

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

June 19, 2010

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 2009-2011 Biennium Year is \$236,000 for FY 2010 and \$219,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$455,000. This revised budget includes a \$5,000 reduction for FY 2011 representing a 2% reduction for all agencies that went into effect at the conclusion of the 2010 special legislative session. In the financial report provided by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS), the Commission ended the eleventh fiscal month with a savings of \$10,000.
- **Temporary Layoffs:** The legislature passed a furlough bill resulting in an additional \$3,000 reduction in staff salaries and benefits. Specified dates of closure for the agency are noted in the language of the bill to meet this reduction.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Agency Closure Dates:** ESSB 6503 requires the agency to close on the ten days listed in the bill unless the agency has a compensation reduction plan that is approved by the Office of Financial Management. On April 26, 2010, the agency submitted a memo detailing the agency's plan to meet the targeted compensation reduction by closing the office on specified furlough dates.
- **Modifications to Reimbursements:** Reimbursements for Commissioners no longer exist starting next fiscal year, July 1, 2010. HB 2617 prohibits Commissioners from receiving allowance on subsistence, lodging, and travel. This bill has language that allows for exemptions. The agency submitted an exemption request. On June 17, 2010, an exemption was granted for eleven Commissioners and two staff members for the September and November meetings. This approved exemption becomes effective on June 24, 2010. The agency has been asked to submit another request for the meetings scheduled in calendar year 2011.
- **Policy and Procedure Manual:** Adopted last year, this sixty page manual provides guidance for the commission in the areas of general administrative, commissioner duties and responsibilities, personnel, meetings, public records, information technology, and inventory. As a result of the passage of recent legislation, sections relating to reimbursements and meeting space are under review for revision.
- **Personnel:** A thank you to Phillip Sit, Executive Assistant to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, for his valuable and dedicated service for the past two years. The Executive Director acknowledges and appreciates his assistance during the absence and transition of Executive Directors. His last day with the agency was on May 28, 2010. An announcement on the position has been disseminated.

- **Compliance:** On April 14, 2010, the agency filed its quarterly L-5 form with the Public Disclosure Commission. This filing captures any activities performed by Commissioners and staff.
- **Public Disclosure Request:** On June 16, 2010, the agency received a public records request. On behalf of the agency, the Office of Financial Management is providing a response and the records.
- **Infrastructure:** In January 2010, the agency successfully launched a new Website. In March 2010, there was a reported 21% increase in visitors to the new site. Since the last board meeting, there has been a continued increase of viewership reaching 28%. In an analysis conducted in May 2010, the most heavily viewed page on the site is the data page. Further analysis shows the agency received an increase of viewership by 738% when it released its report on the *State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington* and the informational alert on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The operational database was implemented at the beginning of this year and the agency continues to invest in several internal and external enhancements. Over the past few months, General Administration has compiled and integrated all the agency's separate lists. This new system creates a lasting infrastructure less vulnerable to staff changes.

Building off the agency's launch of a facebook fan page, the agency created a YouTube channel hosting a variety of informational videos for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. This is one way the agency is expanding its new media initiative by conducting outreach to communities and featuring language specific state service resources. Within the first few weeks, the channel generated over 487 unique views. A few featured items include videos on the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprise certification process, Census 2010, and Governor Gregoire's greeting on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** In fulfilling the duties of the Commission in coordinating and assisting with statewide celebrations in the month of May, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Commission distributed an electronic informational alert including the Governor's proclamation, a video greeting, and a listing of statewide community events. Not only was this information disseminated statewide, it went to all state agencies, municipalities, and Asian American and Pacific Islander employees.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs also worked with other state agencies to increase awareness of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. A few examples of statewide programs or initiatives implemented include: the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Office of the Education Ombudsman incorporated the month in their newsletters to encourage schools, students, and families to participate in celebrating activities. Staff also moderated a Brown Bag luncheon at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction focusing on the *Model Minority Myth and the Invisibility of the Asian American Pacific Islander Communities* on May 18, 2010 and spoke at the Asian Pacific American State Employee's luncheon on May 20, 2010.

Commissioners and staff attended numerous celebrations across the state during the month. A few highlighted events include: the Seattle Center, Boeing in Everett, Chinatown/International District, and the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. Acknowledgments go to Commissioners Takamura, Pritchard, and Chair Sharma for their major roles in planning statewide events.

