



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**

Asia Pacific Culture Center  
4851 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409  
Saturday, June 16, 2012

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Frieda Takamura, Darren Pen, Quang Nguyen, Jeannie Lee, Ty Tufono, Tashi Khamshitsang, Debadutta Dash, Lisa Dickinson Rey Pascua and Jagdish Sharma

Commissioners Absent: Pearl Leung and Sofia Aragon

Staff Members Present: Executive Director, Kendee Yamaguchi; Executive Assistant, Justin Chan; Intern, Joohee Kim

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 14, 2012 MINUTES**

Motion was made 10:15 a.m. by Commissioner Takamura and seconded by Commissioner Dash to approve the minutes with no amendments. Minutes approved.

Motion was made 10:17 a.m. by Commissioner Dash and seconded by Commissioner Nguyen to appoint the Commissioner Pen to be the new CAPAA Outreach Liaison Chair. Appointment is accepted.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Lee

- Indicated to members that she has left her position in the Left the Korean-American Grocer's Association of Washington.
- Discussed about the recent live broadcast of Radio Hankook, the Korean radio pilot program about the new privatization of liquor sales and the lack of transparency by Costco.
- Announced that the roll-your-own tobacco industry will filing a lawsuit against a measure that would tax their product like retail cigarettes.

Commissioner Nguyen

- Discussed about his community Advocacy work in the Chinatown/International District and his current effort on a community response to an up-zoning proposal that might displace low income people. They want to work on a neighborhood plan and engage community members to connect with representatives. The final decision will be in August.
- Indicated to members that his is going out into the community to talk about small businesses and provide them access to capital allow for minority businesses to thrive.

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**Agency Overview**

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

#### Commissioner Pen

- Introduced members to his background that includes working with law enforcement and limited English proficiency community members on decreasing gaps between minority and majority communities. He formed a community group and hopes to continue his outreach.
- Indicated to members that he is currently in a program to educate community members on burglaries and crimes, because many community members do not understand the importance of calling 911 as a result of cultural differences and fear.

#### Commissioner Takamura

- Discussed about the Voices in Education Initiative and the two education summits taking place this Fall. The Pacific Islander Education Summit is on September 29<sup>th</sup> at South Seattle Community College and the Southeast Asian and Asian American Education Summit is on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Highline Community College.
- Informed members that there will be a referendum to support charter schools.
- Updated members that the Request for Information to gather technical expertise pertaining to the disaggregation of Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander student data will be lead by Shirley Hune with the University of Washington with the assistance of the commission.
- Noted that there are robo-calls being sent out for a survey on the education system.
- Announced that the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition will be a hosting reception for the new Seattle Superintendent.

#### Commissioner Sharma

- Attended the following events: March 21<sup>st</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, meetings with Legislators and Southeast Asian community members, April 4<sup>th</sup>, Global trade – Foreign trade reception in Bellevue, hosted by the City of Bellevue and sponsored by the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Takamura, the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event at the Seattle Center, May 12<sup>th</sup>, India Association of Western Washington fundraiser for youth and seniors programs which raised 27 thousand dollars and May 24<sup>th</sup>, Tacoma's Asia Pacific Cultural Center grand opening ceremony, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Ethnic Heritage Council Springfest at the House of Hong Restaurant.

#### Commissioner Rey

- Expressed concern to members on issues surrounding tobacco that affects relationships between ethnic communities.
- Indicated that he met with Heidi Park from Congressman McDermott's office on introducing a bill to correct an injustice against Asian American workers that traveled north during the summer to work in the fish canneries in Alaska in the 1970s.
- Praised the wonderful Filipino community celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rededication of the Filipino Community of Wapato Hall. The events were held on March 31<sup>st</sup> for the rededication ceremony at the Community Hall and May 19<sup>th</sup> for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary grand ceremony at the Yakima Convention Center with 600 attendees.
- Updated members that the community will be supporting the Asian Pacific American Summit on September 21<sup>th</sup> at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall by providing bus to transportation for community members.
- Indicated that he gave a community profile presentation to Yakima Chamber of Commerce young leadership group back in April.
- Informed members that he attended celebratory events in early June on the Yakima nation signing of treaties.

