



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

Board Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2019 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW  
City of Olympia, Thurston County, WA

**I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

*Present:* Chair Tyati Tufono-Chaussee, 1<sup>st</sup> VC Lisa Dickinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VC Nam Nguyen, Lori Wada, Lynette Finau, Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Sina Sam, Sam Cho, Carrie Huie-Pascua, Tam Dinh, Lalita Uppala

*Absent:* Mohan Gurung

*Staff:* Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Sam Le

*Quorum:* Yes

**II. Approval of the Agenda** Motion was made at 10:01 AM by Commissioner Wada to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Dickinson. *Motion passed unanimously.*

**III. Approval of the Minutes** Motion was made at 10:02 AM by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the December, 2018 meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Wada. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Board Business, Comment on public records officer to change from Dickinson to Nguyen.

Commissioner Wada: for future reference print double sided notes

**IV. CAPAA Executive Director Introduction / Executive Director's Report (presented by ED Hasegawa)**

*Staff & Commissioner Activity:*

**Board Meetings:** Dates and locations have been selected. Staff is currently confirming hosting venues and will send out information to Commissioners. Last meeting of the year in November may be made into an orientation and end of the year celebration, in order to give all Commissioners the opportunity to fully on board and receive adequate training.

**Commissioner Comments:** Chair Tufono-Chaussee commented that if Commissioners know of scheduling conflicts with the dates, please inform Staff and Executive Committee as soon as possible and reminds Commissioners of CAPAA's attendance policies.

**Commissioner Activity Report:** Commissioner Activity Report will be comprehensive report at the March board meeting, including all activities from January through March.

**Ruth Woo Fellowship:** In partnership between CAPAA and the Governor's Office. Applications are open through February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Currently posted on CAPAA's website,

email newsletter and social media. Commissioners are encouraged to share the opportunity to their networks.

**CAPAA Communications:** Congratulate Project Coordinator Le for completing CAPAA's very first video message to the community. Goal of the video message is to increase accessibility to information CAPAA is sharing as before the medium only catered to literate audiences.

**Website Project:** Simplifying the website to make a more intuitive and user-friendly platform. Connected with three website service providers. First was WaTech, which quoted \$17,000. Second was Greg Cohen (spell check needed), who quoted \$12,000. Third was Sophia (spell check needed), who quoted \$2,500. Hasegawa will connect with budget analyst and legal counsel to review budgetary impact and contracting review. Timeline expectation is to have website live before CAPAA's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**Governors' Budget Proposal:** The Governor's budget proposal was released since the last CAPAA Board Meeting in December. Two budget proposals were made, one based on the current tax rate and one on an increased tax rate. CAPAA will receive its submitted decision packages for Civic Engagement, salary increase adjustments, and supplemental funding, but not for a third FTE under the Governor's budget proposal based on increased taxes. Within Executive Director's Report, Appendix I, II, and III provide information on CAPAA's budget. Additionally, Project Coordinator Le's salary is approved to maintain at \$50,000 and skype has been ordered for \$5 a month.

*Commissioner Comments:* Chair Tufono-Chaussee commented that the Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) received their decision package request for an additional TLT staffer, but CAPAA and the Commission on African American Affairs did not. Hasegawa clarified that CHA received their new position, but it is only a temporary position focused on communication and the 2020 Census. Chair Tufono-Chaussee comments that this is a good example to learn from when creating decision packages. Commissioner Cho asked why couldn't CAPAA ask the legislature directly for increasing staff. Hasegawa shared that it is not recommended for agencies to make asks to legislature if that ask wasn't included within the Governor's budget proposal. Commissioner Dinh asks how CAPAA could then get additional funding, if not from the State and comments that the need will continue to grow as the API community is highly diverse. Commissioner Huie-Pascua commented that despite the increased efforts within the Yakima area regarding the 2020 Census, it has been hard to continue outreach efforts to API communities, as funding opportunities are not as prevalent. Commissioner Sam asks would the request work if it came directly from the Commissioners, as without the additional staff, the work load falls directly to the Commissioners, who are volunteers.

