

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

September 17, 2011
Snohomish County Administration Building
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2011-2013 Biennium is \$232,000 for FY 2012 and \$219,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$451,000. The agency will be able to maintain current staffing levels but will continue to have limited discretionary funding for printing, purchased services, and supplies.
- **2012 Supplemental Budget:** On September 22, 2011, the agency's supplemental budget will be submitted to the Office of Financial Management. The Governor is asking all state agencies to prepare for a 5% and 10% reduction. A 5% reduction would amount to \$23,000 for the biennium with a reduction of \$11,600 and \$10,950 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. A 10% reduction would amount to \$45,000 with a reduction of \$23,200 and \$21,900 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. The agency has identified supplies, printing, purchased services, travel, and miscellaneous as the areas for reduction. The agency may be able to manage in FY 2012, however, in FY 2013, the agency will not be able to maintain current staffing levels or have any discretionary funding. Last year, our commission was in a similar position.
- **Temporary Layoffs:** The legislature passed a bill requiring a 3% salary reduction for state employees from July 1, 2011 through June 29, 2013. This amounts to a reduction of \$4,000 for each fiscal year. This amounts to 5.2 hours of leave per month for each staff member over the next two years. Staff is rotating days out of the office to ensure there is full office coverage.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Reimbursements:** During the last legislative session, a bill was passed prohibiting Commissioners from receiving an allowance for subsistence, lodging, or travel expenses during this fiscal year. On July 24, 2011, an exemption was granted for Commissioners and staff for the 2011 meetings in September and November and the 2012 meetings in January, March, and June. The remaining meetings in the 2012 year do not require an exemption.
- **Casework System:** The agency is in the implementation phase of a casework system to streamline operations, strengthen accountability, and offer top-rated customer service. This system is modeled after several government and non-profit service providers and expands our agency's ability to collect data on AAPI ethnic groups going beyond federal and state requirements. One highlight of this system is the automation of requests through an intake form for processing on our website and database. The internal casework system is now complete and integrated with our website. You can view this new system by visiting the "Request Assistance" section on the main page of our website.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **New Brochure:** In June, staff completed an update of the commission brochure to include Census 2010 data. The brochure is translated into several Asian languages. More languages for print are being considered. An electronic version is now available on the agency's website.

- **Data Page:** In August, staff updated our agency's website to include 2010 Census information. Washington State now has over 674,573 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Additional updates were made to the data page link, *Snapshot of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington State*. Highlights include state information on population data sorted by race, demographic characteristics, and population by county and legislative district.
- **Calendar:** In July, the Department of Information Services completed an update of our website calendar. The public can now submit statewide events of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Monthly, weekly and day viewing options are now available. Commissioners and the public are encouraged to add events taking place in their counties to the calendar.
- **Constituent Relations Management System:** Staff completed an internal infrastructure to manage assistance requests from the community given our population increase and growing needs. This system was created in response to an increase in calls and emails. Despite an absence of publicity on this program because of our budgetary constraints, community members have been utilizing this new service.
- **Ethnic Media and Government Services:** In July, staff launched a pilot program with the state's largest circulation print papers serving the AAPI community to facilitate information on government services and to provide coverage of state government resources, programs and policies. In August, the agency began testing the pilot in partnership with the *Northwest Asian Weekly* and the *International Examiner*. Future expansion to all AAPI ethnic media is expected. Ethnic media may request a listing of our agency media contacts.
- **Informational Board:** Staff completed a travel display board showcasing the commission's purpose, history, and priority areas as well as demographic data. This board is paired with information on state government services for the AAPI community. Community members may request use accompanied by staff or commissioners at community events.

4. 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 105 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.
 - **White House Briefing for Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Leaders:** On June 22, 2011, the executive director attended a White House briefing at the Department of Treasury on policies impacting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Updates were provided on education reform, the budget, economy, and immigration.
 - **White House Asian Pacific American History Month Event:** Upon the invitation of President Obama, the executive director attended an event at the White House honoring

Asian Pacific American History Month on June 22, 2011. Many state and city AAPI commission representatives and community leaders were present.