- **Report on the State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington:** On May 3, 2010, the Commission released *The State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington*. Copies were provided to the Governor, legislature, state agencies, and other Asian American commissions. This is the first comprehensive report examining the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington, education, healthcare and human services, the criminal justice system, economic opportunities, housing, immigration, and political participation. This report was in partnership with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law, attorneys from Perkins Coie, and the CAPAA/ACLF fellow. Acknowledgments to the Seattle University School of Law for underwriting the printing of the report and for their gracious donation of time in making this report possible.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** The Commission is exploring a civic engagement initiative. Commissioner Takamura is representing the Commission on this endeavor. More information forthcoming.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Staff continues to increase efforts to provide outreach to underrepresented communities. Over 50 meetings and events with stakeholders have occurred since the last board meeting. A few examples include meetings with the Consulate General of Korea, Micronesia, and the Marshallese.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff met with the following state agencies:
 - **Office of the Attorney General:** In March 2010, staff met with Lisa Erwin, Senior Counsel and Elena Perez, Outreach Specialist to advocate for programs and services for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. A request was made to explore the creation of an outreach specialist position for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and for the agency to provide more language specific materials. On May 29, 2010, Attorney General Rob McKenna hosted a public forum for the Chinese-American community focusing on fraud and unfair business practices and unveiled some new agency materials in Asian languages.
 - **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** In April 2010, staff and Education Chair/Commissioner Takamura met with Superintendent Randy Dorn and his cabinet to advocate on policies on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Representatives from the other ethnic commissions were present and several issues were addressed including: student data collection, the Race to the Top application, the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee's recommendations, and HB 3026.
 - **Department of Veterans Affairs:** A request was made and a commitment obtained by the agency for two pamphlets to be translated into Korean and Tagalog, as Korean-American and Filipino American veterans make up the highest percentage of Asian

Pacific Americans utilizing the programs and services provided by Veterans Affairs. The pamphlet in Korean has been completed and the Tagalog version is in progress. Special acknowledgments go to Commissioner Pascua and Lee for their assistance in helping secure translation assistance.

- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** In May 2010, staff met with Chewon Lee with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner on ways to strengthen awareness of their services to increase access for the community. The Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) which provides free, unbiased health care coverage counseling to help understand health care coverage options and rights, find affordable health care coverage, and evaluate and compare health insurance plans is currently seeking more bilingual volunteers.
 - **Employment Security Department:** In June 2010, staff met with Eddie Maiava, the State Diversity Outreach Coordinator with the Employment Security Department to discuss ways to better provide opportunities, assistance, and access for jobseekers in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities given our challenging economic times.
 - **Washington State Lottery:** Staff met with Director Bill Hanson in June 2010. Community businesses should be aware that there is an ongoing compliance program underway in our State. Washington's Lottery has launched a proactive retailer compliance program designed to ensure that proper ticket checking and validation procedures by licensed retailers across the state are being followed. The proper checking and cashing of winning Lottery tickets is a lottery license law requirement. Our Lottery law, at RCW 67.70.130, makes it a class B felony for a person to claim a lottery prize or share of a lottery prize by means of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- **Additional Outreach:**
 - **Red Cross:** Staff met with Jamie Rawlings, Community Outreach Associate for the Red Cross to discuss the creation of emergency response information for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the event of a crisis.
 - **Youth:** Engaging with the future of our community, staff spoke on a panel hosted by the Asian Student Commission at the University of Washington in May 2010 focusing on career opportunities and career advice.

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- A big thank you to our CAPAA Commissioners Doug Heyamoto, Tanya Tran, and Bee Cha for their most valuable and dedicated service. Commissioners Sharma and Pascua are currently seeking reappointment.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- Standing committees continue to meet on the Commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. In February 2010, committees were populated out with community members. Since then, the committees have met on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call. All three committees are scheduled to host roundtables with the community in June 2010.
- **Education:**
 - **Race to the Top Proposal:** On May 10, 2010, the Commission submitted a letter of support for our state's Race to the Top proposal to the Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education.
 - **Oversight Achievement Gap and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our commission and community on this committee. The committee met on May 19, 2010 to discuss the 2010 report, legislation stemming from the committee's work, the Race to the Top application, develop a draft list of priorities, and appoint representatives to the Quality Education council and the Data-needs committees.
 - **Marysville School Board:** On June 14, 2010, the Commission submitted a letter to the Marysville School Board of Directors requesting that they publicly disavow the comments made by Board Member Michael Kundu and support initiatives that will lead to closing the achievement gap among students. Board Member Kundu made comments over e-mail expressing that genetic factors are indicators of student's intellectual development and academic achievement.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on the council. On May 13, 2010, the council met and presented a review of the draft text for the State Policy Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities. Copies of the finalized plan will be released in the near future.
 - Following the National Leadership Summit on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health launched its National Partnership for Action initiative with the mission of mobilizing and connecting individuals and organizations to create a Nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people. A project proposal for the reapplication of the Council's State Partnership grant through the federal Office of Minority Health is currently being worked on by the council. If funding is received, our commission plans on working in partnership with the council to host Health Equity Roundtables.
- **Economic Development:**
 - The Economic Development Committee held its first roundtable forum in Spokane on March 20, 2010. The roundtable was attended by Sam Baker, the Governor's Central and

Eastern Washington representative and a dozen small minority business owners in the region. The committee will host its second roundtable in Everett in June 2010.

- **Immigration:**

- Staff attended a racial profiling hearing in Burlington, Washington on May 8, 2010. The forum featured a panel of community leaders and elected officials that provided a forum for individuals and families that have experienced racial profiling in Washington State. Testimonies provided at the public hearing will be presented in a report to Congress and the Obama Administration in the fall.
- Commissioner Pritchard served as the emcee for an immigration reform rally in Seattle sponsored by Washington Immigration Reform Coalition on April 10, 2010. The rally attracted over 5,000 attendees.