

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

September 20, 2014
Filipino Community Hall
211 West 2nd Street, Wapato, Washington, 98951

Executive Director's Report
September 20, 2014
Filipino Community Hall

1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2015-2017 Biennial Budget Decision Package:** The Office of Financial Management has asked all agencies to submit plans to identify, describe, and prioritize budget reductions equal to 15 percent of an agency's budget. The agency submitted several options to reach the 15 percent reduction. However, due to several rounds of cuts in recent budgets, the agency would be unable to prevent a significant impact in its services to the public if the full 15 percent reduction is implemented. A full reduction would severely reduce the agency's ability to serve the state's most diverse and fastest growing ethnic populations between 2010 and 2012.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Project Manager:** Amy Van has received the new title of Project Manager to reflect her role and responsibilities in the agency. Van manages and organizes the agency's public board meetings, education priorities and initiatives, and internship program.
- **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. To include additional information and input, the Commission will complete the process in November 2014.
- **Website:** Agency staff is working to transfer information, data, and graphics from its current site to the new one. The new website will enable the agency to more effectively communicate policy and program changes that may impact the APA community. The anticipated launch of the new site will occur in October 2014.
- **Results Washington:** CAPAA is participating on the Prosperous Economy Goal Council and is working with other agency directors to reach our targets and goals. Director Itti will present the agency's efforts to prevent underage marijuana use at a Results Review for Goal Four: Healthy and Safe Communities with Governor Inslee on Sept. 24 from 10 AM to noon. The meeting is expected to be televised by TVW and online at www.tvw.org.
- **Internship Program:** The Commission is seeking highly-motivated individuals to fulfill the positions of legislative interns for the 2015 legislative session. Contact 360-725-5667 for more details.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Legislative Session:** The Legislature will convene on January 12, 2015 to pass a two-year state budget and new laws and policies.
- **McCleary Decision:** In an unprecedented action, the state Supreme Court held the Legislature in contempt for failing to adequately fund Washington's public schools. The Court did not issue penalties to lawmakers and has allowed them one more legislative session to develop a plan to fully fund basic education by 2018.

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 (APDC):** Staff attended the September APDC meeting with more than two dozen APA non-profit and community leaders. Staff provided information about the agency’s work with University of Washington Partnerships for Native Health to conduct Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander group discussions about diabetes.
- **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, APDC, and UW meeting:** Staff attended the community forum with University of Washington President Michael Young. More than 90 community members attended to support efforts by UW students and the Southeast Asian American community to reinstate a recruiter for SE Asians at the UW. President Young and Vice President for Minority Affairs Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange announced the position would be reinstated along with part-time staff to address retention efforts.
- **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Against Tobacco (APICAT):** The coalition invited GMMB to present its plan for a second wave of media ads about preventing underage marijuana use. Coalition members provided input on reaching limited English proficient populations.
- **Asian Pacific American Resource Network (APARN):** Staff attended a coalition meeting to learn about efforts to train and educate non-profit staff and community members about federal and state health care programs. CAPAA and APARN are considering holding a joint training for the business community on health plan options and tax incentives that will be offered beginning Oct. 2014 to help businesses cover their employees.
- **Korean American Chamber of Commerce Small Business Forum:** Commissioner Wada represented the agency at the event and provided information about CAPAA and preventing underage marijuana use for parents.
- **Pacific Islander Health Board:** Pacific Islander leaders from nine ethnic communities convened on Sept. 17 to establish a health board with Public Health - Seattle and King County. Community members identified health issues of concern and how to address them. Major issues included diabetes, obesity, cancer, and mental health. Next steps will include forming a leadership committee and working with state and local officials to improve health outcomes for Pacific Islanders.
- **Road Map Project:** Staff participated in a group discussion to develop feedback on the Race to the Top Deep Dive 3 (DD3) letters of intent submitted by several school districts. DD3 is a grant fund to promote community-school partnerships. The feedback was constructed through a lens of equity—specifically from the perspective of supporting English Language Learners (ELLs) and their families and rooted in principles of authentic community and parent engagement. As a result, the timeline to submit proposals was extended to allow for incorporation of the feedback in the districts’ proposals.
- **University of Washington President’s Southeast Asian Advisory Board:** Staff attended the board meeting with community members and faculty of the UW Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity to discuss the recruitment process for the Southeast Asian recruiter position as well as strategies to outreach, recruit, retain, and work towards ensuring the success of southeast Asian students in higher education.

