



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

210 11th Avenue SW RM 301A • MS 40925 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0925
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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting

Verdant Community Wellness Center

4710 196th Street SW

Lynnwood, WA 98036

Saturday, June 20, 2015

Regular Business

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ty Tufono, Debadutta Dash, Tashi Khamshitsang, Geradine Cabusao, Mohan Gurung, Lynette Finau, Zer Vue, Lori Wada

Commissioners Absent: Lisa Dickinson, Jeannie Lee, Darren Pen, Sofia Aragon

Staff: Executive Director, Michael Itti, Project Coordinator, Brianne Ramos

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wada to approve the agenda with amendments and seconded by Commissioner Vue. With no further changes the agenda was unanimously approved at 10:06 AM.

Approval of March 21, 2015 Minutes

Motion was made at 10:08 AM by Commissioner Dash to approve the minutes with no amendments and seconded by Commissioner Cabusao with unanimous approval.

City of Lynnwood Welcome

Mayor Nicola Smith

- Welcoming remarks
- Sister City Program: encourages the learning of other cultures and establishes a sense of global community
 - Sister cities: Aguascalientes, Zacatecas, and Talpa de Allende in Mexico
- Working with faith organizations
- Translating programs to other languages (e.g. Tagalog)

Rosamaria Graziani, Chair, Lynnwood Diversity Commission

- Welcoming remarks



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- 17% of Lynnwood residents identify as Asian Pacific Americans
- 37% of Lynnwood residents identify as non-white

Executive Director Report

Director Itti provided Director's Report overview. [View the full report.](#)

Commissioner Dash – outgoing remarks as Commissioner

- Thank you to the Mayor of Lynnwood and Rosamaria Graziani
- Regards to Commissioners and staff for their work with the Commission
- Goal: to promote economic development in Washington State by participating in activities in different communities

Korean Community Service Center

Joomi Kim, Executive Director

- History of immigration of Korean Americans
- KCSC was established in 1983 as a nonprofit organization in the Puget Sound area
- The KCSC Board of Directors has 10 seats
- Services offered at KCSC:
 - Basic Food Assistant Program, enrollment and outreach event (SNAP), information and referral service, immigrant assistant services, individual and family counseling, Medicare/Medicaid, parenting class/domestic violence intervention, pro bono legal counseling, youth leadership program, senior services
- Youth Leadership Conference
 - Goal: For youth to gain leadership skills in order to change the local community in positive ways
- Core priority: promote mental and emotional wellness of distressed KA adults and children
- Programs to create healthy community
 - Clinical counseling
 - Group service
 - Positive parenting program
- Community Wellness Program
 - One-on-one mentoring with at-risk teens
 - Mental wellness seminar and work shops
 - Public awareness campaign for mental health
- Goals of KCSC
 - Promote access to underserved population in the Puget Sound area
 - Reduce disparity of services to Asian American immigrants
 - Provide services to community



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Q & A

Question: Does KCSC collaborate with school administration and faculty?

We currently do not have a relationship with schools, but we plan on researching ways to work with schools and counselors to help students.

Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (ANHPI) Mental Health

Tam Dinh, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Saint Martin's University

- Growing ANHPI population in US
- Factors impacting mental health
 - Pre-migratory and migratory stressors
 - Acculturation stressors
 - Changing family dynamics
 - Financial stability
 - Health related issues
- Existing issues and challenges
 - Stigma and lack of awareness and education on mental health issues
 - Lack of access to care
 - Language barrier—not enough interpreters with adequate knowledge of mental health terminology
 - Lack of data and outcome evaluation
- Underutilization of traditional services
 - Spiritual leaders—recommending religious resources rather than health resources
 - Furthers stigma that mental health is something to be ashamed of
 - Traditional medicine
 - Community-based organizations
 - Friends and families
 - Physicians
- Moving forward—steps to promote awareness
 - Advocacy at provider level, agency level, and systems level
 - Culturally appropriate professional skills
 - Linguistic
 - Respect for culture, values, practices
 - Community relations and advocacy, capacity building
 - Flexibility in program design and service delivery
 - Data collection and research

Q & A (Tam Dinh and Joomi Kim)

Question (to Dinh): Did you include Native Americans in your data?

Dinh: No, to clarify, it is Native Hawaiian rather than Native American.



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2015 Legislative Session Update

Representative Cindy Ryu
37th Legislative District

Q & A

Question: Referring to DACA, is there a certain percentage that are API?

Ryu: I do not have the exact number, but it is significant and I can estimate that it is around 9-10%.

Question: Is the budget a reflection of your district or the entire state?

Ryu: It is a reflection of the entire state, and each legislator advocates within their district for their budget.

Question: How does the government find undocumented students or residents?

Ryu: I am unsure of the exact methods. There was a lot of research done, but there are a number of different reasons including self-reporting. The Census report was very low.

DOL released an email stating that any commercial (CDL) drivers must provide proof of documentation when they apply and renew their licenses.

Public Comment

Chris Liu, Executive Director
Department of Enterprise Services

- A new subcabinet, which includes all agencies, was formed to look at economic disparities
- The function of the subcabinet is to find ways to problem solve and put forth economic solutions
 - Making sure that small and diverse businesses have access to contracting opportunities with state agencies and higher education institutions
- The subcabinet will be looking to community leaders for input
- Plans for the subcabinet can be found on the OMWBE website

Question: What is the problem you are trying to solve?

