

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

November 16, 2013
Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington
1414 South Weller Street
Seattle, WA 98144

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2013-2015 Biennial Operating Budget:** The agency's 2013-2015 operating budget totals \$420,000, \$213,000 for FY 2014 and \$207,000 for FY 2015. For FY 2014, the agency's mandated website transition (see below for more information) will reduce our discretionary budget for translation, printing, outreach etc., which will impact our ability to adequately reach our diverse communities regarding state policies.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Website:** The agency is transitioning its website to a private vendor as a result of a recent study by the Office of Financial Management. Over the next several months, the agency will transition its website from the state to one of three qualified vendors approved by the Department of Enterprise Services. This will result in significant cost to the agency in FY 2014.
- **Results Washington:** Staff briefed members of the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition on October 9 about Governor Inslee's Results Washington—a new performance management initiative that will help strengthen our economy, improve our schools and make Washington an ideal place to live and do business. CAPAA is participating on the Prosperous Economy Goal Council and is working with other agency directors to reach our targets and goals. Visit www.results.wa.gov for more information.
- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an online casework system. The number of requests for assistance from the agency remains steady.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Special Session:** Gov. Inslee called for a special session that began on November 7th to pass a package of tax incentive, transportation, and education measures to secure construction of Boeing's 777X jetliner. On November 9th, the Legislature adjourned after approving key elements of Gov. Inslee's proposed package. The elements include extending all commercial airplane tax incentives until 2040, expanding the state's investment in education and workforce development in aerospace fields at community and technical colleges, and streamlining permitting for large manufacturing sites.
- **Regular Session:** The Legislature will convene for its Regular Session on January 13, 2014. The regular session will be 60 days in length to pass laws and make adjustments to the state budget.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Staff have attended more than 50 meetings and events with community leaders and organizations, agency directors and staff, and stakeholders in the last two months, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their regions.
- **Community Connections:** Staff met with numerous community leaders, community-based organizations, and members of our Community Connections Network to hear about issues and concerns facing their unique communities. When necessary, casework and policy issues are brought to the attention of the Governor's Office, federal agencies, state agencies, legislative members and municipalities.

- **South Seattle Community College AAPI Advisory Committee:** Staff joined the Committee to help identify the needs of the AAPI student community, and AAPI community at large, as well as connect SSCC to resources and networks in the region. SSCC became one of the first Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions in 2008.
- **Road Map Project Community Network Steering Committee:** Staff participated in a retreat and attended the monthly CNSC meeting co-chaired by Sili Savusa to monitor efforts to help students in South Seattle and South King County achieve their educational and life goals. The Road Map Project aims to double the number of students in the region who are on track to obtain a college or career credential by 2020 and close the opportunity gaps for students of color and low income children.
- **Harborview Medical Center Community Internship Program:** Staff participated in the program to learn about how Harborview serves our diverse communities. Staff had the opportunity to take a walking tour of several departments and to connect with staff.
- **Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley (FACYV) Board Meeting:** Staff attended the board meeting in Wapato to meet with our newest CAPAA Commissioner, Didi Cabusao, and provided a brief overview of CAPAA's recent work to the FACYV.
- **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC):** Staff attended the meeting, which focused on the progress of the Seattle Community Police Commission. APIC members requested that CAPAA assist in scheduling an API Legislative Day meeting with the Governor in February 2014.
- **Disability Rights Washington (DRW):** Staff met to discuss a settlement agreement in the T.R. v. Dreyfus federal class action suit and its impact on API youth up to age 21. The proposed settlement agreement will change the way Medicaid-eligible youth receive intensive mental health treatment from unnecessary institutionalization to community-based services. DRW is encouraging members of the community to speak at the **Dec. 19 Fairness Hearing at 10 AM** at the US Courthouse in Seattle (700 Stewart Street, 15th floor) regarding the proposed agreement. Visit www.disabilityrightswa.org/kids-community-based-mental-health for more information.
- **Washington Student Association:** Staff met with WSA Director, Garrett Havens, to discuss partnership opportunities to engage more students of color in legislative days for the 2014 session.
- **Community Events:** Staff attended numerous community events including the Chinese Institute of Engineers Banquet, Thai Festival, Vietnamese Friendship Association Open House, Helping Link 20th Anniversary Gala, Asian Counseling and Referral Service 40th Anniversary Gala, Hmong New Year, Organization of Chinese Americans Luncheon, 3rd Annual Ethnic Community Police Appreciation Event, and the ACLF Community Leaders Program.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in our state.
 - **24th Annual Centennial Accord:** Staff attended the 24th Annual Centennial Accord Meeting on October 10th, 2013 hosted by the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about the Tribes' priorities.
 - **Hepatitis B Discrimination:** Staff is monitoring efforts by API community leaders to work with members of the state's Congressional delegation regarding APA medical students and service members who have been discriminated against due to their chronic Hepatitis B status. In the U.S., 2 million residents have this virus, with APIs representing half of the cases. The federal government recognizes

