

The State of Washington

# CAPAA

COMMISSION ON  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



## **Executive Director's Report**

March 17, 2012  
General Administration Auditorium  
210 11th Avenue SW  
Olympia, WA 98504

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**1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **Operating Budget:** During the 2011 special session, the legislature approved an operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium that amounts to \$236,000 for FY 2012 and \$219,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$455,000. The regular session ended without an agreement on the budget and a special session was called by Governor Gregoire for March 12, 2012. The agency's budget is yet to be determined.<sup>1</sup> With the agency's current budget, the commission will not be able to maintain current staffing levels and travel expenses. It will also have extremely limited discretionary funding for printing, translation, services and supplies.

**2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an integrated online casework system. A rise of requests on financial aid resources for school and employment opportunities remains. Requests on employment discrimination have also risen slightly. Staff is working with the Human Rights Commission to monitor statewide complaints for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and is preserving scholarship information as well as job listings on our website for the community to access.

**3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

- **2011 Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session officially adjourned on March 8, 2011 in Olympia. Because a budget was not finalized, immediately following the conclusion of the regular session, Governor Gregoire called for a special session on March 12, 2012 to begin at noon. Special thanks to our legislative liaison, Commissioner Aragon, for her valuable service monitoring the budget, bills, and public hearings on issues impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. We would not be able to produce a weekly e-legislative update with a statewide dissemination to keep our community informed without her work and our executive assistant, Justin Chan.
- **API Legislative Day Update:** The community will host a large summit at the Tacoma Dome in the fall of 2012 instead of API Legislative Day which historically takes place in February. The statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition is the main organizer of this event.
- **Filipino American Heritage Month:** Under the leadership of Commissioner Pascua, the House and Senate passed a resolution recognizing October 2012 as Filipino American Heritage Month. This resolution was endorsed by the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Governor Gregoire also issued a proclamation for the month.

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<sup>1</sup> Budget proposal as of March 12, 2012: Governor's Early Action Budget (2012) 222,000, (2013) 202,000 totaling 424,000; Senate Budget (2012) 224,000, (2013) 208,000 totaling 432,000; and House Stryker (2012) 224,000 , (2013) 203,000 totaling 427,000.

#### 4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Dashboard:** The Commission recently announced the release of the Washington State Asian American and Pacific Islander Dashboard. Similar to a dashboard on a car, the *Dashboard*, shows a few important indicators on how our state is progressing on the outcomes necessary to improve the well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The *Dashboard* focuses on the commission's three priority areas of: education, economic development, and health/human services. Red and green arrows indicate positive and negative trends. Negative trends include a decline in on-time high school graduation rates for Pacific Islanders, a decline in Pacific Islanders obtaining a bachelor's degree, an increase in the unemployment rate for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, a decrease in the percent of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander in our state workforce, and an increase in Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders using DSHS economic services, medical assistance, aging and adult services, and alcohol and substance abuse treatment. The *Dashboard* can be found on our website.
- **AAPI Guide on Access to Services and Funding:** In March, the commission released a guide to assist the AAPI community in accessing state services and funding. Given the economic climate, it has become ever more essential for our community to be able to navigate the process to receive assistance. Community based organizations and community members interested in services and funding should be aware of this new resource. The guide is posted on our agency's website and hard copies will be provided at each of our statewide board meetings.
- **Newsletter:** The commission recently released a new newsletter. This newsletter provides the AAPI community an update on some of the work of the commission and strengthens the public's understanding of our mission, role, and priorities. The most recent newsletter is posted on our website.
- **Commission Initiatives:** The commission continues its work on two signature initiatives: the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative and the AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. Detailed summaries of both initiatives can be found on our website.
- **Community Connections:** Meetings are currently on-going and approximately twenty organizations participate in the recently launched "Community Connections" program. This program aims to institutionalize a longstanding infrastructure within the AAPI community that allows for regular direct in-person exchanges of information and offers an alternative forum for the community to raise issues of concern. Recent meetings with the community have yielded requests for assistance on foreclosure, legal resources, capital for small businesses, and discrimination.
- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** In 2000, the State of Washington formally recognized the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and encouraged public institutions to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our state and nation. Governor Gregoire signed the 2012 proclamation recognizing this special month which can be found on our website. The annual event celebrating the month will be at the Seattle Center on May 6, 2012. Special thanks to Commissioner Takamura who serves as our liaison.

#### 5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources for outreach, staff continues to meet with the community and provide advocacy on policy related issues facing the AAPI community. Over 120

meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, not counting the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.

- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies and national organizations to stay apprised of policies impacting the AAPI community in our state.
  - **National Conference Call of Asian American and Pacific Islander Commissions:** In February, staff participated in a conference call with the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs and other state and city commissions. The call highlighted work across our country and region. The commission also participated in numerous White House AAPI Initiative conference calls on issues relating to: student debt, businesses and budget proposals, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community engagement efforts.
  - **Office of Congressman Adam Smith:** On January 27<sup>th</sup>, the executive director attended a meeting with Congressman Adam Smith to discuss several policy issues with members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
- **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:** Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, provided an update on programs, policies, and data of interest to the AAPI community. The commission recently requested data on the number of AAPI's receiving DSHS client services which showed an overall increase.<sup>2</sup> The commission is working with DSHS to increase outreach to the AAPI community and a representative will be speaking on our radio pilot program. Community members should also be aware of the *Mobile Community Services Office*. This is a 40-foot truck that transforms into a functioning office with staff who are able to complete cash, food and medical interviews, issue EBT cards, and receive documents. More information can be found at [www.dshs.wa.gov](http://www.dshs.wa.gov)
  - **Employment Security Department:** Staff continues to meet with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison. The commission is working with ESD staff on outreach to Micronesian and Polynesian communities, especially 18-24 youth, where data shows one of the largest rates of unemployment in our state.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Lyn Peters provided staff with an update on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. In February, Washington joined a settlement bringing financial relief to struggling homeowners. Approximately \$25 billion in sanctions and homeowner relief for our residents was obtained. Community members should be aware of two upcoming events. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, *Financial Fitness Day* will take place at the Rainer Community Center in Seattle. This event includes free credit reports, tax return preparation, checking or savings account options, debt plans and public benefits. April 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> marks *Money Smart Week*, a series of free classes and

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<sup>2</sup> AAPIs received: DSHS Economic Services in 2008, (80,790); 2010, (105,531). DSHS Medical Assistance in 2008, (88,088); 2010, (97,590). DSHS Aging and Adult Service in 2008, (6,966); 2010 ( 8,110). DSHS Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment in 2008, (3,339); 2010 (3,751).

activities designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. More information can be found at [www.dfi.wa.gov](http://www.dfi.wa.gov)

- **Office of the Attorney General:** Given the prevalence of some cases of fraud in particular AAPI communities, the commission is monitoring consumer protection issues and has requested data from our agency liaison in order to examine existing trends. Community members should be on the lookout for scammers who say they'll help for a fee to speed up loan modifications flowing from the national mortgage settlement.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Staff continues to meet with Walt Wong, our agency liaison. Recent data unveiled unemployment rates among some of our 18-24 AAPI youth to be at high levels. Our staff is working with the WTCEB on outreach programs to these particular populations. Community members should be aware that the WTCEB received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to support the development of workplace-based learning laboratories and expand the reach of online learning opportunities for low-wage adult workers. The Workforce Board has developed three pilot *Learning Laboratory Partnerships* that will deliver test, and expand workplace-based education and training options. More information can be found at [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** The executive director continues to meet with Cathy Canorro on policies and programs. Currently, we are working on several outreach strategies for the AAPI community to ensure that they are aware of services available. OMWBE was featured on the commission's radio pilot program in February and the commission connected several ethnic communities who were unfamiliar with the agency's services. AAPI small businesses should be aware of events on March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup> which focus on *Certification: Benefits and Process, Selling to the State, Marketing Strategies for Small Business, and Responding to RFPs*.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Cathy Liu Scott, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies and programs for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission assisted in providing recommendations on a current program OEO is offering called, *Finding Your Voice*. It is a three day training-of-trainers program for individuals working with families whose children attend public schools. Participants learn about family involvement in education, how to teach and acquire cultural competence and presentation skills. More information can be found at [www.parentprep.org](http://www.parentprep.org)
- **Human Rights Commission:** Staff continues to meet with Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison. Staff is monitoring data on AAPI human rights complaints received by the state since the last requested report showed a rise in Filipino Americans filing in King County. In 2011, 24 human rights complaint filers identified as Asian American and 8 as Pacific Islander. When ethnicity was recorded in 2011, Filipinos had the highest number of complaints. A further breakdown of the data by ethnicity reveals complaints received by Indians, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Fijian, and Koreans. Compared to the previous year, there was a slight increase in complaints filed with the state by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- **Department of Early Learning:** In January, DEL was awarded a technical assistance grant from the BUILD Initiative and the QRIS Learning Network to support childcare

providers' work with culturally and linguistically diverse children within a QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System). This grant provides Washington the opportunity to participate in a train-the-trainer program that focuses on how to work with child care providers on issues related to racial, linguistic and cultural diversity. More information can be found at [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov)

- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies and programs for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. AAPI workers and business owners should be aware of a new program called, *Stay at Work*. This program provides a financial incentive that encourages employers to bring their injured workers back to light-duty or transitional work by reimbursing them for a portion of their costs. Also, from September 26-27, 2012, the Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference will offer training on the latest tools, technologies and strategies for workplace safety and health. More information can be found at [www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov)
- **Department of Licensing:** Josh Johnston, is our new agency liaison, and provided an update on a few policies and proposed rules impacting the AAPI community. The Department of Licensing has postponed amending WAC 308-104-075 and is considering the input provided from various community members and groups. This was the rule proposing an amendment to deny the application or reapplication of a driver's license or identicard for a person who had been convicted of a prohibited practice listed in the RCW for a period of five years.
- **Secretary of State:** Patrick Reed, our agency liaison, continues to work with staff on issues impacting the AAPI community. Community members should be aware of an internet scheme targeting businesses. Business identity theft is a growing concern, and the Office of the Secretary of State provides resources for businesses in combating this issue. More information can be found at [www.sos.wa.gov](http://www.sos.wa.gov)
- **Department of Revenue:** Rick Stedman, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies and programs of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In January, Brad Flaherty was appointed by Governor Gregoire as Director of the Washington State Department of Revenue. Currently, the agency is converting all securities held as unclaimed property to cash. If you have unclaimed property, you may elect to have the securities returned or receive the net proceeds of the sale. In April, the agency will hold its *Unclaimed Property Awareness Campaign*. More information can be found at [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov)
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with Chewon Lee on policies, programs, resources and outreach to the AAPI community. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner continues to be a sponsor to the commission's AAPI Health Disparity Initiative and a representative will be speaking at the next statewide board meeting. The agency recently released a report on the number of uninsured. The report found that 57 percent of people in low-income families (those earning less than \$30,000 for a family of 4) had no health insurance at some point last year and that 35 percent have been uninsured for two years or more). Staff will continue to monitor this issue and the Affordable Care Act.

- **Department of Commerce:** Joe Olson, our agency liaison, provided an update on programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The Commission is working with the Department of Commerce to learn about ways the AAPI community can access funding opportunities. The agency is administering the *Housing and Essential Needs Program* which provides non-cash housing and other assistance for some recipients of state-funded medical care services. Community members should also be aware of the *Earned Income Tax Credit*, a credit for people who do not earn high incomes. Seniors, low income earners, and non-English speaking taxpayers account for much of the unclaimed credits due to the lack of outreach and awareness. Last year, 426,124 people applied for the credit, bringing about \$847 million into the state's economy. More information is available at [www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to meet with Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison who provided policy updates on many committees and educational issues. The agency recently published new guidelines to assist school districts in implementing a new civil rights law. The guidelines, titled "Prohibiting Discrimination in Washington Public Schools – Guidelines for School Districts to Implement Chapters 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW and Chapter 392-190 WAC," are available at [www.k12.wa.us/Equity/ProhibitingDiscrimination.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/Equity/ProhibitingDiscrimination.aspx)
- **Department of Health:** Jovi Swanson, our agency liaison, provided updates on programs, policies, and events of interest to the AAPI community. On February 8, 2012, the executive director made a presentation to staff at the Department of Health on outreach strategies to the AAPI community. Community members may want to be aware of a proposed food rule (Chapter 246-215 WAC). On March 14, 2012, public comment on this rule addressing safety standards for food served or sold to the public was heard. This is relevant to many of our AAPI communities because we have received many questions on this from small business restaurant owners.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Staff continues to connect with our agency liaison, Antonio Sanchez, to discuss issues of interest to the AAPI community. The commission is working with staff on some export initiatives with countries in the Pacific Rim.
- **Legislative Outreach:** Upon the request of legislative members and staff, the commission provides briefings on the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community and the agency.
  - **APA Legislative Members:** Upon the request of the Legislature, the executive director met with Representatives Santos, Hasegawa and Ryu to provide an update on programs, services and the interagency work of the commission on January 24, 2012. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.

## 6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The remaining statewide board meetings in 2012 will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to the Korean American Grocers Association of Washington for providing refreshments for our last meeting.

- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continually convene on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. The committees primarily meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call.

**UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:**

- **Education:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** On February 17, 2012, the Advisory Council met to begin planning for two education summits this Fall. Two statewide committees were created to plan each summit, one for the Asian American community and another for the Pacific Islander community. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative and will provide an update.
  - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa are our community representatives on this committee. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update at the next meeting.
  - **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.
  - **Pacific Islander Education Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force is meeting on a regular basis with Sili Savusa serving as the chair.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **AAPI Health Disparities Initiative:** Last year, the commission launched the AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Washington State. The main focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention, and education on the Affordable Care Act. As part of the initiative, a series of events held in partnership with the community focusing on increasing awareness and encouraging testing for prevention will be held. The initiative's second event will be in March. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.
  - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Last month, the executive director participated in a Health Community Outreach Roundtable to discuss health outreach strategies, successes, challenges and recommendations. The council is working to develop policy recommendations for areas of: poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, adverse child experiences, health reform implementation, and the state system and its potential impacts on health disparities. The executive director serves as a representative on this council on behalf of the commission.
- **Economic Development:**
  - **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 meet with the Wine Commission, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, trade organizations, businesses, and Congressmen Jay Inslee's office to discuss the promotion of the trade of wine between Washington and the Pacific Rim. Special thanks to Commissioner Leung for her work.