- **National Conference Call of Asian American and Pacific Islander Commissions:** Our commission was selected as the feature of a national conference call hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on July 29, 2011. Highlights of our work and accomplishments around education, health care, human services, and economic development were made.
- **National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development Conference:** On June 21st, the executive director participated in several workshops and plenary sessions at the largest gathering of community-based practitioners, policy makers, legislative representatives, corporations and foundations working with AAPI communities nationwide to exchange strategies on housing, economic, and neighborhood development initiatives.
- **Department of Commerce:** In June, staff met with Victoria Tung with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs on federal opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander small businesses in our state.
- **Department of Education:** Staff met with Ryan Edgar at the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in June to provide an update on the commission's work on education, population data changes in the state, and to discuss available federal funding opportunities.
- **Roundtables on the Affordable Care Act, Small Businesses and Immigration hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** In July, commissioners and staff attended three roundtables hosted by the White House focusing on the Affordable Care Act, Small Businesses, and Immigration. The Affordable Care Act Roundtable provided an opportunity to dialogue on the Act and its impact on the AAPI community. The Business Council Roundtable focused on AAPI small business owners and ways to best support their growth. The Immigration Roundtable discussed some of the best practices in the field of immigrant integration. Special acknowledgments to Commissioners Aragon, Pritchard, Nguyen, and Leung for their participation.
- **Environmental Protection Agency:** On August 3rd, staff met with Renée Dagseth, Community Involvement Coordinator; Alan Lee, Program Analyst, and Rochelle Labiosa from the Environmental Protection Agency, to provide recommendations and consul on several federal outreach programs for the AAPI community.
- **Advancing Justice Conference:** The Commission is a co-sponsor for the Advancing Justice Conference which is a national civil rights and social justice conference that aims to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders in one place to address a broad range of issues facing the AAPI community. It is a joint project by the Asian American Institute (Chicago), Asian American Justice Center (Washington, DC), Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (Los Angeles). The conference will take place in San Francisco on October 27-28, 2011.
- **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:** On September 12th, the executive director met with the new Economic Services Assistant Secretary David Stillman, to discuss and advocate for several programs impacting the AAPI community. Our agency liaison, Victor Chacon, also highlighted a new recovery help line that community organizations and members may have an interest in which offers 24-hour emotional support and referrals to local treatment services for residents with substance use, problem gambling, and mental health disorders. The toll-free number is 1-866-789-1511.
- **Employment Security Department:** Staff continues to meet with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison, to discuss assistance for jobseekers in the AAPI community. The Department of Labor reports that the average 2010 Asian American unemployment rate in our state is 7.8% and that those Asians unemployed face longer durations of unemployment. Washington State has one of the highest numbers of unemployed Asian American workers at 22,000. ESD representatives will be discussing available state resources at the commission's next board meeting.
- **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff connected with Lyn Peters on programs of interest to the AAPI community. Community members should be aware of the new Washington State Foreclosure Fairness Act Mediation Program which provides homeowners facing foreclosure with assistance by helping a resident and their lender reach a resolution. More information can be found at www.homeownership.wa.gov or access a free housing counselor at 1-877-894-4663.
- **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff continues to meet with Elena Granados on policies affecting the AAPI community and to advocate for outreach programs. The commission is currently working with the Office of the Attorney General to submit a grant proposal which would provide outreach to the statewide AAPI community on consumer fraud issues.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walter Wong provided our staff with an update on programs and policies of interest for the AAPI community. The Workforce Board is currently focusing on youth unemployment and will be presenting their plan of action on September 22nd in Tacoma. Community members are invited to provide comment.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff continues to meet with Cathy Canorro, our liaison, to advocate on procurement reform and to discuss economic development issues impacting the AAPI community. On July 27th and 28th, seminars focusing on access to capital and contract financing were held in partnership with East West Bank.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff met with Cathy Liu and provided recommendations on outreach strategies to ensure the AAPI community is aware of the services of the Office of the Education Ombudsman. In current development is a statewide plan for AAPI outreach that will be launched in the next few months.