- **Washington State Coalition for Language Access:** Staff met with coalition members to discuss issues around translation services and developing procedures to improve the quality of the final product.
- **Community Events:** Staff attended numerous community events to connect with constituents and learn about community issues and concerns. Events include the Vietnamese American Seafair Coalition Dinner, Asia Pacific Cultural Center Luau, Tibet Fest, Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival, and National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development Regional Meeting.
- **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 attended the WHIAAPI Regional Interagency Working Group roundtable event on July 14. The roundtable event connected API community leaders with staff from key federal agencies. Community members participated in discussions about economic development, immigration & education, worker protections, and health and social services with federal agency staff.
 - **Minority Business Development Agency:** Staff attended a Seattle Asian American Business Roundtable hosted by the federal agency. The agency provided an update on its current programs and services. CAPAA staff inquired about updated data on minority businesses in Washington State.
 - **Small Business Administration:** The federal government met its small business federal contracting goal for the first time in eight years. In Fiscal Year 2013, it awarded 23.39 percent in federal contracts to small businesses or \$83.1 billion of contracting dollars. To compete for federal contracts, small businesses will need to register with the federal government's System of Award Management (SAM) at www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/#1.
- **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 Agriculture:** Department staff will present at the Commission's Sept. board meeting in Wapato on assistance for small farmers.
 - **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. The next scheduled meeting is Sept. 26.
 - **Department of Ecology:** Regional Director Tom Tebb will present at the Commission's Sept. board meeting in Wapato on water quality and water rights and the agency's programs and services.
 - **Department of Enterprise Services:** DES staff will be at the next Washington Small Business Fair, or Biz Fair, on Saturday, September 27th at Renton Technical College. The event is an opportunity for business owners and entrepreneurs to learn from the experts how to form and run a successful business. More information at www.bizfair.org.

- **Department of Financial Institutions:** DFI works with many community partners and coalitions to promote financial education and literacy. A resource in the Yakima Valley is the Yakima County Asset Building Coalition. They run workshops on home buying, tax preparation, etc. More information is available at www.ycabc.org.
- **Department of Health:** Staff and Commissioners Aragon and Wada met with Secretary Wiesman regarding the agency's health equity initiatives. CAPAA provided feedback on the agency's draft work plan to address health equity.

The Commission is working with DOH staff regarding the agency's responsibility as specified in Initiative 502 to educate the public about the new marijuana law. DOH has retained the firm GMMB to coordinate the media campaign. CAPAA is working to ensure that the media campaign is culturally and linguistically competent.

- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with LNI to discuss its efforts to improve access for people with limited English proficiency. The agency is developing a language access program that includes a language access plan, language access policy, and language access procedures. The goal is to improve customer service by ensuring staff know how to identify and better serve LEP individuals.
- **Department of Revenue:** The agency is holding a free tax workshop about Washington excise taxes, reporting classifications, deductions, tax incentives, sales tax collection, and record-keeping requirements on Sept. 24 from 9 AM to noon at the Department of Revenue location at 6300 Linderson Way in Tumwater.
- **Department of Social and Health Services:** CAPAA is working with DSHS staff to review and improve the quality of translated materials to prevent underage marijuana use.
- **Human Rights Commission:** The Commission Director, Attorney General, and Insurance Commissioner wrote a letter to benefit plan administrators and insurance companies to ensure that insurance policies and benefit plans that provide coverage for opposite-sex spouses of insureds or plan members also provide coverage to same-sex spouses. Failing to provide coverage to same-sex spouses violates Washington State law.

The Commission is providing free training on Public Accommodation on Sept. 25 from 12:30 – 4:30 PM and Fair Housing on Oct. 30 from 12:30 – 4:30 PM at its Spokane Office at 1330 N. Washington Street.

- **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 are coordinating with OMWBE Deputy Director Debbie McVicker to develop strategies to achieve the goal.
- **Superintendent of Public Instruction:** At the request of Commissioner Khamshitsang, CAPAA contacted OSPI regarding its World Language Credit Program to inquire about the opportunity for students proficient in Tibetan to earn a high school credit in a language they already know. As a result, Tibetan students are now able to take a skills assessment test to earn high school credit in the Tibetan language.
- **Washington Health Benefit Exchange:** The next enrollment period is from Nov. 15, 2014 to Feb. 15, 2015. Visit www.wahealthplanfinder.org to determine if you are eligible for low-cost or free health insurance.