**Legislative Session & Advocacy:** The 2019 Washington State Legislative Session started on January 14, 2019. Two main issues that CAPAA will be focusing on are the repeal of Initiative 200, regarding affirmative action, and legislation on Initiative 940, regarding police accountability. Hasegawa has already provided testimonies on behalf of CAPAA at hearings from Senate Bill 5029 and House Bill 1064, both regarding the amended legislation from Initiative 940. Additionally, Sen. Nguyen has introduced legislation regarding prepaid

postage.

**Vietnamese Rally on Deportation:** At the national level, the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Vietnam governments is currently being under review as its renewal is set to take place. Under the current MOU, Vietnamese Refugees who arrived before 1995 is protected from deportation, but that may be changed. This would result in significant impacts of the Vietnamese community nationally and within Washington State. Two weeks ago, the community organized a rally and public demonstration, in which CAPAA was invited to participate and speak. Hasegawa, Le, and Commissioner Dinh were present. Additionally, Hasegawa has connected with key individuals on potential legislation providing protection to those impacted through the clemency process, further information provided in the Executive Director's Report. The next step for CAPAA would be to create a 1 pager to share information and continue the conversations.

*Commissioner Comments:* Commissioner Dinh thanked Hasegawa for not only being present at the rally, but also creating impacts behind the scenes by connecting with key individuals. Further, Commissioners are in a position to support and carry the voices of the community to tables that the communities are underrepresented at. Commissioner Dinh also clarifies that the ownership of the community efforts are with the community and the organizers and CAPAA was only there to support.

**APIC's APA Legislative Day:** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalitions of Washington State will be convening the APA Legislative Day at the capitol. There will be a rally from 11:00 – 12:00, featuring legislators and the Governor. The community leaders will also meet with the Governor from 1:00 – 1:30 PM, as well with other legislators throughout the day. CAPAA's role is to advise the Governor's Office on APIC's agenda beforehand. Commissioner Sam will be attending under her community organizing capacity.

**CAPAA's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** 2019 will be CAPAA's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, which is often labeled at the Sapphire Anniversary. Hasegawa explained that this will not be a plated dinner setting, in order to make the event as welcoming and comfortable as possible for the guests. It is a celebration. Commissioner Dinh has assisted in finding the venue by proposing Eden Seattle, a minority owned venue, which quoted \$2750 for an all-inclusive package including staff on site. Chair Tufono-Chaussee has agreed to connect staff with Two Story Zori, an island theme reggae band to provide live entertainment at the event. Food at the event will be served in a buffet style featuring different local restaurants that will feature the unique culinary traditions from the API communities. Silent auction baskets prepared by the Commissioners is also an idea that may be present. Connections with the Wa State Lottery may lead to potential partnership during the event.

*Commissioner Comments:* Chair Tufono-Chaussee clarifies that the money raised will be going into CAPAA's donation fund, which has policy on how it can used. Further, the Commission will be honoring Diane Narasaki for her service to the community and that the event will be a place to honor other leaders in the Community commissioners would like to honor. Commissioner Dickinson asks if there will still be seating and if alcohol will be served. Hasegawa states that there will be seating still available for guests and that the date of the event is April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Commissioner Uppala comments that she will take ownership

for 2-3 baskets and will check in with community organizations for sponsorships. Commissioner Sisavatdy asks what the venue size is, as well as if Commissioners are going to be table captains. Chair Tufono-Chaussee answers that Commissioners were table captains at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that Commissioners should take ownership in inviting their networks and communities to the event. Commissioner Dinh encourages all Commissioners to prepare a basket for the event. Commissioner Sam would like to see a timeline of the event. Staff will prepare the logistical work for the event. Chair Tufono-Chaussee suggests that there be a walk through date a month before the event so Commissioners can see the venue. Commissioner Wada comments that CAPAA needs to be prepared on asking for sponsorships and be clear what the sponsors are for. Commissioner Cho shares the idea of having sponsors provide specific needs for the event, not only asking for fiscal sponsorship. Commissioners chimed in on ideas for food sponsorships and the arrangement of the food.

