



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**  
Everett Community College  
2000 Tower Street, Jackson Conference Center, Room 106  
Everett, WA 98201  
Saturday, September 14, 2013

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present: Frieda Takamura, Darren Pen, Jeannie Lee, Lisa Dickinson, Lynette Finau, Ty Tufono, Quang Nguyen, Pearl Leung, Debadutta Dash, Sofia Aragon

Commissioners Absent: Didi Cabusao, and Tashi Khamshitsang

Commission staff present: Executive Director Michael Itti and Executive Assistant Amy Van

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Motion was made at 10:13 by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the agenda with a second by Commissioner Dash with no amendments. Agenda approved.

Motion was made at 10:14 by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and seconded by Commissioner Aragon with no amendments. Minutes approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION**

Motion was made at 10:15 by Commissioner Takamura to begin the Executive Committee Election process.

Commissioner Dash nominates Commissioner Aragon for Chair with a second by Commissioner Tufono. With no other nominations, by proclamation at 10:21 Commissioner Aragon is moved to Chair.

Break at 10:23

Motion was made at 10:26 a.m. by Commissioner Aragon to resume the meeting and opened the floor for nomination of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.

Commissioner Takamura nominates Commissioner Dickinson with no seconds.

Commissioner Dickinson nominates Commissioner Tufono with a second by Commissioner Takamura.

Commissioner Tufono nominates Commissioner Dash with no seconds.

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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.

With no other nominations, Chair Aragon motions for a verbal vote to elect Commissioner Tufono as 1st Vice Chair. Commissioner Tufono is moved to First Vice Chair at 10:31 by majority vote.

Chair Aragon opens the floor for the nomination of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair

Commissioner Takamura nominates Commissioner Dickinson and is seconded by Commissioner Dash. With no other nominations, Chair Aragon motions for a verbal vote to elect Commissioner Dickinson as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair. At 10:33 Commissioner Dickinson is moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair by majority vote.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT 9.14.13**

CAPAA Director provided a report to the Commission. View the report here:  
<http://www.capaa.wa.gov/documents/91413ExecutiveDirectorReport.pdf>

Question from Commissioner Takamura: Is CAPAA's budget reduction reflected in the budget of other commissions?

Director: Yes, all Commissions are seeing reductions due to cost savings.

Commissioner Takamura: Are the ethnic Commissions funded comparably?

Director: CAPAA has less discretionary funding than other Commissions.

Motion was made at 10:40 a.m. by Commissioner Dash to convene a steering committee and host CAPAA's 40th Anniversary. Seconded by Commissioner Pen. Motion approved.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### **Director of the Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness at the Department of Commerce**

Richard Locke

- The Department of Commerce has many programs targeted at smaller businesses. Director Locke explained a recent realignment: the Energy office is moved shoulder to shoulder with Economic development. A clean energy future that is low cost and efficient is a key aspect to the economic development future of this state. The next strategy is to transition over to a sector based model where industry sectors (aerospace, maritime, military, clean technology, information technology, agriculture, life science...etc.) drive the agenda to universities to carry out. This is critical to sector based strategies.
- He recently toured the Bio-engineering building at the University of Washington. The activity around biology research focuses around creating a new generation of devices that is low cost, can be self-administered that includes the ability to take pictures and receive instant results, and are diagnostic tools available for commercial products that can better target remedies and treatments and medical response. These tools can be sent to places throughout the world and the research and development is happening at the University of Washington. The Department of Commerce is delivering support towards a team of Ph.D. students who are working on these products.
- The Department of Commerce reorganized staff dedicated to small and medium sized businesses. The Department has small business loan programs which works with banks to provide money to small business owners. To clarify, it is not a loan for start-up purposes but for growing a business already in place. The Department is doing a better job and going to be doing a better job at job growth, especially with the Governor's focus on the next generation of clean and high value technology.

### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Tufono: Thank you for presentation. What are the number of loans being granted to small businesses? Do you have any number of those loans that are granted are for minority businesses?

Director Locke: Will retrieve numbers and welcomes ideas.

Commissioner Dickinson: Does the Department of Commerce work with the Office of Women Minority Business Enterprise? Suggestion for a cross referral system.

Director Locke: There should be a connection.