#### Commissioner Dickinson

- Indicated to members that she is assisting with non-profits on compliance items that include filing correct tax forms.
- Attended the following events: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Access to Justice, Bar Leaders Conference to discuss access to legal aid and assistance, court access, foreclosures and adequate interpreters and April 28<sup>th</sup>, 63rd Annual Sukiyaki Dinner and Crafts as part of Japan Week.
- Announced that the Filipino-American Association of the Inland Empire will be having the annual national Independence Day celebration at Valley Mission Park on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Informed members that the Japanese American Citizens League will be having their picnic event coming up. Check their calendar for more information.
- Indicated to members that she is attending national conference calls of Asian American and Pacific Islander Commissions to hear about how all the Commissions are doing throughout the nation.
- Announced that she will be attending the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in Chicago from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> as part of the Minority Caucus to lobby on foreclosure and access to justice issues.
- Updated members on her activity in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and on her activity with the Joint Judicial Asian Evaluation Committee who screen for judicial candidates who are more aware of minority issues.

#### Commissioner Dash

- Attended the following events: April 29<sup>th</sup>, "Oriyas of Greater Seattle" event presenting Samsara: the Cycle of Life, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Northwest Asian Weekly Women of Color Empowered luncheon on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bellevue Westin Hotel, May 16<sup>th</sup>, International Examiner 20th Anniversary Community Voice Awards, May 19<sup>th</sup>, OneAmerica's 11th Anniversary

Dinner & Celebration, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Community Health Fair on cancer care and breast cancer examinations with the International Community Health Services (ICHHS) and Komen Puget Sound and in May, Breakfast Meeting with U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce to promote small and medium minority businesses, June 9th, Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival hosted by the Filipino Cultural Heritage Society of Washington.

- Indicated that the Japanese American Citizens League will be holding their 43rd National Convention which will be held July 5 - 8, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington.
- Announced that the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee is planning to organize a two-day summit on US-India trade & commerce on September 27 - 28, 2012 at the Seattle Center as part of the 50th anniversary of the Seattle Center and the first Seattle World's Fair Next Fifty celebration. More information at [nextfifty.com](http://nextfifty.com)
- Informed members that the Kushagra Institute of Information and Management Science (KIIMS) signed an agreement with North Seattle Community College for educational exchanges. The Director of KIIMS met with the President of North Seattle Community College, Mark Matsui. A memorandum of understanding with the University of Washington was also signed to establish international cultural, educational and scientific cooperation.

#### Commissioner Tashi

- Indicated that as a member of the Tibetan parliament, he has been traveling to India, Oregon, New Mexico and Minnesota over the past few months, informing members about CAPAA's achievements and exchanging experiences.
- Briefed members that he has been meeting with Bhutanese community members. He is also disseminating information from the White House to community members and performing outreach.
- Explored the possibility for allowing students to obtain credit for taking Sunday language and cultural courses.
- Announced that the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Tibet Fest will take place on August 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. This festival celebrates the cultural roots and contemporary influences of Tibet through live performances, visual arts, hands-on activities, foods, games, and a lively marketplace.

#### Commissioner Tufono

- Informed members that she attended a fundraiser for Asia Pacific Cultural Center to raise funding for the Asian Pacific American Summit, a cultural Thai boxing event hosted by a Muay Thai boxing association and a protest march on May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> with immigrant workers who are under paid and mistreated.
- Indicated to members that she was requested to serve as a board member of the LGBT group, United Territories Of Pacific Islanders' Alliance (UTOPIA).
- Connected with Vince Vaielua, director of brand new Samoan Group that focuses on Samoan youth and how to empower them.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### 1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** During the double overtime special session, the legislature passed an operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium amounting to \$234,000 for FY 2012 and \$212,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$446,000. The agency will be able to maintain current staffing levels but will continue to have limited discretionary funding for printing, purchased services and supplies.

### 2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Administrative Policy Manual:** Based on recommendations made by the Department of Personnel to all state agencies, staff is in the process of updating our administrative manual. Copies will be provided to commissioners upon completion.
- **Transition:** With guidance from the Governor's Office, staff is preparing transition documents for the next Administration. All staff manuals and procedures are under review and any necessary updates are being incorporated.
- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an integrated online casework system. A rise of requests on financial aid resources for school and employment remains steady.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **2012 Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session officially adjourned on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. Special thanks to our legislative liaison, Commissioner Aragon, for her valuable service monitoring the budget, bills and public hearings on issues impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The 2012 Legislative Session Review, a document which summarizes bills tracked by the commission can be found on our website. Special thanks to Micah Bateman-Iino for his work on this publication.