## V. **Board Business**

Chair Tufono-Chaussee notes that the board meeting dates and locations are finalized for 2019 and if Commissioners have any conflicts they will need to notify staff and Exec. Committee.

VC Dickinson mentions that board meetings are required and there is a policy for attendance requirements to those. VC Dickinson then leads the discussion on changes to the WAC regarding travel reimbursements and per diem. Staff will now be subject to the 11 hour rule regarding per diem requests. Commissioners will now be using hourly reimbursement, opposed to per diem for meals and lodging. Since board meetings are required meetings, Commissioners will not have to complete exemption forms for them, but other meetings the Commissioner is asked to represent CAPAA by Staff and Exec. Committee will need the exemption form from OFM.

**Approval to adopt WAC changes:** Chair Tufono-Chaussee calls for motion to adopt changes to WAC regarding travel and per diem reimbursements. Motion made by VC Dickinson, seconded by Commissioner Sam. *Motion passed unanimously.*

**Vietnamese Rally Update:** Commissioner Dinh shares that the rally, even though unfortunate, brought out an exciting time for the community to see the proactivity and organizing efforts on the issue of deportation. It was inspiring to see young leadership from the community and partnerships with communities that have been facing the issues prior. The rally provided the necessary momentum for the Vietnamese community to organize further and connect with the Khmer and Lao communities, who face similar struggles. It was wonderful to have CAPAA and the Governor's Office represented and supporting the community. This is where CAPAA can get the most exposure by showing how CAPAA can create the connections in the background, such as the work on the clemency process. Commissioner Sam: The MOU between Cambodia and the US is being changed by the administration, and the same is a possibility for the MOU between the Vietnamese and US, which would affect thousands of Vietnamese refugees. The movements and efforts by the community influence these meetings on the MOU, despite happening behind closed doors. The rallies and lobbying work at the national and local levels are making an impression. Seattle/Washington State is now networked with other regions in the rapid response

networks.

## **VI. Advocacy Journalism Fellowship Program (AJFP)**

Palbasha Siddique, Clarissa Gines, Jarret Finau, and Bunthay Cheam shared the background of the AJFP and their experience as fellows.

Palbasha Siddique gave background information of the two partnering organizations that host the AJFP, the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) and the International Examiner (IE). Both organizations make it possible to express the voices of API communities through media, a process that many of the fellows notice their focus communities during the fellowship does not experience often.

The fellows in the program are assigned to underrepresented API communities, last year's program featured the Thai, Cambodian (Khmer), Pakistani, and Samoan communities. Bunthay Cheam, a fellow during AJFP's first year, shared on his experience working with his community, the Cambodian community. A key experience from the fellowship was learning to connect with the community as a member from the media, which showed the need of media representation. In its second year, AJFP will be featuring the the Bangladeshi, Laotian, Cham, and Tongan communities.

Palbasha Siddique, one of this year's AJFP fellows, will be writing pieces for the Bangladeshi community, of which she is a part of. Siddique shared that her experience was 'always being the only Bangladeshi in the room' and wants to change that by discovering the history of the community in the states. Further shared that there is 3,000 – 4,000 Bangladeshi members in Washington State and wants to find historical and archival data to share the stories through the fellowship.

Clarissa Gines, the fellow who will write for the Laotian community, shared her experience as writing on behalf of another community as she is Filipina. She shared that the fellowship has really pushed the fellows to understand journalism and how it impacts communities, thus the importance of respect and accurate journalism has been emphasized by the organizers. Writing on behalf of a community often underrepresented and misrepresented is a challenge she hopes she can overcome and support the Laotian community.

Jarret Finau, the fellow who will write for the Tongan community, who is also related to Commissioner Finau, will be focusing on bridging the generational and cultural gap within the Tongan community. The opportunity by the fellowship presents Finau of how he can reconnect with his culture and community.