Commissioner Dash: I'm the Economic Development chair for CAPAA and I've worked with Mr. Calhoun, and I have a suggestion: to be competent in the global economy, we have to provide more information on how international trade impacts our state. People who are involved in international business activities needs information (how much we export/ import) in the last few

years. However, in order to retrieve that information, one must go to the Census website and not the Department of Commerce. The international community will not have the incentive to come to Washington without that information provided, they will want to go to California and elsewhere. Please update the Department's website to include that information.

Director Locke: Invited Commissioner Dash to please come and suggest this to a Commerce board panel.

Commissioner Lee: OMBWE and Commerce are not connected: if one small business qualifies for a loan but may not qualify for another. Non English speakers are always caught in the middle of the application process; the SBA helps with processing, but no one that she has worked with has been able to complete the process. Perhaps it has to do with low interest rates, but it is very difficult to obtain helpful information, and it is especially difficult for people with no English background. Separate application process is extremely difficult and creates barriers.

Director Locke: What recommendations do you have?

Commissioner Lee: Expand language access.

Commissioner Leung: As you're planning things out, think about what that barrier to entry is, and how do we make that more accessible. Think about at what point do people get left off?

Commissioner Pen: Reiterate Commissioner Leung's comment. Background work in public safety. Do you still provide funds for safety around small businesses?

Director Locke: Will look into it.

#### **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Career Technical Education Program (CTE)**

Phouang Hamilton

- Ms. Hamilton has over 18 years of OSPI work and has worked with many federal programs. CTE is offered for those in the K12 system and it provides seven secondary programs for students and adults. The program used to be only vocational, but with the Perkins act of 2006, the focus and language of CTE changed to be academic and not just vocational (technical).
- Student enrollment are held to rigorous academic standards of that to traditional two and four year institution. CTE works closely with Boeing and Microsoft and the IT academy; and similarly the program works closely with the Governor's office to ensure that students are prepared for work and not only just college. With technical skills training students have more options.
- Ms. Hamilton works closely with the Education Research and Data Center and suggested the Commission should consider partnering with ERDC for data as they have economic and education data from various state agency. ERDC shares data with OSPI and they collect data related to post-secondary employment outcomes. In the future, ERDC will have the capacity to report on CTE concentrators of students in specific areas, but will also do post-graduation update.
- In terms of the graduation rate, the Asian community has a graduation rate of 86% and Pacific Islanders have a 66% graduation rate. The average national graduation rate is at 78. CTE concentrators are those enrolled in institutions, employed or in military, and CTE has an agreement with Idaho and Oregon for data matches. CTE would like to see numbers increase to 100%.

#### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Takamura: The issue of the lack of disaggregated data skews the percentage data.

Commissioner Tufono: Do you have the list of technical colleges? Commissioner Tufono wants to encourage Pacific Islander students to participate.

Hamilton: Yes there is a list and will follow up with an email of the technical colleges

Commissioner Tufono: On the Common Core Standards, there is a piece that mentions how tests are going to measure these common core standards, please make sure that CAPAA is kept aware of how that process is going, how are tests being developed and how culturally respondent are they. Concern is we do not need our students being left behind.

Ms. Hamilton suggested contacting Jessica Vavrus to present on the Common Core in future meeting.

