



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

Snohomish County Administration Building
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
Saturday, June 19, 2010

REGULAR BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Bee Cha, Doug Heyamoto, Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee, Rey Pascua, Debadutta Dash, Lua Pritchard, and Albert Shen

Commissioners Absent: Jagdish Sharma, Sofia Aragon, and Tanya Tran

Staff Members Present: Executive Director: Kendee Yamaguchi

APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2010 MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Freida Takamura, seconded by Commissioner Albert Shen to approve the minutes with no amendments.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Heyamoto

- Announced today is his last meeting and thanked the commission for their 6 years together
- Noted that the commission has progressed toward unification and predicts further improvements
- Met with Tetsuo Ohiro, journalist from Japan interested in setting up an exhibit of Frank Matsura's work
 - o Frank Matsura was an artist and photographer in the Okinagan community
 - o The plan should start coming together in 6-8 months
 - o Commissioner Pascua commended the community on supporting the upcoming exhibit

Commissioner Dash

- Chair of the Economic Development Committee, noted the committee has met monthly on the first Monday of each month with the exception of July's meeting
- Announced a delegation from India will be coming to Washington State to meet at City Hall in Bellevue at 1:30 p.m. in a few weeks

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 Pritchard

- Working on immigration reform around the state on behalf of CAPAA and on other issues, such as health disparity
 - o In tribute to API Heritage month, Pierce county held its 1st festival in Fircrest which was well received by the community
 - o Acknowledged and thanked Executive Director Yamaguchi for support of the events during the month
- Plans to attend the Washington D.C. conference for justice as guest speaker

Commissioner Shen

- Facilitated meeting between the City of Seattle and the Seattle Chinatown Economic Development group
- Emphasized that one goal of the Economic Development Committee is to match 5 successful businesses with small business owners to serve as mentors and noted the recent identification of 2 additional bankers willing to participate on the Economic Development Committee
- Plans to attend White House AAPI Washington DC conference to help identify issues of economic injustice

Commissioner Cha

- Attended biannual meeting of the National Farm Initiatives where they discussed issues for immigrant farmers and making resources more accessible to immigrant and refugee farmers due to the growing population of immigrant and refugee farmers
- Invited all to the Highland Community Center graduation celebration today from 6-11 p.m.
- Hmong Association is starting to offer classes at the Lao Highland Community Center

Commissioner Lee

- Still collecting information to improve the health of small business owners and solve small problems arising from communication issues between Korean small business owners and the government
- Served as an interpreter in today's meeting for the predominately Korean speaking public in attendance

Commissioner Pascua

- Attended Asian Pacific American Heritage Day at the Seattle Center on May 3, 2010
- Provided a presentation in Parker, Washington on the history of Filipino Americans
- Currently helping to promote the 13th annual Filipino History month
- Met with Superintendent of Public Instruction, Randy Dorn, on the Filipino American Heritage Month resolution
- Met with Executive Director of the Board of Education in hopes of promoting the study and celebration of Filipino Americans
- Identified OSPI as a major partner in promoting the study
- Identified issues of immigration in the Yakima Valley

Commissioner Takamura

- Thanked commissioners and executive director for their support of the API heritage celebration which notably had a strong youth attendance
- Attended a number of meetings on the data governance issue to correct and streamline the data gathering system
- Sits on the advisory board for the South Seattle Community College
- Thanked commissioners for supporting the letter to the Marysville School Board to negate comments made by Kundu which made correlations between race and intelligence

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The Agency's operating budget for the 2009-2011 Biennium Year is \$236,000 for FY 2010 and \$219,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$455,000. This revised budget includes a \$5,000 reduction for FY 2011.
- **Temporary Layoffs:** The legislature passed a furlough bill resulting in an additional \$3,000 reduction in staff salaries and benefits.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Agency Closure Dates:** ESSB 6503 requires the agency to close on the ten days listed in the bill. A memo detailing the agency's plan to meet the targeted compensation reduction by closing the office on specified furlough dates was submitted.
- **Modifications to Reimbursements:** Reimbursements for Commissioners no longer exist starting next fiscal year, July 1, 2010. An exemption was granted for eleven Commissioners and two staff members for the September and November meetings.
- **Policy and Procedure Manual:** Adopted last year, this sixty page manual provides guidance for the commission in the areas of general administrative, commissioner duties and responsibilities, personnel, meetings, public records, information technology, and inventory. As a result of the passage of recent legislation, sections relating to reimbursements and meeting space are under review for revision.
- **Personnel:** A thank you to Phillip Sit, Executive Assistant to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, for his valuable and dedicated service for the past two years. An announcement on the position has been disseminated.
- **Compliance:** On April 14, 2010, the agency filed its quarterly L-5 form.
 - Question: Commissioner Takamura and Commissioner Lee asked what must be included in the PDC
 - Response: Specific questions should be directed to the Public Disclosure Commission for advice and consul.
- **Public Disclosure Request:** On June 16, 2010, the agency received a public records request. The Office of Financial Management is providing a response and the records.
- **Infrastructure:** In March 2010, there was a reported 21% increase in visitors to the new site. Since the last board meeting, there has been a continued increase of viewership reaching 28%. In an analysis conducted in May 2010, the most heavily viewed page on the site is the data page. Further analysis shows the agency received an increase of viewership by 738% when it released its report on the *State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington* and the informational alert on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** The Commission distributed an electronic informational alert including the Governor's proclamation, a video greeting, and a listing of statewide community events in celebration of the month. Not only was this information disseminated statewide, it went to all state agencies, municipalities, and Asian American and Pacific Islander employees.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs also worked with other state agencies to increase awareness of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. A few examples of statewide programs or initiatives implemented include: the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning in the Office of the

Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Office of the Education Ombudsman incorporated the month in their newsletters to target youth and educators. Staff also moderated a Brown Bag luncheon at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction focusing on the *Model Minority Myth and the Invisibility of the Asian American Pacific Islander Communities* on May 18, 2010 and spoke at the Asian Pacific American State Employee's luncheon on May 20, 2010. Commissioners and staff attended numerous celebrations across the state during the month.

- **Report on the State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington:** On May 3, 2010, the Commission released *The State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington*. Copies were provided to the Governor, legislature, state agencies, and other Asian American commissions. This is the first comprehensive report examining the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington, education, healthcare and human services, the criminal justice system, economic opportunities, housing, immigration, and political participation. This report was in partnership with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law, attorneys from Perkins Coie, and the CAPAA/ACLF fellow. Acknowledgments to the Seattle University School of Law for underwriting the printing of the report and for their gracious donation of time in making this report possible. Completed and disseminated in less than 6 months. Acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Pritchard's support which aided in the dissemination.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** The Commission is exploring a civic engagement initiative. Commissioner Takamura is representing the Commission on this endeavor. More information forthcoming.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Staff continues to increase efforts to provide outreach to underrepresented communities. Over 50 meetings and events with stakeholders have occurred since the last board meeting. A few examples include meetings with the Consulate General of Korea, Micronesia, and the Marshallese.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff met with the following state agencies:
 - **Office of the Attorney General:** In March, staff met with Lisa Erwin, Senior Counsel and Elena Perez, Outreach Specialist to advocate for programs and services for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. A request was made to explore the creation of an outreach specialist position for the community and for the agency to provide more language specific materials. On May 29, 2010, Attorney General Rob McKenna hosted a public forum for the Chinese-American community focusing on fraud and unfair business practices and unveiled some new agency materials in Asian languages.
 - Commissioner Lee noted the difficulty in getting a hold of agencies for assistance in obtaining food stamps
 - **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** In April, staff and Education Chair/Commissioner Takamura met with Superintendent Randy Dorn and his cabinet to advocate on policies on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Representatives from the other ethnic commissions were present and several issues were addressed including: student data collection, the Race to the Top application, the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee's recommendations, and HB 3026. Executive Director Yamaguchi acknowledged and commended the open dialogue with the Superintendent.
 - Commissioner Takamura seconded the acknowledgement and push for follow-up
 - **Department of Veterans Affairs:** Two pamphlets are being translated into Korean and Tagalog, as Korean-American and Filipino American veterans make up the highest percentage of Asian

Pacific Americans utilizing the programs and services provided by Veterans Affairs. Special acknowledgments go to Commissioner Pascua and Lee for their assistance in helping secure translation assistance.

- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** The Executive Director shared information on a program with the Commission -- the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) which provides free, unbiased health care coverage counseling to help understand health care coverage options and rights, find affordable health care coverage, and evaluate and compare health insurance plans. This program is currently seeking more bilingual volunteers.
 - **Employment Security Department:** In June, staff met with the State Diversity Outreach Coordinator with the Employment Security Department to discuss ways to better provide opportunities, assistance, and access for jobseekers in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities given our challenging economic times
 - **Washington State Lottery:** Community businesses should be aware that there is an ongoing compliance program underway in our State.
- **Additional Outreach:**
 - **Red Cross:** Staff met with the Red Cross to discuss the creation of emergency response information for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the event of a crisis. Also met with the comparable state agency on this topic as well.
 - **Youth:** Staff spoke on a panel hosted by the Asian Student Commission at the University of Washington in May focusing on career opportunities and career advice.

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- A big thank you to our CAPAA Commissioners Doug Heyamoto, Tanya Tran, and Bee Cha for their most valuable and dedicated service. Commissioners Sharma and Pascua are currently seeking reappointment.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- Standing committees continue to meet on the Commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. In February 2010, committees were populated out with community members. Since then, the committees have met on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call. All three committees are scheduled to host roundtables with the community in June 2010.
- **Education:**
 - **Race to the Top Proposal:** On May 10, 2010, the Commission submitted a letter of support for our state's Race to the Top proposal to the Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education.