- **Special Session:** On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Governor Gregoire called for a special session lasting up to 30 days. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, lawmakers adjourned from the double overtime special session approving the 2011-2013 biennium operating budget.
- **Asian Pacific American Summit:** This year, a legislative day at the capitol did not take place because the community is hosting a large summit. The Asian Pacific American Summit: Celebrating Unity and Civic Involvement will take place on September 21, 2012 at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall. The statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition is organizing this event.

#### 4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **New Resource on State Agency Materials in Asian Languages:** In fulfilling the commission's mission of ensuring access for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, in June 2012, the commission launched a new state resource which hosts state agency materials produced in Asian languages. This resource catalogues all known documents in state government produced in Asian languages. Many of these materials provide vital information on state services and information. If you are aware of a state government resource that has been translated that requires inclusion, please notify us.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Faces in Washington State Government:** In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs released a new publication, Asian American and Pacific Islander Faces in Washington State Government. This publication recognizes the contributions and work of many of our state employees. Asian American and Pacific Islanders make up 6% of our state workforce. Recent data indicates a 1% decline from previous years. A copy of this publication can be found on the agency's website.
- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** Staff and commissioners participated in numerous statewide events with federal agencies, state agencies, cities, corporations, educational institutions and community based organizations to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Special thanks to Commissioner Takamura for serving as our APA Heritage Month liaison and to all those commissioners who volunteered their time at the statewide kick off event.
- **Commission Initiatives:** The commission continues its work on two statewide initiatives: the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative and the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. More information can be found on our website.

#### 5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct community outreach and provide advocacy on policy issues facing the AAPI community. Over 130 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months. This does not include the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
  - **White House Convening of AAPI State and Local Commissions:** On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the executive director participated in a meeting at the White House bringing together Asian American and Pacific Islander state and local commissions. An update on our state's work and efforts was provided.
  - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Briefing:** In May, a White House briefing for Asian American and Pacific Islander community leaders across the country was held. White House officials provided updates on the economy, jobs, immigration, education, healthcare and innovation.
  - **Congressional Ceremony to Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** On May 8<sup>th</sup>, staff attended the Congressional Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ceremony hosted by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.
  - **Federal Trade Commission:** The executive director recently joined the Federal Trade Commission's Northwest Common Ground Task Force focusing on consumer protection issues. Staff provided recommendations on outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and shared data on our state's population and issues impacting the community.

- **National Council of Asian Pacific Americans Summit:** In May, the executive director attended the 2012 National Council of Asian Pacific Americans Summit. A report entitled, Our Communities, Our Priorities, Our Country: 2012 Policy Blueprint for Action was released. This report focuses on six areas of concern for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with over twenty agency liaisons on a monthly basis. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff received an update from Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on programs, policies and data. Staff provided recommendations to the agency on outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on services and programs given data showing increased caseloads in economic services, medical assistance, aging/adult services, and substance abuse treatment from the AAPI community. In June, the Department of Social and Health Services will be featured on the commission's radio pilot program.
  - **Employment Security Department:** Staff connected with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison. Since data indicates that Pacific Islanders are experiencing higher levels of unemployment in our state, staff continues to advocate for outreach to this community. Staff is monitoring outreach practices. Over the past few months, the Employment Security Department has met with the Samoan, Tongan and Micronesian communities. Community members should be aware that a reduction to the maximum weeks of unemployment benefits from 99 to 73 for most eligible workers took effect on April 21, 2012.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Lyn Peters recently provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. Community members should be aware of a new financial education clearinghouse that provides access to information on budgeting, saving, credit, identify theft and financial fraud prevention. Also, on June 26 and 27, a financial education teacher training will be held in Yakima. More information can be found at [www.dfi.wa.gov](http://www.dfi.wa.gov)
  - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walt Wong provided an update to staff on programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. Staff is currently participating on the Multiple Pathways for Workers and Employers Work Group and providing recommendations on the state's strategic plan for workforce development.
  - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff connected with Cathy Liu Scott on current programs, data and policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Over the last school year, bullying, harassment and intimidation were the second and third most frequent type of complaints received by OEO. Federal data indicates that AAPI students are 20% more likely than other racial groups to be bullied in the classroom, and 3 times more likely to be cyber-bullied once or twice a month. Staff has requested state data on this issue. Community members should be aware of the services available by the Office of the Education Ombudsman. More information can be found at [www.governor.wa.gov/oeo/](http://www.governor.wa.gov/oeo/)
  - **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, continues to provide data allowing our agency to monitor the AAPI human rights complaints received by the state. Compared to the previous year, there is a slight increase in complaints filed by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Community members should be aware that the Human Rights Commission is holding a meeting on sexual orientation and gender identity rules on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Seattle.
  - **Department of Early Learning:** Staff connected with Amy Blondin on early learning programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The Department of Early Learning recently published the 2012 Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines for children from birth through third grade. The executive director and community members Janice Deguchi and Ben Kodoma participated in the statewide workgroup providing recommendations on behalf of the community. More information can be found at [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov)
  - **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff continues to meet with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison. In April, the Department of Labor and Industries hosted its annual Worker Memorial Day ceremony honoring 69 people who died in 2011 due to work-related accidents or illnesses. Two Asian Americans were among those honored. More information can be found at [www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov)
  - **Department of Licensing:** Staff met with Josh Johnston, our agency liaison, who provided an update on policies and proposed rules impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. This past session,