### *Commissioner Comments:*

Chair Tufono-Chaussee shares similarities with Jarret's story of being a 1<sup>st</sup> generation born in America, with the challenges of generational and cultural gap. Chair commends Jarret for taking on the journey to learn and be a part of his community. Further poses the question to Commissioners and presenters on how CAPAA can be of assistance.

Commissioner Uppala comments that the South Asian community being so diverse leads to the difficulty of representing the many communities within the umbrella. Commends

Palbasha in her effort to give the Bangladeshi the representation and raising the voices of the community. Will connect with Palbasha after the meeting to provide connections and to learn more on the Bangladeshi community and its needs.

Executive Director Hasegawa urges fellows to provide comment on CAPA's 2020 Census plan as they are the trusted members from these communities and will continue to serve as so even after their program ends.

Commissioner Dinh shares that there is a need for stories to reflect the community, but asks how we can get these stories to mainstream media. Offers to have CAPAA potentially pursue this and provide opportunities for fellows to transition into mainstream media outlets. Cheam responded that he would rather see the big stories be shared with smaller networks, such as the IE, in order to have ownership for it.

Commissioner Sam asks how the experience has influenced the fellows in their career journey and whether they would like to have pathways into larger media outlets. Cheam shared that the pathway is important for the individuals, but would rather see CAPAA focus its efforts in providing the community members access to high-level politicians and individuals. Fostering those connections would be more impactful as it lifts the voices of the community.

Commissioner Finau expresses gratitude to the International Examiner and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation. As this is the second year for the AJFP, she is excited to see the progress the program has made and the impact on the communities. Would like to have Commissioners act as a support group for the fellows as they work to represent their communities. Asks how the fellows feel about the challenges journalism has faced in recent times and offers advice on how to build up their ethics in journalism.

## **VII. Hepatitis B & C Updates:**

Nadine Shiroma presented updates to the Commission on the Hepatitis B requests to the Governor.

As there is an increasing number of immigrant populations in Washington State, the significance of preventing Hepatitis B becomes more relevant. The Governor has called for a directive to eliminate Hepatitis C, but the request is to ask the Governor to include Hepatitis B as well. Work has been done to also have the legislature craft a bill to address Hepatitis B, if the Governor is not able to amend the directive.

On Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, a letter was written to the Governor requesting to have Hepatitis B be included with the Hepatitis C directive. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC), the Somali Health Board, and the Hepatitis B Foundation co-wrote the letter.

### *Commissioner Comments:*

VC Dickinson questions whether the Governor would be able to amend a directive in such a way. Would like to know more about how such processes go about.

Chair Tufono-Chaussee suggests Shiroma to connect with the Health and Human Services committee and provide updates to the committee on progress of the Hepatitis B issue.

VC Dickinson asks what has been the arguments not to support the elimination of Hepatitis B. Shiroma indicated that since a significant impact is on individuals who were foreign born, and eliminating Hepatitis B may be seen as immigrant favoring.

Shiroma concluded that the issue started with discrimination of those wanting to join the military, but it now more on racial equity as Hepatitis B disproportionately affects the API and immigrant communities.

### **VIII. Chef Khurshida Introduction**

Chef Khurshida Begum gave background information on her catering business as well as her civic engagement business.

Begum started ASSHO to provide public speaking trainings for those wanting to advocate for human rights and weigh in on domestic violence issues. Afterwards, ventured into catering as a way to get back in touch with activism and community work.

Sharing the Bangladeshi culture through culinary and food has been impactful. Further, the emphasis on word of mouth has been the focus of Begum's catering to provide and share food in spaces that promote community building.

### **IX. Remarks from APIC South Puget Sound, Lin Crowley**

Lin Crowley (co-chair of APIC South Puget Sound) shared that the chapter was established in 2003 and has recently began growing alongside Thurston County.

Lin Crowley shared that APIC South Puget Sound has been focusing restoring resources for refugees and immigrants, as the former center has been closed. Another issue APIC South Puget Sound has been focusing on is ethnic study curriculum within education (K-12 and higher education).

