

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

September 18, 2010
Korean Women's Association
123 East 96th Street
Tacoma, WA 98445

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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 \$236,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$452,000. This revised budget includes a \$3,000 reduction for FY 2011 representing a temporary layoff of staff that went into effect at the beginning of this fiscal year. In August, the Governor directed all state agencies to prepare reductions of 4-7% for the possibility of across the board cuts. On September 16th, the Governor issued Executive Order 10-04 directing all agencies to impose across-the-board reductions of 6.3% starting October 1st.¹ The agency identified goods and services as possible areas of reduction. The financial report provided by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS) indicates that the Commission ended the second fiscal month with a savings of \$928.
- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** The 2011-2013 Biennium operating budget has been submitted to the Office of Financial Management. The operating budget is \$237,000 for FY 2012 and \$221,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$458,000. The Governor is asking agencies to prepare for a 10% reduction. This is a reduction of \$23,700 and \$22,100 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. The agency has identified supplies, printing, purchased services, and miscellaneous as the areas for reduction.² 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.
- **Temporary Layoffs:** Last session, the legislature passed a furlough bill resulting in an additional \$3,000 reduction in staff salaries and benefits. Staff is currently taking furlough days.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Agency Closure Dates:** ESSB 6503 requires agencies to close on the dates listed in the bill unless the agency has a compensation reduction plan approved by the Office of Financial Management. The agency will be closed on the remaining dates of October 11, 2010, December 27, 2010 and January 28, 2011. Regular service will resume following the closure date.
- **Reimbursements:** HB 2617 prohibits Commissioners from receiving allowance on subsistence, lodging, and travel. On June 17, 2010, an exemption was granted for eleven Commissioners and two staff members for the upcoming September and November meetings. On July 14, 2010, an exemption was granted for twelve Commissioners and two staff members for the January, March, and June meetings in calendar year 2011.

¹ On September 16, 2010, the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council announced that state revenue is down by another \$770 million this biennium. This revenue decline results in a projected \$530 million state budget shortfall for the 2011 fiscal year.

² Purchased Services (ER) provided trainings and workshops to enroll entrepreneurs with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise and purchase IT support. Miscellaneous (EZ) is used to pay for advertisements, normally during Asian Pacific American Heritage month.

- **Private Facilities Meeting Usage:** On July 8, 2010 the Office of Financial Management approved an exemption for the Commission to use private facilities for the September, November, January, and June meetings.
- **Personnel:** Veasna Hoy filled the Executive Assistant position on July 6, 2010. She is Cambodian American and immigrated to the United States with her family. She has over five years of administrative experience, including service as a Cabinet Assistant in Cambodia. She has also served as an ESL instructor and holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in Asian Studies. We officially welcome her to the agency.
- **Public Disclosure Request:** On August 3, 2010, the agency received a public records request. On behalf of the agency, the Department of Information Services is providing a response.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** Commissioner Takamura has been representing our Commission on this project over the past year. The Commission unanimously voted to support this initiative with approval from the CAPAA Education Committee. Starting this month and continuing over the next few months, in partnership with community groups and organizations, we will be holding 10 statewide civic engagement events.
- **Radio Pilot Program:** Under Commissioner Lee's leadership, the commission entered into a memoranda of understanding with Radio Hankook (a pioneer in Korean-language radio programming in the United States) to run a monthly pilot radio program composed of 30-minute live on-air segments between 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month over the next year. These segments can be heard on KSUH 1540 AM and KWYZ 1230 AM and come at no cost to the agency. The pilot radio program provides governmental related outreach and education to Korean speaking Washington state residents. The aim of the program is to provide a language specific platform to connect the community with government services and information. We hope that this pilot will be successful and similar radio programs for other communities will be established. The first program featured agency representatives from the Department of Labor and Industries who provided information on workplace safety and health.
- **Affordable Health Care Act Events:** Along with several state agencies and community organizations, CAPAA is sponsoring a series of statewide events focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act and how it impacts the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Interpretation will be available in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Korean. The first event was held on August 31, 2010 and focused on the new law, how it affects Medicare benefits, and how it affects people who assist others in attaining medical services. Over 80 community members attended the King County event and over 200 attendees were present at the Pierce County event. Future events will be posted on the agency's website.
- **Website Translation:** CAPAA is currently in discussions with the Department of Information Services to add a *google* feature to our website allowing for the translation of content into multiple Asian languages. Many state agencies are using this current program. While we recognize that there are other existing programs, given our budgetary limitations, this option is the most cost-effective option.

- **New Immigration Tab on Website:** In January, the Commission launched a new website highlighting our three priority areas of education, health/human services, and economic development. A rotating topical tab featured information on the 2010 Census. As the census has concluded, in development, is a new tab focusing on government services available to immigrants.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited human capital and budgetary constraints, staff continues to maintain efforts to outreach to underrepresented populations, provide information on government services, and to hear first-hand accounts on the concerns facing our community. Over 55 meetings and events with stakeholders have occurred since the last board meeting, not including the numerous events our Commissioners have attended. In August 2010, the Executive Director traveled to eastern Washington and met with community members in Yakima County and the Tri-Cities area.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff met with the following state and federal agencies.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services:** On August 16, 2010, staff met with DSHS Secretary Susan Dreyfus along with many other community groups and agencies and advocated for programs and services for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community during the department's 2011-2013 budget development process. The Commission emphasized the need for access to quality, affordable and culturally appropriate health and social services. The Executive Director also participated on the interview panel to hire the Director of Diversity for the agency.
 - **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to hold regular monthly meetings with our agency liaison, Susanne Beauchaine. Our liaison provided updates on education policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee, and HB 3026.
 - **Department of Commerce:** Commissioners Dash and Shen along with the Executive Director met with Secretary Rogers Weed at the Commerce Connections event held in Tacoma on August 20, 2010, focusing on growing and improving jobs in our state. Commissioners participated in a briefing and comment period on the department's current work and future projects.
 - **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. With the assistance of Commissioner Pascua, the Tagalog translation is in progress.
 - **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner on ways to strengthen awareness of their services to increase access for the community. We are pleased to support several statewide events in partnership with OIC focusing on the Affordable Health Care Act and how it impacts the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