#### **Refugees and Immigrants Services Northwest**

Van Kuno: Former CAPAA commissioner served under Govs. Booth Gardner and Lowry

- Refugee Services Northwest was established in 1978 (originally Refugee Forums) and helped new arrivals from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos with basics like enrolling in school and acquainting them with the public transportation system. The Office of Refugees in Olympia funded this group in 1978 out of St. Mary Magdalene until Everett Community College took over the program. EVCC helped find resources for the community. In 1988 there was an influx of former Soviet Union refugees with a majority from Ukraine, and another influx occurred in the 1990s after the Gulf War.
- In the past decade, the population make up of refugees and immigrants have been the Sudanese lost boys, Kenyans, Somalis, and in recent years Bhutanese and Burmese. RINW monitors colleges for ELL, tutor programs and partners with hundreds of community services and agencies to provide clients with food, DSHS in Everett, Monroe, Eatonville...etc.
- RINW clients immediately begin with skills training and whatever support services they need because there is an 8 month limit for financial support for refugees. Many refugees become homeless because of this time constraint. On average, it takes about two years for a refugee to reach English level 4, which means English proficiency with functional capabilities. The program focuses on language learning because it's an important barrier that is necessary to overcome. Currently RISNW has a network of 300 employers and follow up with their clients with the services in increments of 30-60-90-180 days. The program also provides advice and counseling ranging anywhere from school to domestic violence to fixing family dynamics. RISNW helps clients get gas cards, bus cards, and they have bilingual tutors go out to schools on set date and set time so parents know the schedule and student and family work and communicate with school counselors.
- RISNW also works hard with teachers to explain and educate about cultural competencies. Currently there is no funding for Bhutanese support, however the program is working with Everett for iBest on-ramp for level 2 and 3 clients. They have 14 students on the on-ramp for iBest. There is more API coming into the area and the city of Everett's API population is currently 15% with Mukilteo's demographic at 17% API.
- The program continues partnerships with all providers in the area and advocates for clients to ensure they receive equal support. Recently become in-person assistor for ACA. Goal is to enroll 1,000. Fourteen of staff trained and certified.

#### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Commissioner Takamura: What school districts work well with CBOs like Refugee Services?

Kuno: Prefer model of Everett school district. Graduation rates improved from 70% to over 80%. Everett has hired an outreach person, that person will knock on doors and notify parents. They provide bilingual outreach in schools with high numbers of API. Parents know for example that there will be a Cambodian outreach person on Tuesdays. The school district has a specific phone number for each language group so parents can call and leave a message. A bilingual person will monitor that number.

Commissioner Dickinson: Is there legal services number available around the state?

Kuno: Yes, anyone is welcome.

Commissioner Tufono: Which district is a good model (clarifying question)? Any questions to Edmonds?

Kuno: Yes, Everett. Yes, working to advocate for API students in Edmonds. The school district is now trying to hold parent teacher conferences in the afternoon for those who can't leave work. Amy Nelson is the ELL coordinator and is working with us. List of mentoring services?

Kuno: We share the resources with the schools.

Van Kuno's contact (425) 388 9312

#### **Washington State Small Farms Program, Hmong Program**

Presenter: Bee Cha, Program Coordinator

- Works for Washington State University to provide support to farmers.  
History: Who are the Hmong? Immigrants who used to live in China, but due to war and persecution, moved to Vietnam, Lao and Thailand. Hmong people are a nomadic group who are heavily agriculture based. Refugees began arriving in US in late 1975 after the Vietnam War. Population of Hmong people in the U.S. is 260,000. In Washington there are about 2,404.
- In Washington, the first arrivals of Hmong immigrants came in 1978. Those who arrived lacked technical skills due to their agriculture intense background. In 1983 there was a reduction of Federal grants and left many Hmong people out of jobs. Office of Refugee contacted WSU to start training Hmong community how to farm in the new environment.

Building programs for Hmong farmers start by going to farmers market and gathering the farmer's input on their needs and create a list of essential things they need in order to succeed. The business aspect of a Hmong farmer is difficult: they grow things they cannot eat, such as flowers, which leads to a question of how do Hmong farmers grow those things that are marketable to mainstream consumers as well as produce consumable by a Hmong family.

- There are many Hmong located in Snoqualmie and Snohomish as they need to live near the metropolitan location to sell. Typically, these are small scale productions, with dependence on manual labor and no heavy manufacturing. The needs of the farmers are land to farm, land to own (which many are losing mainly with development and flooding) and drainage. Most farmers move land to land because they do not own and they do not invest it back into that land. In the valley there is a lot of water, but they cannot drill into the land and irrigate at the appropriate time. The majority of farmers in King County plant flowers because it is the most marketable. Cultivating vegetables and food that is common to Hmong culture is difficult because of the land.
- Marketing is also a barrier, in order to build a business, one must scout a business venture that can help set parameters to set price and profits. Hmong farmers cannot penetrate the floor market, even after 20 years, they still sell at the farmers market where there is internal competition and no structure and no concept of how to make a profit, which is one of the biggest problem right now. In general, it is difficult to provide education and materials as there is no written language, and most farmers have no education background. The Small Farm Program itself is facing budget cuts because it is federally funded.
- There are some improvements made with applicable education such as teaching businesses how to create signs and banners, and helping individuals make business cards to help them think of bigger marketing aspects and teaching farmers how to maintain their equipment. Cultural barriers and applications of these things, however, makes it difficult.
- Lessons learned: Enticing Hmong farmers to come to meetings and participate in the education process, if food is available, people will show up. Education wise, Hmong people are second lowest performers within the South East Asian group. There is no direct service for our community. Or there is a lack of knowledge of what services out there is available for them.

