

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

September 15, 2012
Snohomish County Administration Building
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** The operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium amounts 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, translation services and supplies.
- **Operating and Supplemental Budget:** On September 22, 2012, the agency's supplemental and operating budget will be submitted to the Office of Financial Management. Because of reductions made to the agency's discretionary funding in the last budget, the agency will be requesting additional funding to maintain operations.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Transition:** In July, staff completed and submitted all transition documents and briefings for the next administration to the Office of the Governor.
- **Administrative Policies and Employee Manuals:** In August, staff reviewed and updated the agency's administrative policies and employee manuals. Essential infrastructures for the operation of the agency were tested and directional guidelines developed in preparation for transition.
- **Casework System:** The agency is maintaining an integrated online casework system. Requests on financial aid resources for school and employment opportunities remain steady.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Asian Pacific American Summit:** This year, the annual legislative day at the capitol was replaced with a summit. The *Asian Pacific American Summit: Celebrating Unity and Civic Involvement* is on September 21st at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall. The statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition is organizing this event. More information can be found on our agency website.
- **API Legislative Day:** Staff is currently assisting 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.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris Response Force:** Washington's coastal beaches are seeing an increase in marine debris from the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated Japan. The state has created a Marine Debris Task Force, a group of state agencies led by the Military Department's Emergency Management Division. The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is a member of this group and serves as a lead to the *Cultural Heritage Workgroup*. In

August, a statewide *Workplan and Outreach Strategy* was completed and submitted as a framework to strengthen the Washington State Marine Debris Response Force's relationship with the state's diverse communities. This plan outlines approaches for state government officials to expand outreach efforts to address issues associated with potential debris, including risks to human safety and the spread of invasive species. Residents who encounter potentially hazardous marine debris should use the state's toll-free reporting and information line, 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.

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 130 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.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the AAPI community in our state.
 - **Commissioners Meet with Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** On July 9th, Commissioners Sharma, Nguyen, Takamura and Tufono participated in a meeting at the Wing Luke with Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. During this meeting, commissioners provided an update to the White House on our state's policy work in the areas of education, health, human services and economic development.
 - **Monitoring Federal Agency Policies Impacting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Since June, staff has been regularly participating in monthly calls with federal agencies on policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Issues range from health, education to the economy and immigration. Federal agencies include the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services and the National Economic Council.
 - **Small Business Administration Roundtables:** On August 17th, the executive director participated in two small business roundtable discussions hosted by Congresswoman Patty Murray and Mr. Major Clark, Assistant Chief Counsel for Procurement Policy with the Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy. Topics included federal rules in government contracting and the 8A Program process. Staff advocated for disaggregated data, increased outreach to Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses and translated materials to provide access for the community. Community business leaders also discussed obstacles and shared experiences in government contracting.
- **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 received an update from Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on programs, policies and data. On August 28th, the executive director participated in a meeting with officials from the Busan City Rehabilitation Center in Korea who visited the Department of Social and Health Services office in Seattle to learn about models of service delivery to people with disabilities.
- **Employment Security Department:** Staff connected with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison, who provided an update on outreach to the Pacific Islander community given the high unemployment rate of this population. Outreach activities are ongoing. Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses may be interested in knowing that they can reduce their 2012 federal taxes by up to \$9,600 for each eligible military veteran they hire before the end of this year under the *Work Opportunity Tax Credit*. This tax credit also provides an incentive for employers to hire disadvantaged veterans who have been unemployed within the past year, received public assistance in the past 15 months, or have a service-related disability.
- **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff continues to connect with Lyn Peters on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. Community members may want to be aware of events held under a program called, *Investor Education In Your Community*, that focuses on retirees in the Puget Sound area.
- **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff spoke with Paul Corning, our new agency liaison, to discuss consumer fraud issues impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Staff continues to advocate for the collection of disaggregated data to better understand which ethnic communities may be experiencing higher cases of fraud and to encourage the agency to develop more translated materials in Asian languages.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walt Wong provided an update on the status of the statewide strategic plan on workforce development which will be adopted by the board at its next meeting on September 28th. Staff continues to participate in the *Multiple Pathways for Workers and Employers Work Group* which provides input to the plan.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff continues to meet with Chris Liu on issues related to the certification of Asian American and Pacific Islander firms and access to capital. The commission continues to have a representative on the OMWBE Adhoc Advisory Committee which provides input on OMWBE's draft business plan.
- **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. In monitoring the number of cases coming into the Ombudsman Office from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, there has not been a rise or a decline. This fall, community members should be aware of a program called, *Finding Your Voice*, which hosts events in Spokane, Yakima Valley and the Tri-cities. The purpose of the events is to help parents better understand the public school system and to become better advocates for their children.