- **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz provided an update to staff on programs and events of interest to the AAPI community. On September 30th, the executive director will make a presentation at the Human Rights Commission meeting in Seattle on the commission's work and programs.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Our state is eligible for \$60 million over four years, if we win a competitive Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge. An application is being prepared and our commission has submitted a letter of support. Community members may also have an interest in providing feedback on the redesign of our state's Early Learning Guidelines (formerly known as Benchmarks) to make sure that the guidelines are culturally relevant for our increasingly diverse population. More information can be found at www.del.wa.gov/development/benchmarks
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, to discuss Worker's Compensation Reform. A representative from the agency will be presenting at the commission's next statewide board meeting.
- **Department of Licensing:** Community members may be interested to know that beginning July 22nd, the fee for a new or renewed commercial driver license increases from \$30 to \$61.
- **Secretary of State:** Staff continues to meet with our agency liaison, Patrick Reed, on current laws and policies impacting the AAPI community. AAPI business may have an interest in electing to receive an email reminder notice on annual report filing. This service is available for businesses registered with the Secretary of State. Citizens and foreign nationals seeking to obtain an apostille on documents that will be used overseas or certification, may be interested in visiting the recently updated website at <http://www.sos.wa.gov/corps/apostilles/>
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff met with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs for the AAPI community. To increase outreach to the AAPI community on services, in July, the Department of Revenue was featured on our radio pilot program. Special thanks to Commissioner Lee for also providing diversity training to the agency's Diversity Committee.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Our commission, in partnership with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, and the Asian Pacific American Resource Network are hosting several statewide health events. On September 17th, an event focusing on free health screening and information about the new health care reform law will be held in multiple Asian languages at the Everest College in Renton from 9:30-2:30 p.m. On October 1st, a program focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act will be at the Ethnic Elder Fair in Snohomish County. It will also be held in multiple Asian languages.
- **Department of Commerce:** Staff connected with Joe Olson, our agency liaison, to discuss programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. In July, the Washington Export Initiative launched a new outreach effort targeted to small and medium sized business to encourage companies to develop new international markets and customer bases, and increase the total export sales out of Washington. More information can be found at www.commerce.wa.gov

- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff met with Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison for policy updates on the Bullying Workgroup, Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, Gangs in School Taskforce, and the Dropout Prevention Team. Staff and representatives from our AAPI community sit on each of these groups.
- **Department of Health:** Staff connected with Jovie Swanson on programs, policies, and events of interest to the AAPI community. Community members should be aware that on July 1, 2011, the Community and Family Health Division was renamed the “Prevention and Community Health Division” to emphasize the importance of prevention and supportive community environments in people's lives and their health. Staff also discussed an issue of concern with the agency of AAPI community members fishing and consuming contaminated fish along the Duwamish River.
- **Limited English Proficiency Workgroup:** On August 23rd, the executive director participated in an interagency Limited English Proficiency Workgroup meeting. Over 59 agencies provided updates on their language access programs, policies, and resources.

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The remaining 2011 board meeting will take place on November 19, 2011. The 2012 board meetings will take place on January 14, March 17, June 16, September 15, and November 17.
- **New Commissioners:** We welcome newly appointed Commissioners Lisa Dickinson, Pearl Leung and Quang Nguyen.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** Our commission is pleased to be a partner on the Washington Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative. On July 28, 2011, a convening of the Advisory Council comprised of AAPI leaders in early learning, K-12, and higher education took place. There are three phases to the initiative. We are currently in the first and second phase. The first phase focuses on community based research on the challenges and opportunities for AAPIs in education. The second phase is on AAPI engagement in education reform and includes the hosting of two summits for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative.
 - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our community on this committee. A meeting in late September is expected. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update.
 - **Education Workgroups:** Representatives from our community continue to sit on the following workgroups: Early Learning, Gangs in Schools, Ed Tech, QEC Compensation Workgroup, and the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee. Staff also recently attended the OSPI & External Partners Dropout Meeting.

- **Pacific Islander Education Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard represents our commission on this council. The council continues to work on state action plans to eliminate health disparities. Commissioner Pritchard will provide an update on the work of this council.
 - **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, and our commission, the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day took place on July 1st in Pierce County. There were over 300 community members in attendance for this first time event for our state. Funding for this project was made possible by the federal Office of Minority Health. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Pritchard for her work on this successful event.
- **Economic Development:**
 - **Sustainable Growth Summit:** On July 8, 2011, in partnership with North Seattle Community College and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the commission hosted a Sustainable Growth Summit at North Seattle Community College. Several hundred community members attended to hear featured speakers including: Cabinet member Christopher Lu; Christina Lagdameo, Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and Ronnie Chatterji, Senior Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisors. Numerous workshops and panels bringing together federal and local officials to promote sustainable communities, encourage innovation, and support economic growth were held.
 - **AAPI Small Business Roundtable with Senator Patty Murray:** On August 17, 2011, Commissioners Lee, Nguyen, and Leung along with several AAPI small business owners met with Senator Patty Murray to advocate for policies and programs on behalf of the community. Special acknowledgment and appreciation to former Commissioner Shen for his work on this event.
 - **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, continues to serve as a representative on the Small Business Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dash serves 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.