#### QUESTIONS AND COMMENS:

Commissioner Dickinson: Do you host classes in Spokane?

Cha: No because it's only once a year lead by Cha with traveling being an issue.

Commissioner Leung: If the program funding was cut, services to king county would be affected, but the bulk of community is in king county, so the core of clients are cut. Perhaps connections within king county can help with that. There may be opportunities for people who sell in urban and the program reserves farm land for those farmers.

Cha: Has approached the Agriculture Department and conservation district but these departments serve only people who own land.

Commissioner Dash: Thank you for coming and representing the Hmong community. I don't have solution, but this is similar to milk farmers in India revolving around milk production. There was a lack of fertile land, but in 20 years those farmers made the most milk in India. Dr. Vargis Currihan helped initiate the milk movement and that corporative method may be able to help establish a true identity for Hmong farmers here.

Commissioner Takamura: is the Hmong population shrinking? What about the next generation? Is there is a split or division amongst youth and elders?

Cha: It's pretty steady. What I observe is that everyone wants to be a doctor or engineer, but not everyone can make it, yes there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of Hmong farmers, but it will not be as big. Although parents are farmers, parents push for their children to do something else.

Commissioner Nguyen: Are you connected with any national organizations like SEARAC? One of our affiliates work with Hmong population and organizations. They have capacity to build on the ground so you can provide those services.

Cha: It's important to have something on the ground and support from people who can help them continue these operations. It is especially important to have counties being more supportive.

#### WorkSource

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Regional Labor Economist  
Matt Bench, WorkSource Administrator

- Outline of presentation will cover unemployment and labor. All info is national data. In Washington State, there are about 686,000 APIs and the population is geographically concentrated in King County. Our unemployment rate is at 6.9%, resident labor force is at 3,490 (which includes people actively seeking work) and there is steady improvement of unemployment rate and the rate is up slightly from numbers of last year. In Washington State, there is slow and steady improvement on unemployment rate. In recent months, the unemployment rate in Seattle has declined rather substantially. Asian unemployment rate tend to be lower than U.S. total rates.
- In Washington State, recovery wise, there is a divide between urban and rural counties. Consistent throughout recovery, much of recovery takes place in urban counties, with a lot of rural counties not really coming out of the recession. When looking at Asians, they tend to be in urban geographic locations. Labor force participation has been declining as a whole, with a population of people taking themselves out of the labor force, with no clear answers as to why. There are many reasons to leave the labor force, such as personal, education, or discouraged work phenomenon.
- Labor force participation rate by Asians, at beginning of recession, there was a spike of participation. Following nationwide pattern of declined participation.
- Industry employment- when looking at the numbers, the information does not capture sole proprietorship as well as those not counted in payroll employment.
- There has been an average 5,000 month to month job growth, about a culmination of 74,000 jobs claimed over the past year. When compared to pre-recession employment, we're at about 99% of employment (that we're comparing it to in winter of 2007). Compared to the recession in 2001, the recovery took around eight months, the recent one was declared over after 18 months. We didn't see lowest level of employment until a year later.
- There are two different ways to look at it: the recession and the job search data. In Washington, it varied by location: the Seattle metro area declined slightly farther than Washington State as a whole but has been much quicker to recover, mostly due to the high concentrated sectors of advanced manufacturing such as aerospace and business. The recovery in July 2012 and 2013, King County has recovered about 4.2% of jobs when some continue to lose. When looking at industry, this recession was difficult for goods producers. Service providers lost 96,000 jobs, about 3.9%. Construction lost over 30% of all jobs. Manufacturing has gained back almost all of its losses. Professional services gained back more than it lost. Information Technology did not experience loss, and the government sector gained 1% of jobs. In recent months, manufacturing has been tapering off, instead what we've been seeing state wide has been growth in the leisure and hospitality industries, but these tend to be lower wage industries. There is higher presence in management professional than normally seen as a whole amongst Asians. Why unemployment rate might seem smaller in Asian is because industries hit hardest were not occupied by heavy Asian population. When comparing total population, the Asian population data illustrates the need to be able to identify more specific aggregation of information (that unemployment rate correlates with education).
- Income: during the recession, almost all income ranges reported decreases, yet there was an increase positions for jobs that paid \$40 or more. There were huge losses in retail. We've also seen changes in average household income from 60-56k. Median income: not adjusted for inflation, native Hawaii and Pacific Islander had lower household income fluctuate more than population as a whole. Asian population increased in median household income but that rate has been sliding recently with no clear explanation.

