

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

January 15, 2011
International Community Health Services
720 8th Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2009-2011 Biennium is \$216,000 for FY 2010 and \$221,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$437,000. The operating budget for FY 2011 includes a 6.3% reduction in compliance with Executive Order 10-04 where the agency made a fiscal reduction of \$15,000. The financial report provided by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS) indicates that the commission ended the fourth fiscal month with a savings of \$3,960.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Governor's Proposal for Consolidation:** In December 2010, the Governor proposed an initiative to preserve programs that provide vital access and opportunity to diverse communities. The new Office of Civil Rights will consolidate five agencies: the Human Rights Commission, Office of Minority and Women's Enterprise, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Commission on African American Affairs, and the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. The proposed consolidation includes a governor appointed director, a Commission on Minority Affairs made up of fifteen members, a Business Certification & Assistance Division, a Community & Technical Assistance Division, and a Civil Rights Enforcement Division. It also includes three special assistants appointed by the Governor that would provide outreach to the Asian Pacific American, African American, and Hispanic communities.
- **Temporary Layoffs:** Last session, the legislature passed a furlough bill resulting in an additional \$3,000 reduction in staff salaries and benefits. Staff continues to take legislative mandated furlough days. The agency will be closed on January 28, 2011.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Special Session:** Lawmakers in Washington convened for a one-day special session in Olympia on December 11, 2010 and approved nearly \$600 million worth of budget cuts. Among the cuts approved by legislators: \$50 million from k-12 education, \$51 million from higher education, nearly \$30 million from a state-subsidized health insurance program for the poor, and the elimination of non-emergency dental care for poor adults.
- **Legislative Session:** The legislative session begins on January 10, 2011.
- **API Legislative Day:** API Legislative Day will be on February 17, 2011 in Olympia. Governor Gregoire is confirmed to speak at the rally. More details can be found on our agency website. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Pritchard for her work on this event in coordination with APIC.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL-Network):** Last year, the Commission launched a statewide agency network with over 20 participating agencies to build a long-standing infrastructure to ensure the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has access to education, health care, human services, economic development, etc. Staff continues to meet with agency liaisons on a monthly basis to exchange information on programs and policies, provide recommendations, and better collaborate on statewide initiatives.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** The commission successfully completed the AAPI Civic Engagement Initiative on schedule and under budget. Surpassing our initial goals, the commission held over eleven statewide workshops, developed partnerships and full endorsements with over twenty four community organizations, generated a list of 2,250 community members, created a social media network, and garnered five earned media hits. Special thanks to Commissioners Frieda Takamura, Rey Pascua, Lua Pritchard. Also thanks to Tony Lee, Heidi Park, George Cheung, and Diem Ly. A final report will be provided to commissioners and can be requested by the public.
- **Policy Papers:** Last year, the commission entered into an agreement with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality for the production of white papers in our priority areas for dissemination to policymakers during the legislative session. White papers are commonly used by decision makers to help inform policy development. In December 2010, final drafts of the white papers were completed and circulated to the commission. The white papers will be provided to the public on our agency's website and sent electronically in our weekly e-legislative update during the 2011 session.
- **Radio Pilot Program:** Commissioner Lee continues to provide a public platform to engage Korean-speaking Washington residents by hosting a monthly radio pilot program with Radio Hankook (a pioneer in Korean-language radio programming in the United States). This pilot program continues to provide governmental related outreach and education to Korean speaking Washington state residents. Our agency hopes the success of this pilot program will result in the establishment of future radio programs for other AAPI communities.

5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to preserve efforts to outreach to underrepresented populations, provide information on government resources, and meet with longstanding stakeholders on concerns facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Over 70 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, not including the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
 - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** In the fall, staff met with Ryan Edgar, advisor on Pacific Islander Outreach and President's Advisory Commission, to provide an update on the work of our commission. Discussions on the need for disaggregated data on a federal level in the areas of education and health occurred. A future partnership with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and

Pacific Islanders and CAPAA for an English Learner Stakeholders Summit bringing together key stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue on how to achieve a quality EL education for the 21st century will be occurring this year. More details forthcoming.

- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with our agency liaisons. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community. Updates are below.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff continues to meet with Victor Chacon to discuss the impact of budget cuts on several programs impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Community members should also be aware that DSHS is launching a website benefit portal called, “Washington Connection” for low-income families and individuals. This portal will allow community members to access, screen for eligibility, and apply for a variety of vital services and benefits.
 - **Employment Security Department:** Staff met with Tim Gugerty to discuss the agency’s efforts to address unemployment issues in the AAPI community. An agency group was recently formed to determine how to coordinate outreach efforts regarding unemployment insurance exhaustees. The Employment Security Department is in the process of creating a handout on services for individuals who have recently experienced unemployment insurance exhaustion.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff connected with Lyn Peters on programs of interest to the AAPI community. DFI is currently developing an “Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation Prevention Program.” This program will train medical professionals in identifying patients who may be at risk for elder investment and financial fraud due to medical and aging issues. Additionally, in partnership with the Department of Retirement Systems, a series of 24 retirement planning workshops will be held across the state. Community members should also be aware that a Washington Foreclosure Prevention Resource Guide is available online. More information can be found at www.dfi.wa.gov
 - **General Administration:** AAPI small businesses should be aware that the annual vendor training is coming up in 2011 and that it will host several training modules providing the community assistance in government contracting.
 - **Office of the Attorney General:** Elena Perez provided an update to staff on the development of a program for the AAPI community focusing on medical identity theft. This program is scheduled to roll out in the next few months. Staff also assisted the office by connecting them to Vietnamese American stakeholders to explore opportunities to educate the community on immigration assistance fraud given the concern that higher rates of fraud are impacting this group.
 - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Staff met with Walter Wong to discuss programs affecting the AAPI community and requested a demographic breakdown of unemployed insurance exhaustees in the AAPI community. The board recently created a state steering committee and approved work plans to coordinate outreach to Unemployment Insurance exhaustees, increase On-the-Job Training and Direct-Connect training, and improve business outreach and job referrals. Community

members should be aware that the next public meeting will be on January 27, 2011 at Labor and Industries in Tumwater.

- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff met with Cathy Canorro to explore partnership opportunities to expand economic development opportunities for the AAPI community. Through a generous donation from the National Association of Asian American Professionals – local chapter, a business directory is currently in development that will feature state certified AAPI businesses. The executive director also recently joined the agency's ad hoc advisory group to provide feedback on policy recommendations impacting the AAPI community.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff continues to work on an outreach plan with Cathy Liu to ensure that Asian American and Pacific Islander parents have access to information about their children's education, especially parents with limited or no English proficiency. Last month, the commission helped facilitate a speaking engagement with education stakeholders to raise awareness of OEO's services and put out a call for AAPI community members to educate their respective communities. Parents who do not speak or understand English can access services in their language through the Ombudsman language line at 1-866-297-2597.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Staff met with Sharon Ortiz to discuss the rising number of human rights complaints coming into our agency from the community. A recommendation was made to update information on the Human Rights Commission website and phone lines to ensure the AAPI community is aware of language assistance services. The Human Rights Commission has completed the website update and is currently working on the automated phone message.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Staff met with Bonnie Beukema to discuss the impact of budget reductions on early learning programs affecting the AAPI community. The community should be aware of changes to the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program. Effective January 1, 2011, all families receiving WCCC must have monthly countable income below 175% of federal poverty guidelines. It is estimated that 2,500 or more families and children will no longer have access to this program.
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser to discuss current program changes within the department affecting business owners and employees within the AAPI community.
- **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Doron Maniece to discuss current policies impacting the AAPI community, in particular, driver's license and identification card policies. Staff is currently providing DOL assistance in communicating new or changed licensing requirements to the community.
- **Secretary of State:** In December, staff met with Patrick Reed on new rule changes and current laws impacting AAPI business owners and companies. Profit corporations, LLC's, limited partnerships, LLP's, corporate sole's, and nonprofit corporations are required to file an annual report and pay a corporate renewal fee each year, even if there is no change with the company. More information can be found at www.sos.wa.gov/corps
- **Department of Revenue:** Suzan Del Bene began her position in December as the new agency director. Staff continues to meet with Rick Stedman on a monthly basis to gain

information on current programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. Staff is currently working with the Department of Revenue to participate in a future pilot radio program to inform the community of services. Also, in November, a new website for the Department of Revenue was launched which features Asian language translation more prominently. Community members are encouraged to visit the site at www.dor.wa.gov

- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with Chewon Lee to strengthen awareness of services and increase access for the community. The commission is currently in the plenary stages of developing a program in partnership with OIC focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act which is expected to run over the next ten months.
- **Department of Commerce:** Deputy Director Jan Marie Ferrell is our agency's liaison. In January 2011, several announcements were made on changes at the Department of Commerce. More information is available at www.doc.wa.gov
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to meet with Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction intends to amend Chapter 392-190 WAC – Rules for Equal Educational Opportunity – Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited. A public hearing to receive comments on the proposed amendments will be held on January 25, 2011 at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Brouillet Conference Room, 4th Floor, 600 Washington Street, Southeast, Olympia, WA 98504. A public hearing via videoconference to receive comments will also be broadcast on January 26, 2011 from 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. Video conference locations will be in several Educational Service Districts. Written comments may be submitted to Yvonne Ryans at commentsHB3026@k12.wa.us
- **Department of Veterans Affairs:** Commissioner Pascua continues to provide translation assistance on a service pamphlet for the Filipino American community.
- **Washington State Liquor Control Board:** Staff met with Ruthann Kurose to discuss programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. Staff is currently securing a representative from the Liquor Control Board to appear on our agency's radio pilot program to disseminate information to the community. Ongoing conversations on the creation and production of multilingual material are in progress.
- **Department of Health:** Staff met with Jovie Swanson, our agency liaison, about current programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The Department of Health is working with the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Against Tobacco on a quitline modeled after a pilot service for Asian smokers in California. This month, there will be a free and toll-free line available to the community. Languages will include: Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, and Vietnamese. This program is federally funded by the Center for Disease Control for two years.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** 2011 board meetings will take place on January 15, March 19, June 18, September 17, and November 19th. In December 2010, staff filed notice to meet public notice requirements.

- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. Committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call. All three committees continue to host roundtables to gather input on issues and policies impacting our community.

7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**

- **Oversight Achievement Gap and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our commission and community on this committee. A report on the committee's recommendations and their implementation status, HB 3026, and several content briefings were made. CAPAA representatives continue to sit on the following committees or workgroups: QEC, ELL, LAP, Highly Capable, Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards.
- **Education Workgroups:** Representatives from our community also continue to sit on the Early Learning Workgroup, Gangs in Schools Workgroup, and Ed Tech Workgroup.
- **Pacific Islander Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair.
- **Grant Update:** The commission is assisting the community in their submission of a grant proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Commissioner Takamura continues to serve as our representative and facilitates input from our Asian American education stakeholders. Similarly, Sili Savusa, serves as a representative and helps facilitate input from our Pacific Islander education stakeholders. A submission has been made to the Gates Foundation with the assistance of George Cheung. A final decision is expected in January 2011.

- **Health Care and Human Services:**

- **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on this council. The council is currently working to develop areas of concentration that align with the priorities of our community.
- **Grant Proposal Update:** Funding was recently approved by the federal Office of Minority Health for the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities to work with the commission to host Health Equity Roundtables. Through the assistance of our Health and Human Service Committee, an action plan is being finalized. The purpose of this project is to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations to create a nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Trade Mission:** In November 2010, Commissioner Dash led 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 Asia and in the world. The trade mission was sponsored by the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee

(WASITRAC). A report is now available from the Lieutenant Governor's Office on the trade mission.

- **Immigration:**

- **Immigration Reform:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to work on immigration issues on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The DREAM Act did not pass during this past session.