

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

November 17, 2012
Chinese Information and Service Center
611 South Lane Street, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium is \$234,000 for FY 2012 and \$212,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$446,000. The agency will be able to maintain current staffing levels but will continue to have limited discretionary funding for printing, translation services and supplies.
- **2013-2015 Supplemental and Operating Budget:** In September, the 2013-2015 Supplemental and Operating Budget was submitted to the Office of Financial Management. A request was made for \$12,000 in FY 2013 and FY 2015 to cover basic operating expenses.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an integrated online casework system. Requests on financial aid resources for school and employment opportunities remain steady.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Day:** Staff continues to assist the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition in securing a permit to use the capitol campus for the 2013 API Legislative Day and a venue for the legislative leadership meeting.
- **Legislative Priorities:** The regular legislative session will begin on January 14, 2013 in Olympia. Commissioner Aragon, our legislative liaison, will circulate the 2013 legislative priorities for review and approval at the last board meeting of the year. Continued support will be sought for the legislative priorities from the previous biennium in the areas of: education, healthcare, human services and economic development.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Infographic on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington State:** In October, the Commission developed a new resource, *Bridging the Gap: the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community in Washington State*. This infographic provides current data on gaps in access for the community in the commission's priority areas of education, healthcare and economic development. Pacific Islanders continue to face some of the highest high school dropout rates and poverty rates in our state. More information can be found on our website.
- **A Guide for Responding to Emergencies in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities:** In November, with input from the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Services and the Washington State Emergency Management Division, the Commission produced *A Guide for Responding to Emergencies in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities*. Access to information and resources during emergencies is critical for the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in our state. This guide was developed to assist

agencies in working with diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in an emergency, disaster or a culturally sensitive issue.

- **Marine Debris Task Force:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs continues to serve on the Washington State Marine Debris Task Force and as a lead to the Cultural Heritage Workgroup. This workgroup continues to provide counsel on cultural competency issues and ways to reach out to diverse communities relating to our state's work on the Japanese tsunami marine debris. Residents who encounter potentially hazardous marine debris should use the state's toll-free reporting and information line at 855-WACOAST (855-922-6278).
- **Commission Initiatives:** The commission continues its work on two statewide initiatives: the *Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative* and the *Asian American Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative*. More information can be found on our website.
- **Filipino American History Month:** Special recognition to Commissioner Pascua for his work on Filipino American History Month in Washington State. In the month of October, the commission met with Superintendent Randy Dorn and the Tacoma School Board to raise awareness of the month. Resolutions from several municipalities and counties were also secured.
- **Accepting Applications for the CAPAA ACLF Fellowship:** Celebrating the fourth year of the fellowship program sponsored by the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF), we invite future leaders to apply. The fellowship is based in Olympia during the regular legislative session beginning in January 2013. We welcome applications from college juniors, seniors and graduate students. Application review will begin on December 1st and more information can be found on our website.

5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct community outreach and provide advocacy on policy related issues facing the AAPI community and outreach to underrepresented populations. Over 120 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
 - **Community Connections:** Staff continues to meet with over twenty community leaders and community based organizations on a regular basis 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 and legislative members.
 - **Race Exhibit at the Wing Luke Museum:** The Commission is pleased to be a partner on the Wing Luke Museum's upcoming art exhibit about race and race relations which will be on display from May 10 - November 17, 2013.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in our state.
 - **Federal Policies Impacting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Staff continues to regularly participate in monthly calls with federal agencies on policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Issues range from health and education to the

