioner Shen attended *The Stimulating Change Roundtable* in Washington, D.C. which provided a unique opportunity to interface with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and the White House Initiative for Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

- **Economic Development Roundtables:** The Economic Development Committee continues to hold roundtable forums. The third roundtable will be held in Tacoma on September 19, 2010.
- **Trade Missions:** On June 27, 2010, Commissioner Dash along with the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee (WASITRAC) welcomed the Orissa state delegation at an event in Seattle. In November, Commissioner Dash and Shen will join our state's trade delegation to visit Orissa, India to expand economic and trade interaction between India, which is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Currently, Governor Gregoire and a delegation of leaders in business, agriculture, education, and clean energy are on a trade mission in China and Vietnam. The purpose of this trade mission is to expand export opportunities, encourage new investment, and create new jobs in our state.
- **Immigration:**
  - **Immigration Reform:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to work on immigration issues on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. On August 27, 2010, Commissioner Pritchard along with APIC and several statewide community leaders met with Senator Patty Murray to advocate on several issues, including but not limited to, family reunification, legalizing a path to citizenship, and due process.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

### **Civic Engagement Initiative**

- George Cheung and Heidi Park provided a presentation on the civic engagement initiative and how it could be used as a long-term resource for the community. There will be ten workshops conducted to educate and connect with the community. Commissioner Takamura thanked Heidi for her efforts in adapting and changing the modules to the different needs of the community

### **Governor's Office Budget Update**

- Alexis Oliver, Policy Advisor, gave an update on the state budget on behalf of the Governor's Office. The governor closed the gap through budget reductions and taxes. Across the board cuts at 6% are being taken by all agencies. They have been very proactive in looking at core functions to examine how all state agencies have grown through a series of eight questions addressing programmatic and transformative efforts, conducting town hall meetings, and creating a panel of 32 community members to advise the governor on appropriate and efficient ways to build the governor's budget. There are three ways for the community to provide input: the governor's website, contacting Alexis Oliver or the Executive Director of CAPAA, and through state agencies.

### **Secretary Susan Dreyfus**

- Secretary Dreyfus provided an overview of the services her agency is providing the AAPI community and recognized Vazaskia Caldwell and new Senior Director of Diversity Victor Chacon. She invited the community to partner with DSHS in solving issues and problems facing the state. Briefings on Medicaid, health reform, managed care, Workfirst, and the Health Care Authority were just a few areas covered. Commissioners posed inquiries on services and AAPI representation in the agency. Diane Narasaki, Executive Director of ACRS and Chair of APIC King County, discussed and presented the Secretary with the AAPI community's top concerns.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Diane Narasaki, Executive Director of ACRS and Chair of APIC King County provided a presentation and papers to Secretary Dreyfus.
- Peter Asanara, Executive Director of KWA, provided a brief background on the organization and introduced the board members present.
- Laota with the Samoan community raised concerns that the elderly in his community need assistance.
- Samoan Nurse Association made comments on bringing back information to the community on achievement gap and health issues. Commissioner Takamura expressed thanks for their work.
- Utopia Seattle, an LGBT organization, informed the commission of their recent Samoan pageant, scholarship program and interest in partnering with the community.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Lua Pritchard at 2:00, seconded by Commissioner Pascua.

Minutes prepared by Veasna Hoy.