- **Office of the Education Ombuds:** OEO has released a 2014-2017 strategic plan that outlines three goal areas to support families and educators, close the opportunity gaps, and promote community partnerships. Visit www.governor.wa.gov/oeo to view the plan.
- **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:** Gov. Inslee appointed Mohan Gurung and Zer Vue of King County to serve on the Commission. Gurung founded the Nepal Seattle Society with the goal to unite all Nepali in the state of Washington to preserve and promote Nepali culture and share it with other communities. Vue is a National Board Certified educator and has lectured about the Hmong culture and coordinated the 30th celebration of NW Hmong at the Wing Luke Museum.
- **Board Meetings:** The Commission will hold its final board meeting in 2014 on November 15 in Seattle. Visit www.capaa.wa.gov for more details.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**

- **National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education:** Staff is assisting researchers in an update of the 2008 opportunity gap 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 UNITE Summit on November 22 at South Seattle College.

Our Future Matters: Preparations are underway to convene a second UPRISE Pacific Islander Education Summit on October 4 at Green River Community College. The keynote speaker will be Sefa Aina, who recently concluded his service on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

- **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC):** Sili Savusa and former Commissioner Frieda Takamura are the Commission's lead representatives on the EOGOAC. The Committee was created by the Legislature to develop strategies and recommendations to close the opportunity gaps. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21. Visit www.k12.wa.us/achievementgap for more information.
- **Student Discipline Task Force:** Zharina Angeles, an educator in the Highline School District, represents CAPAA on the Task Force. Angeles was unable to attend the September meeting due to the start of the school year. Staff attended the meeting, which covered issues around integrating the Task Force's recommendations in the state's educational data warehouse—the Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS).

- **Health and Human Services:**

- **Healthiest Next Generation Initiative:** Gov. Inslee is launching a Healthiest Next Generation Council to improve health of Washington children. The Council will help form partnerships across public and private sectors, communities, schools and early learning and childcare environments to take actions such as supporting breastfeeding, making sure healthy food is available and affordable, and cultivating places where children can be active and safe.
- **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Aragon continues to represent the Commission on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Council is working to develop recommendations regarding policies to help limited English proficient populations access state services and programs.
- **Making Stomach Cancer a Health Priority:** Staff co-facilitated a group discussion about promoting stomach cancer as a health priority for APAs at the state's first-ever Stomach Cancer Prevention Summit on August 22, 2014 in Federal Way. The summit was convened by Cornerstone Medical Services and its sponsors to bring community leaders, public officials, and health experts together to discuss the health disparity. The summit planning committee aims to convene a second summit in 2015 and reach out to more communities affected by stomach cancer.
- **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month:** The agency partnered with Asian Counseling and Referral Service to promote awareness of minority mental health. The agency secured a proclamation from the Governor and launched media efforts to encourage APA communities to talk about mental health through an op-ed, radio show, and television appearance on Comcast Newsmakers.
- **Preventing Underage Marijuana Use:** CAPAA is working with state agency and community partners to prevent underage marijuana use among APAs by educating parents and families about the new law. The agency printed 8,000 translated copies of a marijuana fact card and helped distribute more than 2,500 booklets of a parent's guide to community organizations. Commission members have assisted in placing messages in Korean language newspapers, radio, and television. Staff have participated at stakeholder and coalition meetings including the Healthy Youth Coalition and Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Against Tobacco (APICAT).
- **Pacific Islander Group Discussions about Diabetes:** The agency is partnering with University of Washington Partnerships for Native Health and Pacific Islander community organizations to conduct a series of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander group discussions about diabetes. NHPIs have higher rates of diabetes than all other ethnic groups. The group discussions will inform efforts to develop appropriate education and prevention strategies for NHPIs.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Minority Small Business Policy Workshop:** Staff attended the workshop at the South Seattle College Georgetown Campus on June 19 to inform small business owners and community members about policies that affect small business. Participants engaged with state agencies and minority business owners in a discussion to develop recommendations to foster greater economic development opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises in Washington State.