economy and immigration. Federal agencies include the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** On October 30th, the executive director met with Akil Vohra, Senior Advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who supervises education, the bullying prevention campaign, data issues and improving efforts of representation in government. Staff provided an update on the commission's work and advocated on a number of issues of concern to the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency:** In September, the executive director met with staff from the U.S Department of Agriculture and provided recommendations for outreach to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Washington State.
- **Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Protection Conference:** On October 25th, the executive director spoke on a panel focusing on vulnerable populations and consumer protection issues. The panel was part of a common ground meeting for the *21st Annual Consumer Rights Litigation Conference* providing attorneys and advocates with the latest developments in consumer law from the country's leading experts.
- **Small Business Administration:** On September 19th, the executive director participated in a symposium entitled, *Small Business and Government: Maximizing Entrepreneurship, Driving Innovation*. Panels focused on optimizing the relationship between small business innovators and government, maximizing the impact of entrepreneurial accelerators and utilizing emerging capital strategies.
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with our agency liaisons on a monthly basis. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff connected with Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Community members should be aware that the Division of Child Support (DCS) will be replacing the current US Bank ReliaCard with a new card from Bank of America. The new card will be mailed to cardholders in August. Child support payments will be automatically deposited to the new card beginning September 5, 2012, after payments are received. Staff continues to monitor the number of Asian American and Pacific Islander caseloads coming into the Department of Social and Health Services.
 - **Employment Security Department:** A special thanks to our agency liaison, Eddie Maiva, who will be leaving the Employment Security Department in the next month. The commission continues to work with the agency on ongoing outreach activities for the Pacific Islander community given our state's data showing lower rates of unemployment. A new liaison is in the process of being identified.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Lyn Peters provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continues to advocate for more translated materials and programs. On September 18th, the

Department of Financial Institutions provided a presentation on elder fraud to the Vietnamese community in Tacoma. This fall, several free foreclosure legal clinics and workshops will be held for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The last event was held in September at Asian Counseling and Referral Service.

- **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff connected with Paul Corning, our new agency liaison, to advocate for the collection of disaggregated data to determine which Asian American and Pacific Islander communities may be experiencing higher cases of fraud and to make recommendations for the development of more translated materials in Asian languages. In November, the executive director met with Shannon Smith, the new chief of the Consumer Protection Division to advocate for more programs and materials for those with limited English.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walt Wong provided an update to staff on policies and work impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The executive director participated in several meetings to provide input on the *High Skills, High Wages 2012-2022: Washington Strategic Plan* draft which will be presented to the legislature this fall. In particular, the commission advocated for the inclusion of high school dropout and retrieval programs and wrap-around models for diverse populations. Several community members also participated in public forums on the draft plan in Everett, Tacoma, Spokane and Yakima.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** The executive director continues to meet with agency liaison, Chris Liu, to discuss policies, programs and opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander business owners. Staff is currently providing recommendations on procurement reform policies. The commission also continues to monitor the number of certified firms opening in our state that are Asian American and Pacific Islander and the amount of capital being accessed.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Working with our agency liaison, Cathy Liu, the commission continues to provide recommendations on outreach strategies to ensure the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is aware of the services of the Office of the Education Ombudsman. Community members should be aware of a program called, *Finding Your Voice*, which helps parents better understand the public school system and become better advocates for their children. Events will occur in 2013. The commission is also working in partnership with the Ombudsman on a language access policy for limited English students and their parents to reduce the opportunity gap in our schools.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Staff met with Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, who provided an update on programs and policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In November, after an increase in discrimination complaints, the Human Rights Commission opened a new office in Vancouver. Community members should also be aware that rule making meetings are currently in progress on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Amy Blondin, our agency liaison, provided an update on early learning programs and policies. The commission is currently providing recommendations on the creation of videos for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on the *Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines*. Community members should also be aware of an opportunity to serve on the Trainer Approval Board which is a volunteer board of professionals who review and score applications to become state-approved trainers of early learning professionals.

- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff continues to meet with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, on changes in law or policies that may impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The Department of Labor & Industries announced it is proposing no increase in the average rate for workers' compensation insurance. If adopted, this would be the second straight year with no increase in workers' comp rates.
- **Department of Licensing:** The commission continues to connect with Josh Johnston, our agency liaison, who provided an update on policies and proposed rules impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The Department of Licensing recently introduced a fast and easy way to manage the driver license on all vehicle, trailer and boat licenses in one online service called, *License Express*. More information can be found at www.dol.wa.gov
- **Liquor Control Board:** On October 4th, Kim Sauer from the Liquor Control Board presented on the commission's radio pilot program. She provided background information on the *Responsible Vendor Program* which is a free self-monitoring program that rewards retail licensees who take positive steps to prevent the sale and service of alcohol to minors and apparently intoxicated persons.
- **Secretary of State:** Patrick Reed provided an update on policies, filings and publications of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Community members should not forget to file for a Nonprofit Corporation Annual Report year to year before their anniversary date. The Secretary of State is also in the process of building a new easy registration system for entities to utilize which will be launched in the next few months.
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff continues to meet with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs for the community. The Department of Revenue will be hosting Business Outreach workshops to teach the basics of Washington State taxes. This free workshop will help community members understand tax reporting responsibilities. The next workshop will take place on November 20th in East Wenatchee and November 21st in Spokane. More information can be found at www.dor.wa.gov
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff connected with Chewon Lee, our agency liaison, who provided an update on policies, programs, resources and outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Starting October 15th, there will be several events focusing on educating the community about the open enrollment period for prescription drug plans (Part D) and Medicare Advantage plans. Many of these events will partner with the Korean Women's Association and the Chinese Information and Service Center.
- **Department of Commerce:** Leigh Felton, our agency liaison, provided an update on the recent trade mission to India and Korea along with the agency's work in preparing for the upcoming Aerospace & Defense Suppliers Summit. Staff continues to advocate for translated materials for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and the new agency Website is expected to provide translation in many Asian languages.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Phouang Hamilton is our new agency liaison. Recent national data shows an increase in bullying in the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations. Community members should be aware that October was Bullying Prevention month and that the law prohibits harassment, intimidation, and bullying in our schools.

- **Department of Health:** Staff is working with our agency liaison, Jovi Swanson, on an outreach presentation for the agency's Multicultural Workgroup. A representative from the Department of Health will also be speaking at our commission's next board meeting on environmental health issues.
- **Department of Ecology:** A representative from the Department of Ecology will be presenting at the commission's next board meeting on environmental and health issues impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community consuming fish in our state.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** Please save the dates for our 2013 board meetings which will be on January 12th, March 16th, June 15th, September 14th and November 16th. Special thanks to the Chinese Information and Service Center for providing a venue for our meeting and Commissioner Leung for the refreshments.
- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services and economic development. Most committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call.

7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** The Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative successfully held two statewide summits on September 29th at South Seattle Community College and on October 6th at Highline Community College. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative and will provide an update on the summits and the current policy work underway.
 - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa serve as our community representatives on this committee. Policy priorities for this committee were recently reviewed and Commissioner Takamura will provide an update.
 - **Education Workgroups:** Community representatives continue to sit on the following workgroups: Early Learning, Gangs in Schools, Ed Tech, QEC Compensation Workgroup, the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee and the OSPI & External Partners Dropout group.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** The commission continues working on the statewide AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in our state. The focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention and education on the Affordable Care Act. Previous meetings discussed monitoring, surveying and analyzing current trends in health legislation in other states that impact Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and determining whether any of this work can be utilized in policy for Washington State. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.

- **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director serves as a representative to this council on behalf of the commission. The council is working to develop policy recommendations for the areas of: poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, adverse child experiences, health reform implementation and its potential impacts on health disparities.
- **Economic Development:**
 - **Translated Small Business Guide:** The commission advocated for the translation of the Small Business Guide and a successful pilot in Chinese and Korean is now available. This guide provides helpful information, links to valuable resources, and outlines the steps for starting and operating a business in Washington. Special thanks to Commissioner Leung and Commissioner Lee for their assistance. More information can be found at <http://www.ora.wa.gov/business.asp>
 - **Trade mission to India and Korea:** In October, Governor Gregoire led a trade mission to India and Korea where she promoted Washington state industries and products to potential investors and attracted new opportunities for job growth. She was joined by nearly 50 business, education and government leaders working to expand exports and investment in our state's agriculture, life sciences and technology sectors.
 - **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** A special thanks to the many representatives serving on statewide committees working on economic development issues. Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, serves as a representative on the Small Business Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dash sits on the Export Initiative which hosts quarterly working group meetings. Maiko Winkler-Chin is working with staff on the Microenterprise program and Mohan Gurung on the Efficient Regulation exercise.
 - **Washington Wine Asia Export Initiative:** Commissioner Leung continues to work with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a wine export initiative. In September, the state hosted a delegation from Japan which visited 13 wineries.