



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting

Filipino Community of Seattle
5740 MLK Jr. Way S, Seattle, WA 98118
Saturday, November 21, 2015

Regular Business

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ty Tufono, Lisa Dickinson, Zer Vue, Lakshmi Guar, Tam Dinh, Darren Pen, Lynette Finau, Tashi Khamshitsang, Gerardine Cabusao, Mohan Gurung, Lori Wada

Commissioners Absent: Ka`imi Sinclair

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made at 10:06 by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the agenda and seconded by Commissioner Wada. With no further changes the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 MINUTES

Motion was made at 10:08 am by Commissioner Dickinson and seconded by Commissioner Khamshitsang with no amendments and unanimous approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Itti provided Director's Report overview. View the report: <http://capaa.wa.gov/executive-directors-report-for-november-21-2015/>.

BUSINESS DIVERSITY SUBCABINET

Chris Liu, Executive Director, Department of Enterprise Services

Lynne McGuire, Deputy Director, Department of Enterprise Services

Background: Governor's goal is for the subcabinet to take action and solve problems by coming up with solutions.

- DES has been conducting listening tours to hear from the community and the next session will take place in Tacoma in January (will forward information to CAPAA).
- Key findings:
 - The methods for collecting data are not standardized
 - There are too many systems and inconsistent processes
 - RFP (Request for Proposal) time period is not long enough—businesses do not have enough turnaround time to fill out applications
 - A lot of agencies are trying to outreach to community partners, but it is not a coordinated effort. They do not share best practices and strategies with each other.
 - No common practices for procurement diversity training
- Subcabinet Agency Members
 - Includes agencies that represent more than 2/3 of state spending
 - The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) to ensure community of practice
 - Agencies that ensure community transparency, reporting and communication (includes CAPAA)
 - Attorney General’s Office provides a single source legal counsel
 - Governor’s Office representatives
- SCRUM team areas of focus (work in focus areas will be concurrent)
 - Improve data collection and measurement
 - Clarify and improve legal and policy framework
 - Create a community of practice
 - Share and adopt procurement tools and processes that work
 - Foster a culture of diversity and inclusion
 - Improve engagement and assistance (external and internal)—making sure that people who are making decisions are making good, informed decisions
 - Improve procurement planning to enable better outreach
 - Training
- Disparity Study
 - Potential scope: State public works and goods & services procurement
 - Exploring study design options
 - Obtaining lessons learned from previous studies
 - Will have an advisory group to assist with developing the procurement requirements
 - Aiming for procurement to begin early in the new year
 - Helps to determine if there is evidence of discrimination, what to expect in each community, and provides tools to improve race conscious strategies

Q & A

Commissioner Pen: Commends the efforts of the subcabinet and their choice to include agencies such as L&I and CAPAA.

Commissioner Wada: In reality, one size will not fit everyone. A lot of new groups are coming and they are still at the “mom and pop” level of business. The current system can still be a barrier to small business owners. I encourage you to look at a model that will fit different communities and businesses. There should be more public education opportunities so communities will understand the process—ways to simplify, have people who can guide business owners, hand-holding for small business owners to provide encouragement.

Commissioner Dickinson: I want to make sure that the data is disaggregated and that including veterans and women businesses doesn't increase the contracting number, therefore hiding the actual disparities. Need to communicate to small business owners the benefits of minority business certification.

Commissioner Gaur: Currently, you are fostering communication within government agencies. How are you planning to disseminate information and data to small businesses?

Director Liu: All of your comments and concerns confirm what we heard during our listening sessions. Our next phase will be operationalizing our efforts and formulating solutions.

Commissioner Tufono: Education is the key factor in making sure our community's needs are being met.

Commissioner Dinh: Different communities are in different stages of development. Maybe we need to envision a different strategy. How do we break up the pieces of work? That way it is a community effort that utilizes the best resources of each community.

Members from the Civil Rights Coalition: We are pleased with the direction the state is going and commend the efforts of Director Liu.

HEALTH EQUITY FOR PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Litonya Lester, Health Policy Associate, Children's Alliance

Jiji Jally, Marshallese Community

Community experiences:

- COFA migrants who are sick or have serious health concerns are not going to the doctor because they do not have access to affordable healthcare.
- Another serious issue is the loss of culture, which affects their ability to survive in the U.S.
- There is confusion among all levels of the healthcare system about the eligibility of COFA migrants.
- Some COFA community members were granted Medicaid on accident, but it was taken away when it was realized that it was a mistake. This caused a lot of stress on the families, because procedures or treatments would be scheduled, but would have to be canceled due to lack of coverage.

Background: COFA migrants were formerly eligible for Medicaid coverage, but were denied access after the Welfare Reform Act in 1996.

Role of the Children's Alliance:

- Build relationship and trust with the community
- Advocacy work to restore food stamps to Marshallese community—SNAP program

Q & A

Commissioner Tufono: Thank you to Jiji for sharing her experiences. The COFA community is so underrepresented, yet they can legally migrate and work here but do not qualify for federal programs. Oregon passed a bill, and we need to do the same in Washington. I support making this a priority of CAPAA.