- **U.S. Department of Labor:** Regional Representative, Mark McDermott, met with staff and the chair to discuss new federal initiatives for pay equity and workplace flexibility. Issues of work/life balance, parental leave, child care, and family leave insurance program usage were also discussed in context to the needs and demographics of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:** Staff participated in a national stakeholder teleconference along with other state and local agencies to provide input on USCIS policies, goals, and initiatives. Announcements on new programs to combat the unauthorized practice of immigration law, public charge and benefits eligibility, resources and immigration options available to victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and immigrant integration were discussed.

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **New Commissioners:** Governor Gregoire recently appointed Tyati Tufuno and Tashi Khamshitsang to the commission. We welcome them to the board.
- **Board Meetings:** Our last board meeting for this year will be on November 20th at the Vedic Cultural Center at 1420 228th Avenue, Southeast, Sammamish, WA, 98075 from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. There has been a venue change. Please save the dates for our board meetings in 2011 on January 15, March 19, June 18, September 17, and November 19th.
- **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. All three committees continue to host roundtables to gather input on issues and policies impacting our community.

6. 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. The committee met on August 3, 2010 where a presentation from the Office of the Education Ombudsman, update on HB 3026, discussion of the committee’s work plan, and content briefings were made. Requested recommendations from CAPAA for representatives to sit on the following committees or workgroups have been fulfilled or are in progress: QEC (ELL, LAP, Highly Capable), Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards.
 - **Early Learning Workgroup:** Our state is poised to adopt a statewide Early Learning Plan. A workgroup has been convened by the Department of Early Learning, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Thrive by Five to review the guidelines in the *Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks*. CAPAA has nominated four individuals to serve on this workgroup to represent our community: Alisa Torres, Janice Deguchi, Ben Kodama, and Rochelle Fonti.

- **Highly Capable Program Technical Working Group:** On August 3, 2010, the first Highly Capable Program Technical Working group met to work on establishing standards, guidelines, and definitions of what constitutes a basic education program for highly capable students. Mele Aho is serving as CAPAA's representative. Future meetings are set for September 16, October 26-27, and tentatively November 9, 2010. The outcome of these meetings will be consolidated into a report to be presented to the Legislature by December 1, 2010.
 - **State Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program Technical Working Group:** This group is tasked with making recommendations for a funding model linked to effective programs that support the academic needs of English Language Learners in our state. Final recommendations from this group will be presented on November 17, 2010. Minh-Ahn Hodge is representing our community.
 - **Learning Assistance Program Technical Working Group:** This work group is developing recommendations for a funding model for the Language Assistance Program by identifying best practices for the instruction and support of low-achieving students. This group convened on August 2nd and September 14th and their next meeting is on October 12th. Members of this group are primarily from school districts. Their final report will be made on November 17, 2010. Public comment can be made on their website.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on the council. Currently, the council is developing areas of concentration. At the last CAPAA health and human services committee meeting, Commissioner Pritchard solicited feedback on what areas the council should focus on in the future. Committee members suggested the following areas: heart disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, behavioral health, health literacy, environmental exposure, and smoking rates. On September 9, 2010, the Executive Director provided public testimony to the council in recommendation of these concentration areas.
 - **Grant Proposal:** A project proposal for the reapplication of the State Partnership grant through the federal Office of Minority Health was submitted by the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities last month. If funding is received, our commission plans on working in partnership with the council to host Health Equity Roundtables. The purpose of this funding initiative is to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations to create a nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services Spoken Language Interpreter Services Program Stakeholder Meeting:** On July 21, 2010, staff and several community members attended a stakeholder meeting to provide feedback and input on Interpreter Services Program activities.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Stimulating Change Roundtable:** On June 25, 2010, Commissioner Shen attended *The Stimulating Change Roundtable* in Washington, D.C. which provided a unique opportunity to interface with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and the White House Initiative for Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Over 50 participants from various regions across the country were invited to discuss economic development and minority businesses issues.
- **Economic Development Roundtables:** The Economic Development Committee continues to hold roundtable forums. The third roundtable will be held in Tacoma on September 19, 2010.
- **Trade Missions:** On June 27, 2010, Commissioner Dash along with the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee (WASITRAC) welcomed the Orissa state delegation at an event in Seattle. In November, Commissioner Dash and Shen will join our state's trade delegation to visit Orissa, India to expand economic and trade interaction between India, which is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Currently, Governor Gregoire and a delegation of leaders in business, agriculture, education, and clean energy are on a trade mission in China and Vietnam. The purpose of this trade mission is to expand export opportunities, encourage new investment, and create new jobs in our state.

- **Immigration:**

- **Immigration Reform:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to work on immigration issues on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. On August 27, 2010, Commissioner Pritchard along with APIC and several statewide community leaders met with Senator Patty Murray to advocate on several issues, including but not limited to, family reunification, legalizing a path to citizenship, and due process.