Commissioner Takamura: How do you know if someone is seeking employment or employed or not? Undocumented citizens would be excluded?

Vance-Sherman: It is based off of a question and survey that is given at the national level. Depends on the employer and whether those individuals will be accounted.

Commissioner Nguyen: What was the participation rate prior to 2000?

Vance Sherman: Will follow up.

### **Matt Bench**

- WOW program, which is an online computer training with partnership with Microsoft that is free. WorkSource website has a translation button that can be translated into Korean, Japanese and Chinese. WorkSource looks for partnership (such as RISNW) with other local organizations and has a staff that works with community college as well as staff that has focuses on job placement and planning. WorkSource is always looking to expand. This agency has a strict policy of equal access: anyone who comes in and doesn't speak English can point to a flag, and WorkSource must set up translator and give the client access to the combination of services.
- Programs have case managers. All clients, 14,000 in Snohomish county where the goal is each person who go through WorkSource, the program works to increase the duration of each clients' retention rate, rate of finding jobs...etc. On state level, 156,000 individuals served through WorkSource in three months.

- Site operator initiatives: there are three agencies who are underserving South East Asians, so the goal was set to improve and goals were met (increase ethnic group usage of WorkSource). There's a strong connection with EvCC and Edmonds that work closely with immigrants and contextualize things (with cultural competencies). The challenges are diverse career backgrounds and non-recognition of immigrants' certifications, and these programs seek to help them. Health care and manufacture are the two biggest.

Commissioner Dickinson: This is a great resource here, do other counties have Worksource?

Bench: Yes they should

Commissioner Takamura: Where does the funding come from?

Bench: There is a collection of funding, employment security funding is the core (federal), partners WIA (federal)

Director: Governor's office wants to increase these employment results, do you provide grants to community partners?

Bench: Yes, we try to carve out money for WRA to help provide those services.

Chair Aragon took personal privilege to present Commissioner Sharma with a letter of recognition.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tufono to adjust the agenda for Commissioner Dash to move his presentation to next meeting and Commissioner Nguyen will present at this meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Leung. Motion approved.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Kinuko: Thanked the Commission for allowing the recording of the meeting for the Color Commentary radio segment, the recordings will show up as excerpts unless it's determined by the station that all will air. Will air for 5 minutes at 8:35 and 4:45. We have a chance to spark something with our audience. Currently it is primarily in Snohomish County. There is a three part health and equity series, the organization did a survey (no people of color on the committee), the topic was how health issues impacted community of color the most. Color Commentary asked the head of Snohomish Health District, "We see that you didn't disaggregate, can this change? There is also no representation of people of color." Since then, the radio program has impacted how that committee runs. By the end of November, KEXR 89.9 will be new program available, currently building capacity to train people and intern with them. With two current high schools interning, the Communities of Color Coalition have been training them to use DVD for multicultural and race "Race: the power and illusion" discussion. Color commentary has 6 staff, wide range of interest. The Pacific Science Center is hosting something similar. Seattle Civil Rights is also working to train about issues or ace. If anyone from the Commission is interested to facilitate, it will be from 8:50 a.m.-5:30 p.m. for training in Snohomish county. Kinuko is reaching out to school districts and faith groups so they can facilitate within their own.
- Rashelle Davis, from the Governor's Office: Thanked CAPAA for their service, working on portfolio for education and some human services, and human rights and refugee and immigrant affairs. Congratulated the new Executive Committees. Utilize me as a resource, here for you for concerns, issues, if you want to link with other agencies. Will try to come as much to CAPAA's commission meeting. [Rashelle.davis@gov.wa.gov](mailto:Rashelle.davis@gov.wa.gov)
- Russell Joe: Chief Administrative Officer for Japanese and has served a council member in Issaquah and a board member for the Chinese Information Service Center. He wants to highlight things at the cultural center: there is an upcoming exhibit that highlights baseball from first the first settlement to internment. The Japanese Cultural Day is November 3<sup>rd</sup>, JCCCW.org.