Commissioner Pen: Has the COFA community engaged with legislators in WA? I think that would be a great place to start and make legislators aware of the issue.

Commissioner Wada: I would suggest checking with the Governor's Interagency Health Disparities Council to see how they can support and possibly collect data.

Commissioner Finau: Are the children covered?

Jally: Yes, children are covered under Apple Health.

Director Itti: What were your strategies for changing SNAP?

Jally: Going to Olympia and talking to legislators to advocate for changes, alongside organizations like the Children's Alliance.

Director Itti: What is the best way to have a conversation about this issue with the community?

Jally: Make multiple announcements in advance; reach out to churches in Auburn and Federal Way.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Holly Barker, UW Professor of Anthropology

- Expressed gratitude and excitement that the Commission is supportive of working on this issue.
- History of the Marshall Islands:
 - People exposed to radiation were kept in internment camps for testing and were not allowed visitors or to leave the camps.
 - The Marshall Islands endured the equivalent of 1.67 Hiroshima bombs every day for 12 years.
- Connection between COFA migrants and Washington:
 - After WWII, parts of Micronesia became the Trust Territories of the United States
 - The plutonium used in the nuclear testing on the Marshall Islands was produced at the Hanford facility in Washington.
 - Due to rising sea levels, nuclear waste is leaking into the ocean, which causes irreversible damage to the surrounding areas and plant and sea life.

Siniva Driggers, Samoan Nurses of Washington

- Thank you to the leaders for your support of the community.
- Shared experience with working with a Marshallese client was denied healthcare service even though he was sick and elderly.
- Work with various clients that have immigration issues.

Elaine Ishihara, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Advocating Together for Healthy Communities

- Thank you to the Commission for your work to disaggregate Asian ethnicities in the Healthy Youth Survey.
- Congratulations for being awarded a Community Organization Recognition Award from the Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health.

Sam Le, ACE, ASC UW

- Asian Pacific Islander Mental Health Summit on February 20, 2016
- Asians Cooperating Together Conference, April 16, 2016
 - Looking for workshop leaders and mentors for UW student leaders
- ACE is hoping to establish an ongoing working relationship with CAPAA
- SEAE has a legislative advocacy internship open

CAPAA 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Director Itti provided updates to the outcomes of the Commission’s legislative priorities for 2015 regarding education, health and human services, economic development, immigration, and civil rights.

Commissioners discussed adding new items for the 2016 priorities, which include:

- Educating parents about the early learning system—how can parents navigate and access education services?
- Creating access for COFA communities to affordable healthcare
- Culturally competent mental health clinics
- Address gambling addiction—how can we work with the state on mental health and addiction?
- Creating a State Youth Ethnic Commission
- Ensuring that state agencies have translations of important resource materials
- Encouraging student and youth involvement in state government
- Assisting Governor’s Business Diversity Subcabinet to support diverse contracting
- Creating more resources and educational materials about immigration
- Supporting and encouraging civic engagement in Asian and Pacific Islander communities

Motion was made by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the 2016 legislative agenda with amendments and was seconded by Commissioner Tufono. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS

Economic Development:

- Supporting the Governor’s Business Diversity Subcabinet.

Education:

- SEAE went through an organizational restructuring.
- Education Roundtable on student discipline will take place in January and the Committee encourages Commissioners to outreach to AAPI families and community members.

Health & Human Services:

- No updates.

COMMISSIONER REPORT OUT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Gaur: Working on making connections between Indian community and CAPAA, as well as the Korean Women’s Association.

Commissioner Khamshitsang: Will be running for re-election of Tibetan Parliament and informing the community about marijuana education.

Commissioner Pen: Informing Asian and Pacific Islander communities about holiday safety.

Commissioner Finau: Attended UPRISE Conference and Hmong New Year event, guest lectured at UW for Holly Barker's class.

Commissioner Gurung: Raising funds to help survivors of Nepal earthquake

Commissioner Wada: Attended Governor's Interagency Health Disparities Council meetings, helping to coordinate free flu shots in the Asian community.

Commissioner Cabusao: Read the Governor's Proclamation for Filipino American History Month, greetings from CAPAA at the WASCLA summit, helping Asian and Pacific Islander community members register to vote.

Commissioner Dinh: Connected with the community to inform them about CAPAA and discussed ways to collaborate, will be speaking on a mental health panel at South Seattle College in January.

Commissioner Vue: Continuing to educate the Hmong community about issues that may impact them and beginning to work more with the Vietnamese community, helping Asian and Pacific Islander communities become registered voters.

Commissioner Tufono: Working with an API prison program in Purdy and Monroe. Challenge Commissioners to connect with other Commissioners that they may not have interacted with previously.

Commissioner Dickinson: Working to start an API business coalition in Spokane.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dickinson to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Vue with no further discussion and unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm.

Minutes prepared by Brianne Ramos.