



CAPAA
WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON
**ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

Staff Report

September 29, 2018

Board Meeting
Gonzaga University School of Law
721 N. Cincinnati St Spokane, WA 99202

Improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

Staff Report
June 16, 2018

Staff Report to the Commission covering activities, progress, and updates from June 17 to September 28, 2018.

1. FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMISSION UPDATES

- a) **Budget:** The Commission began a new fiscal year on July 1, 2018. Other fund sources total \$15,411.
- b) **Board Meetings:** The Commission has reschedule its September 15, 2018 Board Meeting to September 29, 2018. The Commission's next Board Meeting is November 17, 2018.
- c) **Commissioners:** Governor Inslee appointed Sam Cho, Carrie Huie-Pascua, and Lalita Uppala to serve on the Commission. Commissioner Cho represents King County and is a part of the Korean American community. Commissioner Huie-Pascua represents Yakima County and is part of the Filipino American community. Commissioner Uppala represents King County and is part of the Indian American community.
- d) **Decision Packages:** Michael Itti, former Executive Director of the Commission, submitted two Decision Packages requesting an increase in funding for Civic Engagement Outreach and an additional Full Time Employee (FTE).
- e) **Strategic Planning:** The Executive Committee and Staff held a phone conference with a representative from the Athena Group for review of Commissioner responses to the Strategic Planning Survey. The current draft of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan is available.
- f) **Executive Director:** The Commission is currently interviewing candidates for the Executive Director position.

2. ACHIEVING STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Commission advises and collaborates with policy- and decision-makers in government and community-based organizations to achieve its [2015-18 Strategic Plan](#). Activities include examining and defining issues, informing and empowering stakeholders, and formulating and advocating solutions.

Education: Close the educational opportunity gaps that impact Asian Pacific American students.

- a) **Early Learning Advisory Council:** The Council met in August to discuss its 2018 work plan, hear from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability, and receive an update on standards alignment.
- b) **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** The EOGOAC met in July and September in a joint meeting with the State Board of Education to discuss different methods in recognizing schools and school districts and hosting a Q&A with the Spokane communities. Co-Chair Sili Savusa and Frieda Takamura are CAPAA's lead representatives. The next meeting is October 16, 2018.
- c) **GATE Partnership Advisory Committee:** The Committee met in September to review the role of the Committee, discuss ways to reduce chronic absence, a significant concern for the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities, and review Graduation Success Program models. The next meeting will be on December 11, 2018.

Health & Human Services: Identify health disparity issues specific to the Asian Pacific American community and support identification and promotion of solutions.

- a) **Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention:** Members met in September to review Washington’s Violent Death Reporting System, hear from the American Indian Health Commission, and finalize the Decision Package for funding to prevent and reduce suicide.
- b) **Council on Health Disparities:** The Council met at El Centro de La Raza to review the issues of inequities in reproductive healthcare, immigration and detainment, tobacco and vapor products, and equity language guide. Commissioner Wada is the Commission’s representative on the Council. Their next meeting is December 6.
- c) **Health Equity for COFA communities:** Community members and advocates have meet to discuss plans on supporting funding/policy to provide COFA community members with dental insurance coverage in Washington State.

The Health Care convened in September to review with COFA community members on current progress of implementation. A webpage is available at www.hca.wa.gov with more details about the new COFA Islander Health Care Program.

Economic Development: Support Asian Pacific American business owners and those seeking to start and maintain a business with the knowledge, tools, and resources required to be successful.

- a) **Department of Commerce:** Staff worked with the Department of Commerce to produce rack cards for the Export Voucher Program with intention of reaching out to the Korean American business communities. Distribution began at the Korean American Chamber of Commerce event on September 28.

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO IDENTIFY ISSUES AND PROMOTE SOLUTIONS

The Commission meets with community leaders, community-based organizations, and coalitions to hear about issues and concerns and promote solutions. When necessary, casework and policy issues are brought to the attention of the Governor’s Office, federal and state agencies, legislative members, and municipalities.

- a) **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition – King County:** APIC convened to discuss the 2019 Legislative Session and API Legislative Day. Staff is coordinating with the Governor’s Office to set a date for API Legislative Day.
- b) **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition – Snohomish County:** Staff met with Van Dinh Kuno to discuss various concerns and needs of the API communities within Snohomish County. Expressed was a greater need of outreach and communication with the Commission and API communities within Snohomish County. Consideration for future meetings and events in Snohomish County requested.
- c) **Korean Women’s Association:** KWA and UW Forefront hosted discussion with multiple agencies and community organizations to discuss the concern of suicide within the API communities.

- d) **Southeast Asian Pacific Islander Health Education Summit:** Staff and Commissioner Sisavatdy supported the Committee in hosting a Health Education Summit in August, providing communities the health screenings, educational workshops, and community resources. The committee will be continuing the effort annually.
- e) **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Advocating Together for Healthy Communities:** Staff met with APICAT and discussed their new contracts with the Department of Health and updates on the Tobacco 21 legislation for next session.
- f) **Community Events:** Staff attended numerous community events to connect with constituents and learn about community issues and concerns. Events included the Asian Pacific Cultural Center’s Samoa Cultural Week, ACRS’s Walk for Rice, ECOSS’s (the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle) Water Festival, the Environmental Cambodian Convening, and Mt. Baker Village and Department of Ecology Community Information Session.

4. CONNECTIONS WITH STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Commission maintains relationships with state agencies and local and federal government to learn about programs and services that may impact AAPIs. The Commission advises and makes recommendations to government agencies on the development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs to support the unique needs of AAPI communities.

- a) **Department of Children, Youth, and Families:** Staff shared information on DCYF’s Listening Session Workshops with Commissioners and community members. Workshops are aimed to gather stakeholder input regarding how to better serve youth.
- b) **Department of Commerce:** Staff shared DOC’s Request for Proposals that would provide grants to community groups, non-profits, local governments, and other organizations the support in reaching out to “hard to count” populations for the 2020 Census.
- c) **Office of Financial Management:** Staff met with OFM to discuss initial preparations to form a state Complete Count Committee in order to coordinate efforts to promote a complete count for the 2020 Census.
- d) **Department of Licensing:** Staff and community leaders met with DOL Director, Teresa Bernsten to discuss about the issues facing the immigrant communities and undocumented individuals. Further, steps on the implementation and impacts the Real ID Act were discussed.
- e) **Disability Inclusion Network:** Staff attended orientation for the Disability Inclusion Network to learn more about disability equity and awareness within state agencies.