### **X. Census 2020 and Washington State Complete Count Committee Presentation**

Lisa McLean presented to the Commission on Washington State's efforts in achieving a complete count for the 2020 Census. The goal of the census is to count every person once and in the right place to ensure resources and funding is appropriately placed.

Many challenges exist in achieving a complete count, such as informal and complex living arrangements, multiple families, diverse populations, knowledge gaps, and declining trust of government agencies at both the national and local levels.

A major update to the 2020 Census is that there will be a majority of the surveys administered through technology online, due to the big pressure on reducing costs. This may pose a big challenge for communities who face obstacles accessing the internet.

The census data affects many aspects of grants, funding, and resources, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Another current question is about the citizenship question. It is currently in the courts if whether or not it is constitutional, but there is no clear cut answer if the question will be on or off the 2020 Census.

10-20% of the population is unlikely to self-respond. This issue tends to be centralized on certain issues. Language barriers, low literacy, lack of internet access, government relationship with communities, highly mobile/homelessness, housing units not in the frame (rapid growth, development).

Further, hard to count individuals tend to be young children, non-English speaking, complex living arrangements/crowded housing, racial and ethnic minorities, low income, immigrants, LGBTQ persons, and those living in non-traditional housing

Former Gov. Locke chairs the current Washington State Complete Count Committee. Goal is to raise awareness of the census and build network of trusted community members to help facilitate the count.

State Agencies are tasked to create plans on how they can assist and what resources they have available that can be leveraged for the 2020 Census. State agencies have a wide arrange of resources that can be utilized.

Stay informed – [www.ofm.wa.gov/2020census](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/2020census), promote recruitment to work for the census 2020

Catalog the communities is how CAPAA can help with the 2020 Census efforts, such as identifying where are the communities are located and centered, what makes the communities 'hard to count', who are the trusted messengers, and how to promote positive messages of the 2020 Census.

One concern is if the data is secured. McLean shared that the Census information cannot be released at an individual level.

*Commissioner Comments:*

Commissioner Wada comments on the past actions of Department of Licensing and its effect on community trust with even local government agencies. Further, the Real ID campaign going on is adding stress to the communities. Additionally, asked about the pilot project in Pierce and Yakima County. Further, Commissioner Wada asks how can we address the job application process being too complicated and detracting interest of our communities to apply.

Commissioner Carrie Huie-Pascua shares that the Yakima Yakama Census 2020 Coalition has collaborated with the Hispanic and API community effectively and should be given credit for their work.



Commissioner Cho asks to what extent can the state fund or supplement the federal effort with the on the groundwork. Is the state limited to only raising awareness? McLean responds that the Governor's budget includes 4.5 million, which could be used by grassroots organizations to do training of trainers.

Chair Tufono-Chaussee shares that faith based communities are a big trusted messenger. Commissioner Finau emphasizes that the citizenship question will have a big impact and that many of the community members are very afraid to complete the survey.

Commissioner Sisavatdy asks when the hard deadline for the question to be on the survey is or not. McLean responds that all other questions are set, besides the citizenship question. June 2019 is the hard deadline for the citizenship question.

## **XI. CAPAA Census 2020 Planning Discussion**

E.D. Hasegawa shares that the current plan mirrors CAAA and CHA's plan and is currently a draft with the dates being place holders.

Commissioner Dinh asks whether the plan is for CAPAA to share with the community or with other agencies. Further asks what is the scope of the work for the Commission regarding Census 2020.

Chair Tufono-Chaussee shares that in 2010 CAPAA was in a supportive role for communities and organizations. It is an option of CAPAA would like to be more proactive in supporting the complete count.

Commissioner Huie-Pascua comments that communities will look to the Commissions for their plans on approaching the 2020 Census, especially non-ethnic based organizations who are also focused on achieving a complete count.

E.D., Hasegawa shares that the bulk of CAPAA's work is during the education phase as CAPAA serves as a vehicle of information between agencies and communities.

Chair Tufono-Chaussee shares that the other thing CAPAA had focused on was targeting the most rural communities and those hardest to reach. CAPAA can rely on the trust that has been established during the last census to continue supporting the count.