- **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, continues to provide updates on proposed policy changes and the number of discrimination complaints filed by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. There has not been an increase or decrease in the number of cases filed over the past few months. Most recently, the Human Rights Commission held two rule making meetings on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. More information can be found at www.hum.wa.gov
- **Department of Early Learning:** Amy Blondin, our agency liaison, provided an update on early learning programs and policies. Staff continues to work in partnership with the department and *Thrive by Five* on racial equity issues. Speakers from the agency will be featured at the next commission board meeting. On September 10th, the executive director met with Bette Hyde, Director of the Department of Early Learning, to discuss several early learning policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
- **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. Community members should be aware of upcoming rate changes to workers' compensation that will take place in November.
- **Secretary of State:** Our agency liaison, Patrick Reed, provided an update on new policies and publications of interest to the community. In September, one large and one small business will be selected to receive the *Corporations for Communities Award*, which honors exceptional Washington businesses that make community a priority. Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses should consider applying. According to the Secretary of State, the number of profit corporations and limited liability companies filing annual reports online has grown over the past year. In June 2011, 42% of annual reports were completed online and as of June 2012 that number has grown nearly 20%.
- **Department of Revenue:** Rick Stedman updated staff on the Department of Revenue's current policies and programs. Community members should be aware of the Washington Small Business Fair on September 29th at the Renton Technical College which provides information on how to form and run a successful business. More information can be found at www.dor.wa.gov
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with Chewon Lee, to discuss policies and programs impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The commission continue to work with OIC as a partner in our statewide AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. Most recently, staff has been connecting community leaders to OIC to provide information on the Affordable Care Act. Community members should be aware that beginning August 1st, coverage for preventive services with no co-pays, deductibles or coinsurance, expands to cover additional preventive services for women. Anyone enrolled in an individual health plan will get this new benefit and people with employer-sponsored health plans will see the new benefit when their plan renews. More information is available at www.insurance.wa.gov
- **Department of Commerce:** Staff spoke with Leigh Felton, our agency liaison, on acquiring more information on ways the Asian American and Pacific Islander community can access federal funding opportunities. Community members should be aware of the Capital Facilities Funding grant available to community non-profits for a variety of capital programs and specified projects. More information is available at

www.commerce.wa.gov Briefings were also provided to staff on the Governor's upcoming trade mission to Asian countries.

- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** A special acknowledgment and thank you to former liaison Susanne Beauchaine who recently left the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A new liaison is currently being identified. In August, the executive director participated on the selection committee for the *21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant Program*. A total of 5 million dollars was awarded to programs in high poverty areas or with low-performing schools to help them meet state and local student performance standards in core academic subjects.
- **Department of Health:** Our agency liaison, Jovi Swanson, provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the community. The Department of Health announced that due to 30 confirmed illnesses from Vibrio bacteria, the Totten Inlet near Olympia, North Bay and Dabob Bay in north Hood Canal are closed for the rest of the summer. Community members should also be aware that now is the time to make sure children are protected from diseases before they start school. All vaccines required to enroll in school are available to children at no cost. More information can be found at www.doh.wa.gov
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Antonio Sanchez, our agency liaison, provided an update on the Lieutenant Governor's work with Asian countries on behalf of our state. The Commission is working with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on developing future trade missions to Japan, South Korea and China. Commission Leung is serving as our liaison. In August, the Lieutenant Governor met with Singaporean Consul General Hock Seng Chin to discuss areas of potential collaboration. A recent trade mission to Taiwan also occurred.
- **Department of Ecology:** In August, the executive director met with researchers at the request of the Department of Ecology to provide recommendations on a health impact assessment for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community fishing in our state.
- **Washington State Minority and Justice Commission:** The executive director continues to serve as a member on the Advisory Committee for the Race and Justice Research Project. A statewide study surveying the experiences and perceptions of minority communities with law enforcement and the courts is currently underway.
- **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 August 2nd. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The next statewide board meeting will be on November 17, 2012. Special thanks to Commissioner Tufono for providing refreshments for the meeting.

- **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:**
 - **Submission to the Department of Education on Request for Information on Data Disaggregation:** On behalf of our commission, Dr. Shirley Hune, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Washington, submitted input on our state's practices for disaggregating data on subgroups within the Asian American and Pacific Islander student population to the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Shirley Hune was one of our state's primary researchers on a landmark study focusing on the Achievement Gap of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 2008.
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** In August, the Advisory Council met to discuss the education phone survey and the two education summits taking place this fall. An education phone survey of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) households was conducted from June 25th to August 1st with nearly 1,000 responses about AAPI experiences navigating the education system and communicating with schools. The results are currently being compiled and analyzed. The Pacific Islander Education Summit is on September 29th at South Seattle Community College and the Southeast Asian and Asian American Education Summit is on October 6th at Highline Community College. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative and will provide an update.
 - **Community College Scholarships for Asian American and Pacific Islander Students:** South Seattle Community College, an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution, is promoting scholarship opportunities at community colleges in the amount of \$2,500. Community members should be aware of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) Scholarship which is accepting applications until October 12th. More information can be found at www.apiasf.org
 - **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 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. 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 serves as a representative on this council on behalf of the commission. The council continues to work 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.
- **State System and Health Disparities Workgroup:** In August, staff participated in meetings with the *State System and Health Disparities Workgroup* to discuss language access policies in our state.
- **Economic Development:**
 - **Trade Missions to Asian Countries:** The commission is working with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on developing future trade missions to Japan, South Korea and China. Commission Leung is serving as our liaison.
 - **Pathways to Careers, an Opportunity Nation Summit:** On September 11th, the executive director participated in *Pathways to Careers*, an event comprised of businesses, educational institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations focusing on building an educational pathway to middle-wage jobs.
 - **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.