chronic Hepatitis B as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Community leaders are asking for fair treatment for persons with Hepatitis B.

- **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** An AAPI State and Local Commission Conference Call and Webinar is scheduled for December 12.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff continues to connect with members of the agency's Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL Network). These check-ins serve as an important way to cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues with state agencies.
 - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff met with OEO director Stacy Gillett to discuss potential outreach and partnership opportunities to inform the API community about OEO's programs and services.
 - **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Suchi Sharma and discussed LNI programs and issues that may impact the API community. We discussed working together in the future to conduct an outreach meeting for a segment of the API community.
 - **WA Military Department Emergency Management Division:** CAPAA met with Director Robert Ezelle, Asst. Director Peter Antolin and other EMD staff to discuss outreach opportunities to inform the API community on disaster preparedness.
 - **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** CAPAA, CAA and CHA met with Alexis Oliver on October 21 to discuss ways to support the minority business community. The ethnic commissions and OMWBE are working to together on a Minority Business Summit for 2014.
 - **Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance:** Staff provided a presentation to the Small Business Liaison Team on data, issues and challenges for API small businesses. The SBLT meets to review customer service performance, develop programs to simplify regulatory compliance, reduce duplication and inconsistency, and reduce the cost of regulations on small businesses to the maximum extent possible without negatively affecting the environment or public health and safety.
 - **Department of Enterprise Services:** Staff met with our Small Agency Services team for our quarterly meeting to review our budget and address any issues or concerns.
 - **Department of Health:** CAPAA and CHA met with staff at the Department of Health regarding their work around marijuana prevention and education. The ethnic commissions expressed a desire to work closely with DOH to minimize the impact of marijuana legalization on communities of color.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff met with Lyn Peters and reviewed the new Foreclosure Fairness Act brochure that is available in 10 languages, including Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean. We discussed opportunities to reach out to underserved API communities regarding financial information such as identify theft, Ponzi schemes and affinity fraud.
 - **Human Rights Commission:** HRC informed CAPAA about recent litigation that set a precedent in our state. The Washington State Court of Appeals, Division II, found in favor of the Washington State Human Rights Commission on all issues in the case of Tafoya v. State of Washington Human Rights Commission. On October 15, 2013, the three judge panel determined a case of first impression; whether sexual harassment in a real estate transaction constitutes an unfair practice under the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD).

