



The State of Washington

COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Executive Director's Report Kitsap Regional Library/East Bremerton 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310 November 17, 2007

1. CAPAA's **Financial Report** –will be presented by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS).
 - The Agency's budget for the 2007-09 Biennium Year, operating only, is \$ 257,000 for FY 2008 and \$252,000 for FY 2009 with a total of \$509,000.

Note: The agency received an additional \$52,000 for Website and Database Enhancements in the Department of Information Services Budget.
2. **CAPAA is undergoing Audit for 2003 to 2007** at the present time. The audit exit meeting is on November 19, with the state auditor's office and Chair Tony Lee, and two Representatives from SACS.
 - We will provide you with the recommendations and letter from the Auditor's Office to finally close the audit. There are no major concerns for our audit.
 - The Auditor, Heidi Algieri brought up the option of opening a non-profit account for CAPAA since we are receiving donations for our major programs. In that way, it would not go under the restrictions of state policies.
3. **Whistleblower Complaint** against our former Executive Assistant, Jovi Legaspi. I have attached our final letter to the Ethics Board. I have sent a copy to Mr. Spencer Daniels, our representative in the Attorney General's office.
4. **EDUCATION: P-20 Council-** is tasked with tracking progress on the Washington Learns Long-term goals and on the specific investments that have been made. The P-20 Council will use existing and new measures to collect data and track changes. The Governor has convened the Council and it is staffed and supported by the Office of Financial Management.
 - I have attached a copy of my joint letter with Uriel Iniguez, the Executive Director of the Commission on Hispanic American Affairs. When the P-20 Council had a public presentation, all the recommendations that we had presented to the P-20 Council with regards to English Learners were not even mentioned.

Agency Overview

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring 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.

- I would like to reiterate that we need to re-assess the membership of the Education Committee and have a pro-active role in the Education Committee. On the first meeting with OSPI, these are the points that Tony Lee and myself brought up to their attention:
 1. Main concern is closing the achievement gap. The report of Washington Learns did not target the How to's. CAPAA would like to see specific measures done like summer classes, longer hours, and smaller class sizes.
 2. Community based organizations and parent empowerment- where it is in the process? Family engagement and community partnership is not even addressed.
 3. Drop-out prevention program- CAPAA would like to see stronger programs in addressing the drop-out retrieval that is systematic and workable.
 4. Higher Education- we are referring to our low-income adults which are usually people of color. Less than 15% of our ABE-ESL students do not have the opportunity to go to post secondary education. Less than 6% are able to get a social arts degree or one year credential. We would like to see the numbers go up.
 5. Professional development for all teachers working with the ELLs. What is OSPI's plan in this area?
 6. Diversity in the workforce. As of now, we do not have a director for Bilingual Education.
 7. There will be an upcoming meeting with OSPI on Drop-out Prevention, and Retrieval Program, HB 1573, which Tony and I will attend on November 27 at OSPI. On that same day, The Washington Education Association of the state is having a whole day workshop on Drop-out Prevention.
 8. I have provided you with a copy of Senator Maria Cantwell's press release on the "No Child Left Behind" and Drop-out rate in the Southeast Asian Community.

5.) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- The second workshop on Certification with OMWBE was held on November 2, 2007 at the Safeco Jackson Center. We had fifteen participants for the workshop. We have one community outreach person for this time, Lito Adrillana, to follow up on participants that were not able to attend the first one and new businesses. Out of the twenty attendees of the first workshop, about seven of them applied for certification.
- Statutory Review of OMWBE Hearing on November 30, 2007, at the JLOB Room C. This is led by Representative Phyllis Kenney.

6.) HEALTH CARE:

- The Interagency Coordinating Council must update the legislature on its progress in 2008, 2010 and 2012. The plan will look at health disparities broadly and must specifically address a number of diseases and conditions identified in the Legislation.

7.) GOVERNOR'S CABINET TOUR in Bellingham:

I was asked to join the Governor's Tour in Bellingham with Valoria Loveland of the Dept. of Agriculture, Juli Wilkerson of CTED, Linda Bremer of General Administration, Charlie Earl of SBCTC, Chief Batiste of the Washington State Patrol and John Lee of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, on October 8, 2007. We met with different institutions to listen to them. There was a report on the Immigration sweep that has been occurring in Bellingham and in some parts of Washington State. We briefed Governor Gregoire of the constituents' concerns before the town hall meeting which was attended by more than 500 residents. The citizens of Whatcom County and Skagit Counties were prioritized in this order: Education, Health, Environment, Transportation, Economy, Social Services and Public Safety. I met with the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities. They are very happy to know that the Governor has now an Interagency Coordinating Council to address health disparities.

8.) GOVERNOR'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:

- SeaTac Doubletree Hotel, on November 6.
- The theme of the Leadership Conference is GMAP, Government Management Accountability Performance, which I attended. Governor Gregoire is being awarded as one of the nation's top public officials in the nation for her government accountability and her "negotiator-in-chief" style of dealing with tough problems. She is on the November cover of Governing Magazine.

9.) CENSUS 2010:

- The Partnership Program of Census 2000 is particularly important for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The Asian American and Pacific Islander communities reveal a compelling story of rich diversity, comprising of more than 45 distinct and ethnic groups and a multitude of cultures speaking more than 28 languages. Some of these distinct ethnic groups include Asian Indian, Bangladesh, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Polynesian, Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan, Micronesian, Fijian, Guamanian, or Chamorro. I personally rallied for the implementation of the Partnership Program in 2008, along with the Asian Advisory Committee. The total population of Asians alone in the U.S. is 13,100,095, according to the 2006 American Community Survey of the Bureau of Census.

10.) In the midst of the IMMIGRATION STAND-OFF:

I would just like to point out that H.R. 1287 in the House and S 671 in the Senate- both are Family Reunification Bill for the Filipino World War II veterans are still very much alive as stand alone bills. Both Senator Daniel Akaka and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono are waiting for the right time to re-introduce them.