

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

June 16, 2012
Asia Pacific Cultural Center
4851 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98409

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** During the double overtime special session, the legislature passed an operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium amounting to \$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, purchased services and supplies.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Administrative Policy Manual:** Based on recommendations made by the Department of Personnel to all state agencies, staff is in the process of updating our administrative manual. Copies will be provided to commissioners upon completion.
- **Transition:** With guidance from the Governor's Office, staff is preparing transition documents for the next Administration. All staff manuals and procedures are under review and any necessary updates are being incorporated.
- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an integrated online casework system. A rise of requests on financial aid resources for school and employment remains steady.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **2012 Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session officially adjourned on March 8th in Olympia. 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. The *2012 Legislative Session Review*, a document which summarizes bills tracked by the commission can be found on our website. Special thanks to Micah Bateman-lino for his work on this publication.
- **Special Session:** On March 12th, Governor Gregoire called for a special session lasting up to 30 days. On April 11th, lawmakers adjourned from the double overtime special session approving the 2011-2013 biennium operating budget.
- **Asian Pacific American Summit:** This year, a legislative day at the capitol did not take place because the community is hosting a large summit. The *Asian Pacific American Summit: Celebrating Unity and Civic Involvement* will take place on September 21, 2012 at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall. The statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition is organizing this event.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **New Resource on State Agency Materials in Asian Languages:** In fulfilling the commission's mission of ensuring access for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, in June 2012,

the commission launched a new state resource which hosts state agency materials produced in Asian languages. This resource catalogues all known documents in state government produced in Asian languages. Many of these materials provide vital information on state services and information. If you are aware of a state government resource that has been translated that requires inclusion, please notify us.

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Faces in Washington State Government:** In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs released a new publication, *Asian American and Pacific Islander Faces in Washington State Government*. This publication recognizes the contributions and work of many of our state employees. Asian American and Pacific Islanders make up 6% of our state workforce. Recent data indicates a 1% decline from previous years. A copy of this publication can be found on the agency's website.
- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** Staff and commissioners participated in numerous statewide events with federal agencies, state agencies, cities, corporations, educational institutions and community based organizations to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Special thanks to Commissioner Takamura for serving as our APA Heritage Month liaison and to all those commissioners who volunteered their time at the statewide kick off event.
- **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.

5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct community outreach and provide advocacy on policy issues facing the AAPI community. Over 130 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months. This does not include 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 community.
 - **White House Convening of AAPI State and Local Commissions:** On May 9th, the executive director participated in a meeting at the White House bringing together Asian American and Pacific Islander state and local commissions. An update on our state's work and efforts was provided.
 - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Briefing:** In May, a White House briefing for Asian American and Pacific Islander community leaders across the country was held. White House officials provided updates on the economy, jobs, immigration, education, healthcare and innovation.
 - **Congressional Ceremony to Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** On May 8th, staff attended the Congressional Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ceremony hosted by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

- **Federal Trade Commission:** The executive director recently joined the Federal Trade Commission's Northwest Common Ground Task Force focusing on consumer protection issues. Staff provided recommendations on outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and shared data on our state's population and issues impacting the community.
- **National Council of Asian Pacific Americans Summit:** In May, the executive director attended the 2012 National Council of Asian Pacific Americans Summit. A report entitled, *Our Communities, Our Priorities, Our Country: 2012 Policy Blueprint for Action* was released. This report focuses on six areas of concern for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with over twenty 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 received an update from Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on programs, policies and data. Staff provided recommendations to the agency on outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on services and programs given data showing increased caseloads in economic services, medical assistance, aging/adult services, and substance abuse treatment from the AAPI community. In June, the Department of Social and Health Services will be featured on the commission's radio pilot program.
 - **Employment Security Department:** Staff connected with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison. Since data indicates that Pacific Islanders are experiencing higher levels of unemployment in our state, staff continues to advocate for outreach to this community. Staff is monitoring outreach practices. Over the past few months, the Employment Security Department has met with the Samoan, Tongan and Micronesian communities. Community members should be aware that a reduction to the maximum weeks of unemployment benefits from 99 to 73 for most eligible workers took effect on April 21, 2012.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Lyn Peters recently provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. Community members should be aware of a new financial education clearinghouse that provides access to information on budgeting, saving, credit, identify theft and financial fraud prevention. Also, on June 26 and 27, a financial education teacher training will be held in Yakima. More information can be found at www.dfi.wa.gov
 - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walt Wong provided an update to staff on programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. Staff is currently participating on the *Multiple Pathways for Workers and Employers Work Group* and providing recommendations on the state's strategic plan for workforce development.
 - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff connected with Cathy Liu Scott on current programs, data and policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Over the last school year, bullying, harassment and intimidation were the

second and third most frequent type of complaints received by OEO. Federal data indicates that AAPI students are 20% more likely than other racial groups to be bullied in the classroom, and 3 times more likely to be cyber-bullied once or twice a month. Staff has requested state data on this issue. Community members should be aware of the services available by the Office of the Education Ombudsman. More information can be found at www.governor.wa.gov/o eo/

- **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, continues to provide data allowing our agency to monitor the AAPI human rights complaints received by the state. Compared to the previous year, there is a slight increase in complaints filed by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Community members should be aware that the Human Rights Commission is holding a meeting on sexual orientation and gender identity rules on June 20th in Seattle.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Staff connected with Amy Blondin on early learning programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The Department of Early Learning recently published the *2012 Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines* for children from birth through third grade. The executive director and community members Janice Deguchi and Ben Kodoma participated in the statewide workgroup providing recommendations on behalf of the community. More information can be found at www.del.wa.gov
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff continues to meet with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison. In April, the Department of Labor and Industries hosted its annual Worker Memorial Day ceremony honoring 69 people who died in 2011 due to work-related accidents or illnesses. Two Asian Americans were among those honored. More information can be found at www.lni.wa.gov
- **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Josh Johnston, our agency liaison, who provided an update on policies and proposed rules impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. This past session, a bill passed authorizing the implementation of a facial recognition matching system for drivers' licenses, permits and identicards. Community members should also be aware that there is now an extension on the renewal cycle for driver licenses and ID cards from 5 years to 6 years, except for commercial driver licenses.
- **Secretary of State:** Our agency liaison, Patrick Reed, provided an update on new policies and publications of interest to the community. With the passage of HB 2239, a new entity exists in our state called, the Social Purpose Corporation. This entity allows a corporation's shareholders and directors to put a social purpose above the purpose of making a profit. Asian American and Pacific Islander small business owners may also be interested in viewing the updated Small Business Guide. For more information, visit www.sos.wa.gov
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff connected with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs. Community members and Asian American and Pacific Islander small business owners should be aware that the Legislature recently authorized counties to offer a one-time waiver of penalties and interest for businesses and individuals who have never filed their personal property list with their county assessor. For more information, visit www.dor.wa.gov

- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to connect with Chewon Lee, our agency liaison, who is a partner in our statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. As part of the initiative, the community continues to hear from representatives on the Affordable Care Act. Community members may also be interested in attending an upcoming health fair emphasizing dental services for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on September 22, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Everest College in Renton. More information is available at www.insurance.wa.gov
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies, programs and committees of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Community members may have an interest in a recently released parent brochure on bilingual education programs called *Learning English in Washington Schools: What Parents Should Know*. The brochure is available in Cambodian (Khmer), Chinese (traditional) Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Tagalog and Vietnamese. More information is available at www.k12.wa.us
- **Department of Health:** Our agency liaison, Jovi Swanson, provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the community. Community members should be aware that whooping cough vaccines are recommended for all children and adults given the rise of cases in our state. Staff is currently analyzing data on the epidemic to determine if outreach to particular communities is necessary. Also, this month, the executive director made a presentation to agency employees in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage month.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Staff continues to connect with our agency liaison, Antonio Sanchez, to discuss issues of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A legislative trade mission to Taiwan occurred in May and a delegation from South Korea was recently received by our state.
- **Department of Ecology:** Staff continues to monitor policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The state has begun the process of reviewing fish consumption rates which are used to guide environmental cleanup and pollution control. In May, the executive director provided recommendations on fish consumption rate standards since many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders eat more fish than the average.
- **Washington State Minority and Justice Commission:** The executive director serves as a member on the Advisory Committee for the Race and Justice Research Project. This is a statewide study surveying the experiences and perceptions of minority communities with law enforcement and the courts. Staff provided recommendations for the inclusion of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the study.
- **Legislative Outreach:** Upon the request of legislative members, 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 March 20, 2012. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The remaining statewide board meetings for the year will be held on September 15th and November 17th. Special thanks to Lua Pritchard, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, for providing refreshments and a venue for the last meeting.
- **Appointment and Reappointments:** We welcome newly appointed Commissioner Darren Pen and congratulate Commissioners Aragon, Dash, Leung and Lee on their reappointments.
- **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:** In April, the Advisory Council met to discuss the two education summits taking place this Fall. The Pacific Islander Education Summit is on September 29, 2012 at South Seattle Community College and the Southeast Asian and Asian American Education Summit is on October 6, 2012 at Highline Community College. 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.
 - **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 its work on the 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. A series of events held in partnership with the community focusing on increasing awareness and encouraging testing for prevention are in progress. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director continues to serve as a representative on this council on behalf of the commission. 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.
 - **2nd Annual Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day:** In

collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, the 2nd Annual Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day will take place on June 29th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Harry E. Lang Stadium in Lakewood.

- **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.