- **Oversight Achievement Gap and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our commission and community on this committee. The committee met on May 19, 2010 to discuss the 2010 report, legislation stemming from the committee's work, the Race to the Top application, develop a draft list of priorities, and appoint representatives to the Quality Education council and the Data-needs committees.
- **Marysville School Board:** On June 14, 2010, the Commission submitted a letter to the Marysville School Board of Directors requesting that they publicly disavow the comments made by Board Member Michael Kundu and support initiatives that will lead to closing the achievement gap among students. Board Member Kundu made comments over e-mail expressing that genetic factors are indicators of student's intellectual development and academic achievement.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on the council. On May 13, 2010, the council met and presented a review of the draft text for the State Policy Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities. Copies of the finalized plan will be released in the near future.
 - Following the National Leadership Summit on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health launched its National Partnership for Action initiative with the mission of mobilizing and connecting individuals and organizations to create a Nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people. A project proposal for the reapplication of the Council's State Partnership grant through the federal Office of Minority Health is currently being worked on by the council. If funding is received, our commission plans on working in partnership with the council to host Health Equity Roundtables.
- **Economic Development:**
 - The Economic Development Committee held its first roundtable forum in Spokane on March 20, 2010. The roundtable was attended by Sam Baker, the Governor's Central and Eastern Washington representative and a dozen small minority business owners in the region. The committee will host its second roundtable in Everett in June 2010.
- **Immigration:**
 - Staff attended a racial profiling hearing in Burlington, Washington on May 8, 2010. The forum featured a panel of community leaders and elected officials that provided a forum for individuals and families that have experienced racial profiling in Washington State. Testimonies provided at the public hearing will be presented in a report to Congress and the Obama Administration in the fall.
 - Commissioner Pritchard served as the emcee for an immigration reform rally in Seattle sponsored by Washington Immigration Reform Coalition on April 10, 2010. The rally attracted over 5,000 attendees.

OTHER

- Executive Director Yamaguchi acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Shen for securing a volunteer to assist with the meeting. The volunteer is Frances Youn, a former Commissioner with the board.
- Commissioner Dash noted for the predominately Korean audience the growing partnership between South Korea and India trade.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

- Health and Human Services Committee:
 - Commissioner Pritchard shared with the Commission that the health disparity committee met last month for the first time in an attempt to create a plan to ensure that the community had input on health insurance reform
- Education Committee:
 - Commissioner Takamura and Executive Director Yamaguchi will be meeting with one of the researchers of the education study to explore future study opportunities focusing on health in the future
 - Recognition of Bette Hyde with the Department of Early Learning for engaging with the community for input on the early learning plan
 - Noted the Gifted Education Committee currently has an API representative, Mele Aho
 - Working on developing an initiative to find out what communities need from schools and how to efficiently communicate those needs
 - Commissioner Takamura briefed the Commission on a Civic Engagement Initiative proposal and motioned for a vote on the proposal contingent on CAPAA's education supporting the proposal. Commissioner Pritchard seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted in favor of the proposal.
- Economic Development Committee:
 - Commissioner Dash reiterated the Economic Development Committee's goals, noting the major issue brought up in meetings is access to capital
 - Members on the committee were selected based on their interest and background to assist the small businesses in the community with their knowledge and experience which may in turn lead to pathways to gain capital for small businesses
 - Commended Executive Director Yamaguchi's push for allowing change for improvement
 - Insisted on the need to expand the Asian small businesses interaction in the global community
 - Question: Commissioner Pascua asked if Sheila Burris with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce is involved in these conversations
 - Response: Commissioner Dash: Confirmed her involvement
 - Commissioner Shen emphasized the mentoring that will help and educate small businesses in hopes of helping the small businesses obtain more capital

Commissioner Pritchard motioned for a special order of business to alter the agenda allowing for public comment to accommodate the schedule of some community members.

- Richard Shon, President of the Snohomish County Korean-American Seniors Association spoke on behalf of the association with translation provided by Commissioner Lee
 - Currently in Snohomish County, there is only one contract from the government to provide senior services and the Snohomish County Senior Services is the only private non-profit organization receiving this funding
 - In the past Korean Senior Services Association sought assistance from the KWA, but as of last September they are no longer receiving that assistance and thus require other funding
 - Question: Commissioner Lee inquired to how much funding needed

- Response: President Shon explained they are currently surviving on 2,500 a month for operational expenses alone which is depleting their savings. Monies are coming from membership fees.
- Commissioner Pritchard provided background for clarification
 - KWA used to fund the program but due to budget cuts they are no longer receiving that assistance and now are depleting their savings accrued from their membership fees in order to sustain themselves
 - Currently they need to advocate to the county in hopes of receiving funding but are limited by Snohomish County's singular funding to senior service agencies
- The Commission agreed that additional research on the issue would be conducted and the staff would provide the Korean Senior Services Association assistance in setting up a meeting with the county to address their concern.