a bill passed authorizing the implementation of a facial recognition matching system for drivers' licenses, permits and identicards. Community members should also be aware that there is now an extension on the renewal cycle for driver licenses and ID cards from 5 years to 6 years, except for commercial driver licenses.

- **Secretary of State:** Our agency liaison, Patrick Reed, provided an update on new policies and publications of interest to the community. With the passage of HB 2239, a new entity exists in our state called, the Social Purpose Corporation. This entity allows a corporation's shareholders and directors to put a social purpose above the purpose of making a profit. Asian American and Pacific Islander small business owners may also be interested in viewing the updated Small Business Guide. For more information, visit [www.sos.wa.gov](http://www.sos.wa.gov)
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff connected with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs. Community members and Asian American and Pacific Islander small business owners should be aware that the Legislature recently authorized counties to offer a one-time waiver of penalties and interest for businesses and individuals who have never filed their personal property list with their county assessor. For more information, visit [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov)
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to connect with Chewon Lee, our agency liaison, who is a partner in our statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparity Initiative. As part of the initiative, the community continues to hear from representatives on the Affordable Care Act. Community members may also be interested in attending an upcoming health fair emphasizing dental services for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on September 22, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Everest College in Renton. More information is available at [www.insurance.wa.gov](http://www.insurance.wa.gov)
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies, programs and committees of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Community members may have an interest in a recently released parent brochure on bilingual education programs called Learning English in Washington Schools: What Parents Should Know. The brochure is available in Cambodian (Khmer), Chinese (traditional) Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Tagalog and Vietnamese. More information is available at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)
- **Department of Health:** Our agency liaison, Jovi Swanson, provided an update on programs and policies of interest to the community. Community members should be aware that whooping cough vaccines are recommended for all children and adults given the rise of cases in our state. Staff is currently analyzing data on the epidemic to determine if outreach to particular communities is necessary. Also, this month, the executive director made a presentation to agency employees in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage month.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Staff continues to connect with our agency liaison, Antonio Sanchez, to discuss issues of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A legislative trade mission to Taiwan occurred in May and a delegation from South Korea was recently received by our state.
- **Department of Ecology:** Staff continues to monitor policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The state has begun the process of reviewing fish consumption rates which are used to guide environmental cleanup and pollution control. In May, the executive director provided recommendations on fish consumption rate standards since many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders eat more fish than the average.
- **Washington State Minority and Justice Commission:** The executive director serves as a member on the Advisory Committee for the Race and Justice Research Project. This is a statewide study surveying the experiences and perceptions of minority communities with law enforcement and the courts. Staff provided recommendations for the inclusion of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the study.
- **Legislative Outreach:** Upon the request of legislative members, the commission provides briefings on the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community and the agency.
  - **APA Legislative Members:** Upon the request of the Legislature, the executive director met with Representatives Santos, Hasegawa and Ryu to provide an update on programs, services and the interagency work of the commission on March 20, 2012. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.

## 6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The remaining statewide board meetings for the year will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Lua Pritchard, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, for providing refreshments and a venue for the last meeting.
- **Appointment and Reappointments:** We welcome newly appointed Commissioner Darren Pen and congratulate Commissioners Aragon, Dash, Leung and Lee on their reappointments.
- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. Most committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call.