Liu: Defining the problem is very important, and there is still research being done to fully answer that question. The State spends billions on contracts and procurements in public works. MWBEs only get about one percent, although the minority population is about 20-25%. One goal is to bridge that gap. For the last year and a half, there has been work with various counties to look at their practices and find solutions that are already in place.

Question: Are there any other states that you are looking to as a model?

Liu: Yes, we are looking at various models in other states. Looking at Kentucky, they have 25% participation. However, we want to be careful about how we follow other models because those are specifically designed for those states and we would like to model Washington's to our specific needs.



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Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program (TBIP) Accountability Task Force

Commissioner Lynette Finau

Julie Kang, Director of Professional Learning, University of Washington

- Background of TBIP: The task force was created in 2014 to address the unique needs of students of different cultural backgrounds with language barriers and to help English Language Learners (ELL) students become proficient in English.
- Looked at policy initiatives from other States
- 18 stakeholders participate on TBIP Accountability Task Force
- 3 things were focused on
 - Professional development
 - Services offered to ELL students
 - Research based best practices
- Efforts: working to better define terms/language used for ELL students, advocating for a system of accountability, looking for research-based trainings for teachers, disaggregation of data
- Data disaggregation: East Asians spend the least number of years in TBIP. Is the data a reflection of the resources schools are actually offering or are they a reflection of community organizations providing programs like weekend language schools to help the youth?
- TBIP found that large amounts of funding were not being used, which is a disservice to students that resources are not being provided for them.
- A small amount of funding was used last year for the professional development of teachers
- TBIP has requested for additional money to continue their work in the following year. The task force members will continue their work via webinar.

Question: Did Common Core state standards come up in the conversation? How are ELL students accessing it? Are they doing better?

Kang: Through pre-service and in-service training, teachers will be more competent in helping ELL students. Each person has to take responsibility as educators of ELL students.

Finau: All teachers need to have a culturally diverse background. I am pushing to have each teacher train in ELL services.

Question: How can CAPAA help support your recommendation to the governor and adopt them?

Kang: Once we get the final report, we have to continue questioning how the data is being gathered and what methods are being used. Looking at the report, we need to analyze from the Asian Pacific American (APA) perspective and tackle issues from there.

Finau: A lot of schools have family night. It's a really great opportunity to educate families about the funding that is being allocated to their schools and what resources are available to them. Students need to



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advocate for themselves and to have more API leadership and visibility in schools by educating their families.

Itti: We need to have Commissioners present at meetings to discuss where levy dollars are being allocated and spent so funding is more transparent. We also need to work with communities to understand budgets and how to advocate for funding of programs.

Strategic Plan

Education

- Continue working with Southeast Asian American Access in Education (SEAed) and Our Future Matters (OFM)
- What additional efforts can we make to close the opportunity gap?
- What activities are available to help students stay engaged over the summer?

Question: Is there something we can do to promote early learning for our students?

Educate our communities to understand how to navigate ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) and Head Start to get our students onto the waiting list and into the programs. Also, making sure we have culturally competent programs for our students.

Health & Human Services

- News will come in the next few months about a partnership with UW
- Minority Mental Health Awareness Month resources
- Conference in October to address the issue of stomach cancer in the API community
- Focus on disaggregating data regarding health concerns so that the health system understands where the disparities are in different API communities
- Request DOH to print out marijuana education cards and providing it in other languages
 - Request to have education videos in various languages
- Share health data with ethnic media

Economic Development

- Continue working closely with agency partners
- Participate in Gov. Inslee task force—includes agency directors and staff
- Work with OMWBE to increase participation in minority and veteran owned businesses
 - Goal: Increase participation by 20%
- Encouraging community to get certified with OMWBE and to utilize those businesses

Commissioner Report Out

- Commissioner Khamshitsang: Tabling around the country, including New York. Attending monthly Tibetan community meeting regularly.



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- Commissioner Gurung: Assisting efforts to provide aid to victims of earthquake in Nepal. Propose invitation to further this discussion.
- Commissioner Finau: Would like to connect and engage more students to CAPAA. Goal is to bring students to board meetings and help serve the community. Involved in Asian Student Union at Foster HS and encouraging students to participate more with CAPAA.
- Commissioner Vue: Working on ways to include youth in community work and CAPAA. SEAed is in the process of planning their next conference. Will continue to plan and is requesting more community involvement. Walk for Rice on June 27 at Seward Park.
- Commissioner Wada: Helping Korean Restaurant Association with their conference. Working with L&I to provide culturally competent information for community. Hosting fraud prevention workshops with seniors over the summer. Health Advisor 1 position open in her office.
- Commissioner Tufono: Speaking engagements, meeting with student organizations, participating in the Choices mentoring program, attending next API inmate event at Monroe facility in August—encouraging Commissioners to attend event and speak to inmates. Tune in to Da Coconut Wireless.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wada to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Vue with no further discussion and unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 PM.

Minutes prepared by Brianne Ramos.