A 5 minute break was called at 12:25 by acting Chair Pascau. The meeting was continued at 12:35.

CAPAA VACANCIES

- Commissioner Pascau who served as Chair of the Nominating Committee apologized for the lack of follow-up to gain more input from the rest of the commissioners and noted his attempt to connect and encourage retiring commissioners to reapply
- Commissioner Pascau provided background on the nominating committee's process referencing CAPAA's policies. On May 28, 2010, the Nominating Committee met to create a prioritized list. This list was prioritized and sent to Executive Director Yamaguchi to forward on to the Governor. There were 6 vacancies but a recommendation to fill only 5 vacancies was sent to the Governor to allow one slot to remain open for someone from Eastern Washington.
- Commissioner Pritchard noted that the process should include the other commissioners and expressed displeasure on having a lack of input.
- Commissioner Heyamoto noted that he has full trust in the Nominating Committee, the process, and on their recommendations despite his lack of direct input and he has full faith that the Nomination Committee made sound choices.
- Commissioner Dash noted that he would have hoped for more input, but echos Commissioner Heyamoto's trust in the nomination choices.
- Executive Director Yamaguchi noted that perhaps an additional reminder on the processes by the Chair of the Nominating Committee beyond minutes and verbal discussion at the meetings should be considered in the future.

SBH 2617 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BILL

- The Executive Director applied for an exemption and was recently granted an exemption for the two upcoming board meetings in 2010. An additional request for an exemption for 2011 is required and it will be submitted in the near future.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities

- Commissioner Pritchard spoke on behalf of the Council of Health Disparities due to the recent departing of the staff member who was scheduled to speak
- The Council's responsibilities are to:
 - Create a statewide action plan to eliminate health disparities by race/ethnicity and gender
 - Foster communication, coordination and collaboration with the public and private sectors and with the communities of color to address health disparities
 - To determine how the actions of the state government affects health disparities
 - Develop recommendations to improve the language access in health and health care
- Focused on 5 priorities that would be updated every 2 years
 - Education

- Health insurance coverage
- Healthcare workforce diversity
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Commissioner Shen noted the prevalence and concern of breast cancer in the API community
- Executive Director Yamaguchi noted that in the State of Asian American and Pacific Islander report there are some additional health issues, such as: Hepatitis B, cancer disparities, substance abuse, and high rates of depression impacting the API community.

Office of the Superintendent on Public Instruction

- Susanne Beauchine spoke on behalf of OSPI, as the liaison to CAPAA, and provided a briefing on 3026
- 3026: OSPI is gathering information from communities to develop rules and regulations on the civil rights bill
- Highlighted those districts with higher than average Pacific Islander and Asian student headcounts on the spreadsheet which is available to the public on their Website
- The Center for the Improvement of Student Learning is a part of OSPI that serves as a clearing house for the different things occurring throughout the schools
- Commissioner Takamura noted that the information in the study is only as good as the information the school districts send. For example, she noted the error in the apparent absence of API students in the Seattle School District displayed in the spreadsheet.
 - Question: Commissioner Shen inquired on how the API's compare to the overall percentages
 - Response: Executive Director Yamaguchi referred to page 21 of the State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington report
- Executive Director Yamaguchi and Commissioner Takamura noted the need to advocate for Pacific Islanders separately

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Kinuko Noborikawa and Bo Tunestam on behalf of the Communities of Color Coalition
 - Shared that of the 119 different languages spoken by students in the Snohomish County, 20% were API languages
 - Referred to October 2008 handout showing that PI student scores were so low that they pulled down the overall data
 - Concerned that their health district was not breaking down data and suggests that an inquiry on how other districts are collecting data on health disparities at the county level be made
 - Question: Noborikawa inquired that the commission should inquire about the availability of the information on a county level
 - Response: Executive Director Yamaguchi noted that only recently this began occurring on a state level
 - Question: Commissioner Takamura inquired on how they can be helpful from the educational perspective
 - Response: Bo Tunestam, Treasurer for CCC, requests support in effort to promote the upcoming discussion sessions that his group will be hosting
 - Question: Commissioner Shen inquired to the total population in Snohomish County
 - Response: Tunestam estimated that it to be about 700,000 based on the 2008 census.
- Commissioner Cha noted that the new cell phone law may lack outreach to the community and encouraged more publicity to be conducted by the respective agency handling the implementation of the law.

Commissioner Heyamoto makes a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Cha. The Commission approved unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES BY STACY YAMAGUCHI, VOLUNTEER