

The State of Washington

**CAPAA**

COMMISSION ON  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



# Executive Director's Report

March 19, 2011  
General Administration Auditorium  
210 11th Avenue SW  
Olympia, WA 98504

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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) in February indicates that the commission ended the seventh fiscal month with a savings of \$6,372.54.

**2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Governor's Proposal for Consolidation:** In December 2010, the Governor proposed a new agency, the Office of Civil Rights, which would consolidate five agencies: the Human Rights Commission, Office of Minority and Women's Enterprise, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, African American Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs. The bills relating to this proposal are: Senate Bill 5557 primed by Senator Prentice and its companion HB 1958 primed by Representative Hunt. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Tribal Relations & Elections was held. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, an executive session was scheduled but no action was taken. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Committee voted to move the bill without recommendation to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. This legislation is deemed necessary to implement for the budget and is therefore not subject to the usual cutoff dates. More information on these bills can be found on the legislative website at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)
- **Personnel:** A big thank you to Veasna Hoy for her dedicated service. We wish her good health. On March 1, 2011, we welcomed Justin Chan as our new executive assistant. Previously, he served as a fellow to our agency through the CAPAA/ACLF Fellowship program. Justin is fluent in Chinese and served as President of the Chinese Student Association at the University of Washington.

**3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

- **Legislative Session:** The Commission continues to provide legislative updates to the AAPI community on a weekly basis. We thank Commissioner Aragon, our legislative liaison, who provides our community an invaluable service by monitoring the budget, bills, and public hearings for issues that impact the AAPI community. In mid-February, the legislature came to an agreement on the supplemental budget. A proposed 2011-2013 budget is expected after the March 17<sup>th</sup> revenue forecast. The legislature will adjourn sine die on April 24, 2011. Information on the legislative session and bills being tracked can be found at [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov)
- **API Legislative Day:** On February 17, 2011, API Legislative Day was held at the capitol in Olympia. Governor Gregoire delivered remarks at the rally and met with over thirty community members to discuss several issues of importance to the community. Community members also met with the legislative leadership and the AAPI legislative members. Special acknowledgments

to Commissioner Pritchard and the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition for coordinating the day and the over thirty community organizations and individuals who traveled across the state. On February 21, 2011, commissioners also participated in the Ethnic Commission Reception in Olympia. Each year, the responsibility for planning this event rotates. We thank the Commission on African American Affairs for their work on this event.

- **Revenue Forecast:** On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the state revenue forecast came out having an impact on the development of the 2011-2013 biennial operating budget. The 2011-2013 budget will be about \$700 million less than what was forecasted in November. More information and a full report can be found at [www.erfc.wa.gov](http://www.erfc.wa.gov)

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

- **Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami - Relief Efforts:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs expresses their deepest condolences and support to the many families and loved ones impacted by this event. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, our agency sent out a statewide informational alert to provide information to our community. We continue to assist the community, respond to inquiries, and connect groups/individuals to relief efforts. A new section on the front page of our agency's website provides more information on the earthquake in Japan, Pacific Tsunami, and ways to help.
- **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 2011 proclamation recognizing this special month which can be found on our agency's website. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Takamura who serves as our liaison for the celebration at the Seattle Center on May 1, 2011 and Commissioner Pritchard who is planning an event in Pierce County.
- **Business Directory:** A business directory is currently in development that will feature Asian American and Pacific Islander state certified businesses. The purpose of this resource is to expand economic development opportunities for our community. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Dash, the National Association of Asian American Professionals – Seattle Chapter, the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, and Justin Chan.
- **Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL-Network):** Staff continues to meet with 20 agency liaisons on a monthly basis to exchange information on programs and policies, provide recommendations, and strengthen collaboration on statewide initiatives.
- **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). The pilot program covers information and topics impacting the community. Our agency hopes the success of this pilot will result in the establishment of future radio programs for other AAPI communities.
- **Report on Race and the Criminal Justice System:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs participated in a task force on race and the criminal justice system. This task force was called by the Honorable Steven Gonzales, Chair of the Washington State Access to Justice Board and King County Superior Court judge and the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality

in response to remarks made by two sitting justices. On March 2, 2011, a preliminary report was made to the Washington State Supreme Court. Copies of this report can be found on our website.