Commissioner Wada shares that there is a big difference is the political climate compared to the 2010 Census. There is an urgent need to rebuild and reinvent the modes of reaching out to the communities and establishing trust and understanding of the 2020 Census. Calls out to the Commissioners to be active in the efforts for the complete count and reestablishing trust with government agencies among the communities.

VC Dickinson states that we need to follow up on the concern of data sharing and have conclusive answers as communities will be reluctant if we can't provide a solid answer to their questions.

E.D. Hasegawa gives final remarks on the 2020 plan. Will provide updates in the future. Information sharing is the best capacity CAPAA thrives in and will continue to do so and grow.

## **XII. Round table updates from Commissioners**

Commissioner Huie Pascua shares that she will be attending the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Behavior Health and the APA Legislative days in Olympia.

Commissioner Finau shares that she has been assisting high school seniors applying to college and educating them on scholarships available to API students.

Commissioner Sisavatdy shares that he attended APIC briefing in King County and the Southeast Asian Education Coalition meeting. Commissioners can look forward to the UNITE Summit hosted at Highline College in the spring.

Commissioner Sam shares that she help establish a committee to support undergraduate and graduate student organizations as too many has asked her to be their adviser. Additionally, will be holding workshops for running campaigns and holding office. Cambodian American Counsel is hosting a new year's event in April.

Chair Tufono-Chaussee spoke at an event hosted by Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish and the Everett Police Department, will also be speaking with the Bothell Police Department as they asked her help to formulate workshop for API domestic victims. Attended funeral of Samoan man who was shot on New Year 's Eve and attended the meeting with the family, Police Accountability Office and Seattle Ethics Commission to clarify questions. Further shared at the rally following the meetings. Upcoming event speaking at the APCC career day (Poly Career Day summit April).

VC Dickinson attend the State of State Address along with Commissioner Cho and Hasegawa. Attended the Lt. Governor's meeting with Association of Consuls, which CAPAA should invite them to meetings in the future. Further expressed concern about on a low representation of API's in the American Bar Association.

Commissioner Nguyen attended both the Governor's and Legislature's Poverty Reduction Taskforce, whom both have been talking about address criminal justice issues under the umbrella of poverty.

Commissioner Cho attend Korean American Day and the State of the State Address. Additionally, the Korean American Coalition elected Commissioner Cho as Vice President.

Commissioner Uppala represented CAPAA at the South Asian Entrepreneurs Summit. Additionally has been involved in an on-going investigation of a racially motivated offense that happened in Sammamish, will be working with the King County Sheriff's Office. Will be participating in the mental health advocacy day in Feb. 18 and will be joining CAPAA's Economic Dev. Committee

Commissioner Dinh attend the rally on Vietnamese Refugee Deportations and the State Suicide Prevention Work Group, also expressed concern on how she is the only API representation at the group. Will be meeting with Seattle library to bring more authors of color, this is how CAPAA can play a role in connecting with the community and uplifting

their voices. Proposing staff to figure out how Commissioners could be all on the same page when it comes to activities, possibly a shared calendar.

Commissioner Wada attended the Health Disparity Council on behalf of CAPAA, where the State Equity Office has been a topic of discussion. The Governor did approve the budget of a State Equity Office. Further, the Korean Business Coalition received the SHIP grant from the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I).

ED Hasegawa clarifies that CAPAA has not taking a stance for the equity office.

### **XIII. Public Comment:**

Uriel Iniguez, former Commission on Hispanic Affairs Director Shared on the experience with the Commission and the 2010 Census. The administration is different and the Governor's office is also different, thus making the strategies back then not entirely replicable. Further shared his experience with Eastern Washington University, which is currently growing and expanding with programs and centers for students, additionally a space dedicated to ethnic studies.

Additionally, congratulated Commissioner Wada and the Korean Business Coalition on receiving the SHIP Grant and expresses willingness to continue creating partnerships with other communities.

### **XIV. Adjournment** Motion was made at 2:08 PM by Commissioner Sam to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Cho. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

*Minutes prepared by Project Coordinator, Sam Le*