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The Commission will hold its first board meeting in 2014 on January 18, 2014 in the South Sound. Visit www.capaa.wa.gov for more details.
- **API Community Meeting in Bremerton:** The Visayan Club of Kitsap County, the Mayor of Bremerton, and many API community leaders and organizations hosted a community meeting for CAPAA on October 19. Chair Aragon and the Director represented CAPAA and gave an overview of CAPAA and information about the Affordable Care Act. More than 40 community members attended and looked forward to connecting with CAPAA again in the future. The meeting was covered in the Kitsap Sun: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2013/oct/19/asian-american-pacific-islander-groups-share/#axzz2kfmNj8j>
- **40th Anniversary:** The Commission has begun to organize a community celebration to mark its 40th anniversary. This event will bring together youth, community leaders and current and former Commissioners and staff to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future.
- **CAPAA ACLF Fellowship:** This is the fifth year of the fellowship program sponsored by CAPAA and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF). We invite future leaders to apply for the fellowship, which is based in Olympia during the regular legislative session beginning in January 2014. The application deadline is Dec. 2. More info: www.capaa.wa.gov/documents/InternshipDescription.pdf
- **Joint Statement on Typhoon Haiyan:** Governor Inslee and Chair Aragon issued joint statements on Super Typhoon Haiyan, including information on organizations helping with relief efforts in the Philippines.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** The Commission continues to support grassroots efforts begun during the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative.

Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition (SEAEaD): Staff attended a retreat and planning meeting on September 28 to set goals for 2014 and begin planning a summit for 2014. In addition, SEAEaD is organizing a mentorship program to support Southeast Asian youth.

Our Future Matters: Staff attended UPRISE, the second Pacific Islander Education Summit, which brought together hundreds of youth, parents and community members at Highline Community College on October 5.
 - **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC):** The Committee held a community forum in Toppenish on October 15 about the EOGOAC's six priorities to help address the educational opportunity gaps. The meeting was attended by Commissioners and community members from the Filipino American Community of the Yakima Valley. Another community forum is scheduled for November 19 at Federal Way Transportation Center at 6:15 PM. Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to serve as our community representatives on this committee. Mele Aho has joined Ben Kodama as the Commission's alternates.

- **Student Discipline Task Force:** CAPAA is represented on this task force by Matt Vaeena, a leader in the Pacific Islander community and member of Our Future Matters, and Za Vang, a member of the SEAE D Coalition, educator and Hmong community leader.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **API Healthcare Roundtable with Governor Inslee:** CAPAA worked with the Governor's Office to convene a roundtable conversation with API community leaders and non-profit directors about health care and the Affordable Care Act at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service on Sept. 20th.
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** Commissioner Aragon continues to represent the Commission on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Council recently launched a new website at <http://healthequity.wa.gov>. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Dec. 11 in Tumwater.

Community Forum on the Affordable Care Act: The Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee (WASITRAC), Asian Counseling Referral Service, CAPAA, and other organizations held a community forum on the Affordable Care Act in Bellevue on Sept. 25th. The forum was moderated by Chair Aragon and Commissioner Dash.

 - **Marijuana excise taxes:** With the passage of Initiative 502, the state will begin levying and collecting an excise tax on the sale of marijuana in 2014. Due to marijuana's disproportionate impact on youth and people of color, CAPAA will coordinate with the other ethnic commissions to ensure these funds are used for community-based education, prevention and treatment. The ethnic commissions have contacted the Department of Health, Department of Social and Health Services and Health Care Authority, which will receive funding for marijuana education, prevention, and treatment. CAPAA staff gave testimony to the Liquor Control Board on October 8th regarding the API community's concerns.
- **Economic Development:**
 - **Governor's Minority Business Policy Summit:** Staff is working closely with the other Ethnic Commissions on the Summit to engage the AAPI business community and other minority business owners in discussions around state contracting, the regulatory environment, and small business support. A pre-summit meeting is scheduled for Dec. 5 at Renton City Hall.
 - **Minority Small Business Legislative Forum:** Staff attended the annual Forum on October 22 convened by Sen. Hasegawa to discuss state and local government issues affecting our small businesses, review past legislation, and develop a plan for the upcoming 2014 legislative session. Staff connected with several API and minority small business owners. Community members brought up concerns around knowledge of the procurement/contracting process, minority representation on evaluation committees, holding primes accountable to meeting minority/women-owned business participation goals, and difficulty with bonding requirements.