## 7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** In April, the Advisory Council met to discuss the two education summits taking place this Fall. The Pacific Islander Education Summit is on September 29, 2012 at South Seattle Community College and the Southeast Asian and Asian American Education Summit is on October 6, 2012 at Highline Community College. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative and will provide an update.
  - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa are our community representatives on this committee. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update.
  - **Education Workgroups:** Community representatives continue to sit on the following workgroups: Early Learning, Gangs in Schools, Ed Tech, QEC Compensation Workgroup, the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee and the OSPI & External Partners Dropout group.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
  - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** The commission continues its work on the AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in our state. The focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention and education on the Affordable Care Act. A series of events held in partnership with the community focusing on increasing awareness and encouraging testing for prevention are in progress. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.
  - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director continues to serve as a representative on this council on behalf of the commission. The council is working to develop policy recommendations for areas of: poverty, behavioral health, environmental exposures and hazards, adverse child experiences, health reform implementation and the state system and its potential impacts on health disparities.
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day:** In collaboration with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, the 2nd Annual Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day will take place on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Harry E. Lang Stadium in Lakewood.
- **Economic Development:**
  - **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** A special thanks to the many representatives serving on statewide committees working on economic development issues. Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, serves as a representative on the Small Business Advisory Committee. Commissioner Dash sits on the Export Initiative which hosts quarterly working group meetings. Maiko Winkler-Chin is working with staff on the Microenterprise program and Mohan Gurung on the Efficient Regulation exercise.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

Asia Pacific Cultural Center

- Faaluaaina Pritchard, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC), welcomed the commission and introduced the Asia Pacific Cultural Center and the President of the board.
- Patsy Surh O'Connell, President of APCC, provided a brief background and history of the APCC which was formed in November 1996 with a mission to bridge the generations and communities through arts, culture and business.
- John Beckwith, Retired Community Developer, provided information on his work for APCC on future facility expansion. He provided information on the proposed grand facility in downtown Tacoma close to UW Tacoma, which will be a complex that contains retail stores, a supermarket, a food court, gift shops, low income housing, student housing, a performing hall, a dance studio and an exhibition hall.
- Youth members presented information on a project called "Move It" to assist with the growing problem of obesity and diabetes that is affecting Pacific Islanders. As members of the Samoan community, the youth in APCC have organized events like Health Fitness Day, Golf Tournament and Hot Hula Fitness. They are passionate members of the Community and this year they have 25 core members.
- Eddie Maiva as part of the planning committee on the APCC Samoan Cultural Day, presented information on events taking place on Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, for Samoan culture day and Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, for youth activities like games, basket weaving from coconut leaves and fire making. There will be a parade, and presentation with Samoan oratory and a great opportunity to mingle with the Samoan community.
- Vince Vaielua, a volunteer of APCC and the Northwest Leadership Foundation, provided information on his new Samoan group that interrupts gang activities to promote education and safety for the youth and breaking barriers of religion and social economic status.

#### **The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities**

- Yris Lance, the Community Relations Liaison on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities introduced the panel of speakers to discuss current AAPI health disparities.

#### **Tacoma Pierce County Health Department**

- Ratanya Ozolin from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, presented information on teen pregnancy and preterm birth. They conducted a health assessment and out of the 57 geographic areas, Pierce County had four of the top ten of highest risk areas for infant mortality and low birth rate. Her goal is to reach out to communities most risk such as the Pacific Islanders. She wants to bring down infant mortality and low birth rates by ensuring that there are maternity services, Medicaid and Medicare services and access to nutritionist and lactation services. They also focus on Pacific Islander teen mothers through nurse partnerships, working with mothers from the time of the baby's conception until 5 years old.

#### **Tacoma Pierce County Health Department,**

- Kathleen MacGuire from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, presented information on obesity and diabetes. Basic statistics on diabetes from the 2010 US census show that approximately 1.2 million Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians suffer from diabetes in the Nation. Diabetes and obesity are chronic diseases that rank 5<sup>th</sup> in the cause of death for AAPI. AAPI have a higher risk of diabetes. Washington State has an obesity percentage of 13.9% which is ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> of states with obesity. Pacific Islanders are 70% more likely of being obese. Our role in fixing this problem is through addressing policy, system and environmental change such as healthy choices. She introduced two of her colleagues.
- Lisa Sankyle with the Cross Cultural Collaborative of Pierce County, presented information on the three year grant for Tobacco obesity prevention. They use the community and youth in combination with cultural ideas to solve health problems. They welcome agencies to work with the collaborative on collecting more data.
- Siniva Driggers with the Samoan National Nurses Association in Tacoma, discussed about the problem of diabetes within the community. Her work involves outreach and educating people about diabetes. Diabetes is the highest occurring disease in the Samoan population. She currently serves 100 people within three senior centers.