## 5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct outreach to the community and provide information on government resources. Over 80 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred since the last board meeting, not including the numerous events our commissioners have attended.
- **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:** On March 7-8, 2011, CAPAA provided support and assistance to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on an English Learner Stakeholders Summit held in Seattle which brought together key stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue on how to achieve a quality EL education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Congresswoman Judy Chu who serves as the chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus provided the opening remarks.
  - **Federal Budget's Impact on AAPI Community:** On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, White House senior administration officials discussed President Obama's 2012 federal budget and its impact on the AAPI community. The president's budget was released on February 14<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget)
- **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.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff continues to meet with Victor Chacon, our agency liaison. A regional consolidation reducing six DSHS regions to three is underway. The regional hubs will be located in Spokane, Seattle, and Tacoma. Community members may also be interested in knowing that a temporary legal restraining order is in place on the elimination of the Food Assistance Program. For more information on this issue, please contact Dori Shoji at 360.725.4353.
  - **Employment Security Department:** On February 11, 2011, Governor Gregoire signed into law several enhancements to unemployment benefits. People who file new unemployment claims during the time period of March 6 - November 2011 will receive an additional \$25 a week. Extended benefits will remain available in Washington through the end of the year, aiding nearly 70,000 workers. The Employment Security Department has also created a handout on services for individuals who have recently experienced unemployment insurance exhaustion. This resource is available upon request.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** On February 20-27<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Financial Institutions launched "Washington Saves Week" to encourage residents to commit to saving. Understanding that having emergency savings, retirement funds and

being able to manage one's debt are crucial for residents' personal financial security. More information on programs and resources can be found at [www.dfi.wa.gov](http://www.dfi.wa.gov)

- **General Administration:** Our liaison at General Administration recently notified our agency of a few upcoming conferences for small business owners. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, AAPI business owners attended the Alliance Northwest Conference sponsored by the Washington State Procurement and Technical Assistance Center to learn about procurement training opportunities. Vendors should note that the Westside Vendor Education Seminar will be taking place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.
- **Office of the Attorney General:** Elena Perez provided an update to staff on the development of programs for the AAPI community focusing on medical identity theft and consumer protection. She will be on leave from mid-March to April. More information will be provided upon her return.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Staff connected with Walter Wong to discuss the current status of *Retooling Washington's Workforce* and three upcoming initiatives. The WTECB is working on coordinating outreach to unemployment insurance exhaustees, on-the-job and direct connect training and coordinated employer outreach combined with improved job referral/skills matching.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff met with Cathy Canorro to discuss economic development opportunities for AAPI small business owners and current policies impacting the community. OMWBE held a public hearing in Olympia on February 8, 2011 on CR-102. The intent of these rules are to establish a new, less time-consuming and less costly process for appealing office decisions regarding decertification, denial of certification and the assessment of penalties under chapter 39.19. RCW. AAPI businesses should also save the date for an upcoming event on March 30, 2011. A regional contracting forum will be held at the Washington State Convention Center. Agency representatives will be available on-site to provide information regarding solicitation, contracting, and award processes. There is no cost to register. More information can be found at [www.omwbe.wa.gov](http://www.omwbe.wa.gov)
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff continues to work on an outreach plan with Cathy Liu to ensure the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has access to information about education, especially parents with limited or no English proficiency. More recently, staff provided advice and consul on outreach strategies relating to the ethnic media. Our agency applauds Ombudsman's efforts in submitting a grant proposal to the United Way for funding to hold outreach clinics for our community.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Staff continues to meet with Sharon Ortiz to discuss the increase of human rights complaints coming into our agency. The Human Rights Commission has completed an update to their website and automated phone message to ensure the AAPI community is aware of language assistance services when filing a complaint. Our agency is currently working in collaboration with HRC to analyze data on complaints filed by the AAPI community to determine if outreach to the community in particular regions may be necessary.
- **Department of Early Learning:** The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy eligibility changes that were slated to take effect on February 1<sup>st</sup> will not. Details on the

implementation of the changes are being finalized and latest updates can be found at [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov)

- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser to discuss current programs and policies affecting business owners and employees within the AAPI community. Discussions on a second appearance for L&I on the radio pilot program are underway.
- **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Doron Maniece to discuss current policies and proposed rules impacting the AAPI community. On February 22, 2011, the Department of Licensing held a hearing on a proposed amendment to WAC 308-104-014 requiring that applicants for all drivers' licenses who do not have a social security number sign an affidavit stating that they do not have a social security number. It also requires that a submission of additional documentation establishing the applicant's Washington residence address be made.
- **Secretary of State:** The Charities and Nonprofit Outreach and Education program will be hosting free workshops across the state. Workshops provide an overview of registration requirements, tax laws (state and federal), state gambling law, and state liquor laws as they relate to charitable and/or nonprofit events and organizations. Overviews of board governance are also offered. AAPI community organizations can schedule a presentation for their next meeting or event by contacting Teresa Glidden at 360.725.0373.
- **Department of Revenue:** From February 1 - April 30, 2011, the Department of Revenue will be running a temporary amnesty program waiving penalties and interest on certain unpaid Washington State business taxes. Eligibility requirements, exclusions, and more information can be found at [www.paymytax.org](http://www.paymytax.org) or by calling 1.800.647.7706. You must apply by April 18, 2011 by submitting an application and file all outstanding tax returns and any amended returns for which you are requesting a waiver.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with Chewon Lee. The commission continues to assist in the development of a program focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act which is expected to run over the next ten months.
- **Department of Commerce:** Joe Olson is our new agency liaison. As its tax season, the Department of Commerce wants to ensure the AAPI community is aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that helps low to moderate income working families and individuals by reducing their federal income tax burden. This year families may receive up to \$5,666 cash back but they must file and claim EITC to get this benefit. To find a free tax preparation center, call 2-1-1.
- **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. Several public hearing to receive comments on the proposed amendments occurred in January 2011.
- **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. The Liquor Control Board is scheduled to appear on our agency's radio pilot program.
- **Department of Health:** Staff met with Jovie Swanson, our agency liaison, who provided an update on programs, policies, and legislation impacting the AAPI community. The HIV Client Services' Early Intervention Program (EIP) made some recent changes that decrease costs and keep clients with the greatest health needs on the program. EIP clients were asked to complete verification forms. However, almost 500 clients did not complete the form. For more information, contact the Department of Health. Additionally, the community should be aware that *Dear Me* ads addressing smokers in Washington are currently running. Federal funding has made these ads available in Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese. More information on this program can be found at [www.quitline.com](http://www.quitline.com)
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor's Office:** On March 3, 2011, the Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner Lee, and the executive director participated in a Building Bridges Roundtable sponsored by the Washington State Korean American Chamber of Commerce, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea assisted by the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle for a discussion on building bridges between the Korean American business community and local chambers and business leaders.

## 6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** 2011 board meetings will take place on June 18, September 17, and November 19<sup>th</sup>. Special acknowledgments and appreciation to the Japanese American Citizen's League – Olympia, API State Employee Network, and the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities for their support and participation in our most recent meeting.
- **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. The health care/human services committee is on hiatus during the legislative session.

## 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 more detailed update on the work of this committee and its status will be provided by Commissioner Takamura.
  - **Education Workgroups:** CAPAA representatives continue to sit on the following committees or workgroups: QEC, ELL, LAP, Highly Capable, Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards. Representatives from our community also remain on the Early Learning Workgroup, Gangs in Schools Workgroup, and the 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:** Through the assistance of CAPAA, the AAPI community submitted a grant proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In March 2011, the proposal was approved. An update will be provided by Commissioner Takamura.
- **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:**
  - **India Trade Mission Follow-Up:** Commissioner Dash recently returned from a follow-up trip to India with the Washington State Trade Relations Action Committee. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Port of Seattle formed its first sister port relationship in India, following an agreement signed by port CEO Tay Yoshitani, and officials from the Dharma Port Co. Ltd.
  - **Department of Commerce:** Based on Governor Gregoire's meeting with community leaders on APA Legislative Day, in April, Commissioner Dash, the Executive Director, and several community members from the Economic Development Committee will meet with Secretary Rogers Weed about economic development issues facing our community.
  - **Department of Revenue:** On February 18, 2011, Commissioner Lee along with many small business owners met with the Director of the Department of Revenue Suzanne DelBene and Kathy Oline to identify ways to reduce the complexity of the state's tax system. By June 30, 2011, the Department of Revenue will develop a list of options to reduce the burden on small businesses, evaluate those options, and communicate the findings and recommendations to the Governor. To provide input, a survey is available on the Department of Revenue's website at [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov)