

The State of Washington

# CAPAA

COMMISSION ON  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



## Executive Director's Report

March 15, 2014  
Asia Pacific Cultural Center  
4851 South Tacoma Way  
Tacoma, WA 98409

**Executive Director's Report**  
March 15, 2014  
Asia Pacific Cultural Center

**1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **2014 Supplemental Budget:** The agency's 2013-15 budget has been reduced from \$420,000 to \$418,000 due to Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and State Employee Health Insurance adjustments.

**2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Strategic Planning:** CAPAA is beginning a discussion in March to develop a 2015-18 strategic plan. The plan will outline goals, strategies and tactics for CAPAA's priority areas of education, health and human services, and economic development.
- **Website:** The agency is transitioning its website to a private vendor as a result of a recent study by the Office of Financial Management. The new website will enable the agency to more effectively communicate policy and program changes that may impact the APA community.
- **Results Washington:** CAPAA is participating on the Prosperous Economy Goal Council and is working with other agency directors to reach our targets and goals. The Goal Council presented to the Governor on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> regarding various industry sectors, small business support and state agency lean process improvement. CAPAA is working with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises on strategies to increase state utilization of certified veteran, minority, and women-owned businesses this summer.
- **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:**

- **Regular Session:** The 2014 legislative session began on January 13, 2014 and adjourned on March 13, 2014. CAPAA sent out weekly E-Legislative Updates to inform the APA community about changes in policy and funding.

**Here are some important take-aways from the short session:**

- **Lawmakers pass Supplemental Budget:** The budget adds \$155 million to the two-year state operating budget. Legislators were unable to come to an agreement on a capital budget or transportation package. Gov. Inslee expressed disappointment that new funding was not approved for critical maintenance on roads and bridges, freight projects, and transit improvements.
- **Small steps for K-12 education:** Despite a state Supreme Court message that lawmakers were not moving fast enough to adequately fund public education, legislators added only \$58 million for schools. This was far short of the \$200 million Gov. Inslee urged lawmakers to invest through the closure of tax loopholes. It is estimated that between \$4 billion and \$6 billion more is needed to comply with the court decision by 2018. How the new funding will be invested is crucial in closing the educational opportunity gaps.

- **More access to higher education:** A big win this session was the signing of the Washington State DREAM Act into law. In addition, more low- and middle-income students will be able to earn a college degree in a high-demand field with the addition of \$25 million for the Opportunity Scholarship program. About half the students who applied last year were students of color.
- **Better health outcomes:** The budget adds \$20 million for community mental health, including funding for home and community-based services for youth. The Legislature passed Gov. Inslee's requested legislation, SB 6312, which will better integrate primary care, mental health, and chemical dependency services.
- **APA Legislative Day:** On February 3, 2014, APA community leaders from the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition met with legislators and staff from the Governor's Office in Olympia to discuss priorities that will improve the lives of APAs.
- **Ethnic Legislative Reception:** On March 6, 2014, community members attended the Ethnic Legislative Reception in the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building.

#### 4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Staff have attended numerous 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 and community-based organizations in 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.
  - **UW Asian Student Commission and Pacific Islander Student Commission:** Staff was invited to participate in an educational session to train students on the legislative process and policymaking.
  - **Asian Pacific Directors Coalition:** Staff attended the February APDC meeting with more than two dozen APA non-profit and community leaders. The agency is monitoring the community's efforts to advocate for the reinstatement of a Southeast Asian recruiter at the University of Washington.
  - **Road Map Project Community Network Steering Committee:** Staff is participating in discussions to re-define the role of the CNSC to better support the needs of our diverse communities. 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.
  - **Community Events:** Staff attended community events including the Tet Festival at Seattle Center, APIC Community Briefing, a Celebration of Life for Vera Ing, Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce Lunar New Year Dinner, Seattle Chinese Culture and Arts Association Lunar New Year Festival, Organization of Chinese Americans Golden Circle Awards Dinner, and Asia Pacific Cultural Center New Year Celebration.
- **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.

- **White House Initiative on AAPIs:** Staff continues to conduct information-sharing on federal issues that may impact the AAPI community.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff continues to connect with members of the agency's Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL Network). These monthly 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.
  - **Department of Commerce:** Commissioner Dash and three APA business leaders represented CAPAA at the newly formed Minority Business Roundtable. Department of Commerce Director Brian Bonlender convened the meeting to discuss and collaborate on issues of mutual concern to the minority business community.
  - **Department of Enterprise Services:** DES is co-hosting the [Regional Contracting Forum](#) at the Washington State Convention Center on March 26 and at the Spokane Convention Center on May 22. This is a free training event for vendors to learn the processes for doing business with state and local government. More info at <http://des.wa.gov/about/Media/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=171>.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Participate in Money Smart Week, April 5-12, by attending a financial education class. Upcoming classes can be found via the Washington Financial Education Clearinghouse Calendar at <http://dfi.wa.gov/financial-education/>.
  - **Department of Health:** Staff continues to monitor Department of Health's work around marijuana prevention and education. The supplemental budget provides a small amount of funding for DOH to conduct tobacco, marijuana, and e-cigarette prevention activities for youth and at-risk populations. Data from the 2012 Healthy Youth Survey shows more than 20 percent of Pacific Islanders and 10 percent of Asian Americans in 10th grade reported using marijuana.

The Washington State Board of Health is accepting nominations for the Warren Featherstone Reid Award from March 13 to May 13. The prestigious award recognizes cost effective and quality health care services in both an individual and a facility category. Visit the Featherstone Award webpage to submit a nomination at <http://sboh.wa.gov/HowDoI/FeatherstoneAward.aspx>.

- **Department of Labor and Industries:** LNI and other agencies provides Small Business Liaisons ([http://www.ora.wa.gov/documents/sbl\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.ora.wa.gov/documents/sbl_flyer.pdf)) to assist small businesses with workers' compensation, safety & health, wage & hour, contractor registration, or any other L&I-related concern.
- **Department of Revenue:** The [2013 Revenue Report](#) was released outlining key accomplishments for the agency. The agency provides workshops and online tutorials to educate taxpayers and business owners. View the report at: <http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Misc/RevenueReport.pdf>.
- **Department of Social and Health Services:** At the request of CAPAA and the other ethnic commissions, DSHS Secretary Quigley convened a meeting to review the new changes in law and impact on communities of color regarding Initiative 502. Commissioners urged agencies to be proactive about educating youth and families about the potential impacts of marijuana legalization.
- **Human Rights Commission:** New offices (<http://www.hum.wa.gov/ContactUs.html>) are open in Vancouver, Yakima and Wenatchee. HUM provides assistance to ensure Washingtonians are free from discrimination at work, in housing, in a public accommodation, or when seeking credit and insurance.

- **Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises:** OMWBE will hold several upcoming certification workshops including March 17 in Vancouver, March 24 in Seattle, April 1 in Lacey, and April 8 in Spokane. Visit <http://www.omwbe.wa.gov/upcoming-events/> for more details.
- **Professional Educator Standards Board:** Staff received an update on the Recruiting Washington Teachers program. Four sites in Burlington, Mt. Vernon, Renton, and Tacoma are receiving funds to support the recruitment and preparation of diverse high school students to explore future roles as educators in teaching shortage areas (mathematics, science, special education, Bilingual education and English language learner).
- **Washington Health Benefit Exchange:** Staff participated in a meeting with the Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) and the Executive Director of the HBE, Richard Onizuka. APIC expressed concerns regarding barriers to ACA enrollment for refugees and immigrants and requested a series of action steps to address the issues. CAPAA will continue to monitor the progress of the APIC requests.

## 5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **New Commissioner:** CAPAA welcomes Lori Wada as our newest Commissioner! Commissioner Wada works for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner and is knowledgeable about low-income housing, higher education, and the health insurance marketplace.
- **Board Meetings:** The Commission will hold its third board meeting in 2014 on June 14, 2014 at Kitsap Community Resources Center. Visit [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov) for more details and for the full 2014 schedule.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The Commission is organizing a community celebration to mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 15, 2014. 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. For stories about CAPAA and more details, visit <http://www.capaa.wa.gov/about/40.shtml>.
- **Board vacancies:** The Commission expects to have vacancies on the board within the next several months. Members of the public can apply at <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/default.aspx>. A commissioner helps examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Asian Pacific Americans, and makes recommendations to the Governor and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in program and law. They serve on a voluntary basis and have the responsibility to maintain communication with the community they represent as well as to the board.

## 6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
  - **Asian Pacific Islander Think Tank:** CAPAA Education Committee Chair Frieda Takamura convened a meeting of the APIATT. CAPAA staff provided an update on education-related legislation that may impact API students.
  - **National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education:** Staff attended the iCount meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the next steps in pursuing the collection of disaggregated student data within Washington schools. An action plan draft was created by attendees made up of institutional and organizational leaders within the APA community. The group will continue formalizing details.

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

**Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition (SEAeD):** Staff continues to follow the community's progress in working with the University of Washington on strategies to provide culturally competent outreach and support to Southeast Asian American students. SEAeD is also beginning to plan for a second education summit this fall.

**Our Future Matters:** Members of Our Future Matters presented at the January CAPAA board meeting about UPRISE, the second Pacific Islander Education Summit. OFM has begun to plan for third education summit this fall.

- **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC):** The EOGOAC released its [2014 Annual Report](#) outlining recommendations to address the educational opportunity gaps. Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to serve as our representatives on this committee. Ben Kodama and Mele Aho serve as the Commission's alternates.
- **Student Discipline Task Force:** Zharina Angeles, an educator in the Renton School District, attended the second Task Force meeting of the year in Olympia on March 10. The Task Force will meet next in May.

- **Health Care and Human Services:**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** Commissioner Aragon continues to represent the Commission on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

Staff is coordinating with Christy Hoff, staff for the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, on a proclamation request to Gov. Inslee for Minority Health Month in April.

- **Marijuana excise taxes:** Due to the passage of Initiative 502, the state will begin levying and collecting an excite tax on the sale of marijuana. The initiative designates portions of the revenue to the Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services for marijuana education, prevention, and treatment. Due to marijuana's disproportionate impact on communities of color, CAPAA will coordinate with the other Ethnic Commissions to ensure these funds are used for community-based education, prevention and treatment.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Minority Small Business Summit:** Staff is working closely with the other Ethnic Commissions on an event to engage the AAPI business community and other minority business owners in discussions around state contracting, the regulatory environment, and small business support.