#### **Asian Counseling and Referral Services**

- Naty Lamug from the Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS), presented the growing problem of mental health within the AAPI community. Mental health accounts for approximately 60% of all cases across the world. The issue is that data is still not disaggregated so there is a lack of information on the mental health of the AAPI community. She introduced other ACRS staff members.
- Motuoaga Samoa, staff members at ACRS, provided information on the emotional aspect of mental health. She started in 1990 with very few Pacific Islander clients. Mental health issues were thought of as normal and there was a focus on



the physical aspect not the emotional aspect. The current effort is on engaging the Pacific Islander community through workshops on how to engage emotional discomfort and address depressed individuals without labeling them as crazy.

- Hyun Hwang, staff member at ACRS, provided information on the stigma of mental health. They are reaching out to the AAPI community and using cultural ideas to address the problem of mental health. They are working on finding the most effective way of outreach through linguistically appropriate and culturally competent solutions. This could mean work on a policy level, expanding research, data segregation and the ability to use diverse and bilingual staff.

#### **Asian American Chemical Dependency Treatment Services**

- Tae Son Lee, director at the Asian American Chemical Dependency Treatment Services, provided background information on his organization and their work. Their organization started in Kent as non-profit on an issue area that was new to AAPIs. Their mission is to educate the AAPI community on chemical dependency. There are 500 treatment facilities but only two or three facilities are AAPI sensitive. The organization has been really active, growing with many community members as many people are aware of Asian dependency problems. Alcohol is seen as a method for AAPI males to bond with other AAPI males and as a result, it was never seen as a personal and family matter and as a result, many families hide the problem until it is too late. There is also a growing problem with cannabis use among youth who often drop out of school or begin using stronger drugs as a result. Smoking cannabis is a gateway drug, leading to the use methamphetamines which have devastating effects on the brain. Another problem with the AAPI community is gambling. The majority of AAPIs focus on financial success and as a result, a majority of AAPI men gamble at casinos. Losing money is often the case which results in broken families and domestic abuse. The rising prescription drug problem is also an issue in the AAPI community related to serious injury and death. Their organization is currently struggling for funding against substance abuse areas. They ask that people be aware of these programs so as to work together to resolve them.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

##### **Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation**

- Stephen Yao, board member of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF), briefly introduced their work in the community. ACLF develops young AAPI leaders through an annual community project. After a brief announcement on the Welcome Reception and Mentor Match event on June 30<sup>th</sup>, he introduced this year's Community Leadership Program (CLP) class.
- Micah Bateman Iino, a member of this year's ACLF CLP class, provided information about the team and their current work. The Members of this year's CLP class come from the public and private sector, schools and non-profits. They are currently working with WAPI Community Services on developing a new facility in the Chinatown/International District.
- Grant Wu and Melissa Atalig, members of this year's ACLF CLP class, described the development of the project. They are currently at the research stage of developing a report on the benefits and possibility of opening the new WAPI Community Services facility. They will be reaching out to stakeholders and have already connected with SCIPDA and ACRS. They will eventually conduct focus group surveys on the how to deal with barriers in opening the space.

##### **Community Member**

- Frank Aragon gave remarks on the impact of closing the Social Security Administration (SSA) office in the Chinatown/International District. The relocation of the SSA office to the downtown Seattle, Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, will impede access to services as a result of transportation and security. He hopes that the commission will support the elderly and not close the office.

Motion was made 1:18 a.m. by Commissioner Pascua and seconded by Commissioner Tufono to support not closing the Social Security Administration (SSA) office in the Chinatown/International District. Motion is passed.

- Danny Kaloulaloupe gave remarks, thanking Lua Pritchard and the board for their assistance and indicated that there needs to be greater inclusiveness, communication and access to resources.

##### **911 Make the Call**

- Susan Eardley with the Franciscan Health System and the 911 Make the Call project, is reaching out to women to not wait until it's too late to call 911 before a heart attack.

##### **Filipino American League of Pierce County**

- Carmen Alton with the Filipino American League of Pierce County, gave a brief introduction about their organization

which has luncheons every Thursday, bringing out seniors and giving them a sense of belonging. Thanked APCC for providing them space in their facility.

Commissioner Pascua motioned to adjourn the board meeting at 1:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pen with unanimous approval.

Minutes prepared by Justin Chan.