#### **Commissioner Presentation**

Commissioner Quang Nguyen on Design Inc.

- Design INC, located in the International District. The reason for this is because the neighborhood has been around for over 100 years, and the location has stood as an economic ladder for API in community, small businesses have opened there and have allowed people to use it as a vehicle to move up the ladder. More currently, South East Asian businesses have opened up in the last 30 years or so. Challenges can displace these businesses, or create problems such as major zoning challenges that has occurred within the past three to five years. Taking into account the effect of the recession, the number of businesses, especially with mom and pop shops, has dropped. SCIDPDA, Idea Space questioned how do we address those challenges that is innovative and sustainable?  
Goals of Design INC: diversity, support small business, affordability, fill vacant commercial spaces in the International District; we want to complement those businesses. There are lots of vacant spaces in the International District but there is no funding for renovating spaces or opportunity to renovate.

- Yesler Terrace is owned by the Seattle Housing Authority, which was rezoned to in order to allow more commercial and residential to be constructed into the vicinity. The construction will go from 550 units to 5000 housing units. About one million square feet will be allocated for commercial space. Although it is argued to be an economic stimulus, but fragile mom and pop businesses are at risk for being displaced. SHA wants mixed income neighborhood but can quickly change to high income.
- Design concept: There will be an incubate stage where the idea is to attract new businesses and to find people with ideas that are marketable and help them develop a business around that idea.  
Coworking: it is a hot trend these days, it is real estate that allows start-ups to work in a space that is affordable and is shared with others who also share that entrepreneurial energy. Design Inc envisions a professional work space that is open and will allow networking with the broader community.
- Business Tech Assistance: Design Inc. will work to preserve and devote to small businesses what is linguistically and culturally appropriate. It will hire people who can speak business as well as people who want to establish business. Broad stroke of vision is to be collaborative and flexible workspace; people go to launch new business and grow currently established businesses. It will also foster a strong community of creative individuals. By attracting more of those individuals you cut out competition with mom and pop but you bring in younger businesses as well.
- Services offered: Entrepreneur business model: what makes a strong business, we want to help them understand that. Initially, the bulk of clients will be Chinese and Vietnamese because that's what Design Inc. has for resources. Entrepreneurs don't have time and money to sit and talk about everything, therefore Design Inc. will tailor around a project that will help their clients grow their business. If service is unavailable through Design Inc., there are partnerships for networking that is available. Design Inc. is looking to develop within next the few months 4000 sq ft space. Will be able to serve 40-50 clients within and around the area. Received half a million from WA state capital appropriation. Beginning of next year will begin taking in clients.

#### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Takamura: Does this involve Paul Allen's group of IT?

Commissioner Nguyen: We are targeting IT but not after large companies,

Commissioner Pen: These goals are challenging, Pierce County is facing similar challenges for Vietnamese, Cambodian communities and nobody is acting as a liaison between community and authority. Lincoln business is falling down, deputy mayor and chief is attempting to help and there was a brainstorm meeting, but there are challenges to bring those people together.

Commissioner Aragon: What is the role for the Ethnic Chamber of Commerce?

Commissioner Nguyen: As we do outreach, ECC will come in and be integral part of reaching out to API community

#### **COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Commissioner Dash: Wednesday September 25, the Community Forum on the Affordable Health Care Act. There is very low awareness of changes coming in October, the most important thing is international students at the University level are being impacted by these changes.

Commissioner Takamura: The second annual Pacific Islander Education Summit. 99% youth driven; South East Asian Education Coalition building a mentorship program and have a meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Dickinson: Asian Bar Association annual dinner at the Hyatt on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Tufono at 2:11 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Dickinson with no amendments. Meeting Adjourn.

Minutes prepared by Amy Van.