

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

January 14, 2012
Filipino Community Center
5740 Martin Luther King Jr. Way South
Seattle, WA 98118

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** During the special session, the legislature approved an operating budget for the 2011-2013 biennium that amounts to \$236,000 for FY 2012 and \$219,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$455,000. The legislature provided an additional \$4,000 for FY 2012 to cover an unanticipated unemployment claim from a former staff member. The agency will be able to maintain current staffing levels but will continue to have limited discretionary funding for printing, purchased services, supplies, and travel reimbursements. This directly results in fewer printed community assistance responses, diminished translation services, a reduction in printed information on government services, and staff limiting attendance at events upon the request of the community and government entities.
- **Unemployment Claim:** At the end of last year, the agency received an unemployment claim for a former executive assistant. This claim directly impacted the agency's discretionary budget and limited agency spending. It is unknown whether additional claims will be received at this time.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Casework System:** The agency continues implementing an integrated online casework system. The latest trends show a rise in requests related to financial resources for education and employment resources. The commission has taken proactive steps to supply information in both of these areas to the community. Starting in November, on a monthly basis, an E-Jobs Alert is disseminated to the statewide community on opportunities. In December, a national scholarship guide specific to resources for Asian American and Pacific Islanders was posted to the agency's website and a request for hard copies to be provided at each of our statewide board meetings was made.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Special Session:** On December 14, 2011, lawmakers adjourned from the special session approving a nearly \$500 million package to address the shortfall after a September 2011 forecast that reduced expected state revenues by nearly \$2 billion.
- **Regular Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session began on January 9, 2012 in Olympia. At the November board meeting, the commission approved its 2012 legislative priorities in the areas of: education, healthcare, human services, economic development, and immigration. The commission's legislative priorities can be found on the agency's website. We thank Commissioner Aragon for her work in serving as our legislative liaison.
- **API Legislative Day Update:** API Legislative Day will not be taking place in February. Instead, the community will host a large summit at the Tacoma Dome in the fall of 2012. The statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition is organizing this event.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Commission Launches Initiatives:** In the summer of 2011, in partnership with the community, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative was launched. Last month, the commission launched a second initiative focused on health disparities. Commissioner Aragon is the lead for the AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. More information is available under the Health and Human Services section of this report. Detailed summaries of both initiatives can be found on our website.
- **Informational Reports Page:** Phase Two of a new “Reports” webpage with additional sections on the commission’s priority areas of health, human services, economic development, and immigration is completed. This follows the Phase One launch focusing on education. A collection of recently issued reports and publications on AAPI issues is hosted on this page. Policymakers, community members, and the ethnic media interested in recent data should be aware of these national, state and local resources.
- **E-Jobs Alert:** Starting in November, on a monthly basis, an electronic alert of job listings received by our office has been sent out. This new resource for the AAPI community was developed in response to a rise of requests and data indicating that those Asians unemployed face longer durations of unemployment in comparison to other groups. Community members have expressed a positive response to this new service. Past job listings are posted on our website.
- **Community Connections:** In January, the commission launched “Community Connections,” a new program that aims to institutionalize a longstanding infrastructure within the AAPI community that allows for regular direct in-person exchanges of information and offers an alternative forum for the community to raise issues of concern. Approximately twenty organizations participate in this program.
- **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:** In 2000, the State of Washington formally recognized the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The annual event celebrating the month will be at the Seattle Center on May 6, 2012. The Asian Pacific Directors Coalition is hosting an art contest to showcase Asian Pacific Islander heritage and culture in America. The deadline for this contest is April 26, 2012. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison.
- **CAPAA ACLF Fellowship:** The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) is pleased to announce the selection of the 2012 fellow, Micah Bateman-Iino. This is the third year of the program.

5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources for outreach, staff continues to meet with the community and provide advocacy on policy related issues facing the AAPI community. Over 110 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, not counting the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
- **Federal Outreach:** Staff continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies and national organizations to stay apprised of policies impacting the AAPI community in our state.

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** Last month, staff connected with Renée Dagseth at the Environmental Protection Agency to follow-up on a request for their agency to conduct outreach to the AAPI community on the contamination of fish along the Duwamish. There is a concern that the community is fishing more in this area. A presentation will be made available to community based organizations to raise awareness on this issue in the near future.
- **National Conference Call of Asian American and Pacific Islander Commissions:** On December 8th, the commission participated in a national “Open Dialogue” conference call with the AAPI community hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to discuss work over the last year and to provide recommendations on programmatic and community engagement efforts for the future.
- **Office of Congressman Adam Smith:** On December 9th, the executive director met with staff members in the Office of Congressman Adam Smith to discuss current programs and resources for the AAPI community in the region. Topics of discussion included a presentation on recent AAPI population data and discussions on casework referrals.
- **Office of Congressman Jim McDermott:** In January, the executive director met with staff members in the Office of Congressman Jim McDermott to discuss recent AAPI population data, policy issues, and casework referrals.
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff continues to meet with our 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 continues to meet with Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, on policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A cultural competency policy is currently being implemented across the agency. This policy addresses work place attitudes and actions to allow for more efficient and effective interactions with diverse communities. Also, last month, the Department of Social and Health Services signed on as a sponsor to the commission’s AAPI Health Disparity Initiative.
 - **Employment Security Department:** Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison, provided an update on policies and programs for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. He reports that there is an impending phase-out of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits programs that might have an effect on the AAPI community given data indicating that once unemployed, AAPI’s remain unemployed for longer durations than any other group. Over the past few months, an agency representative met with several communities at the request of our commissioners and spoke on our radio pilot program.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff continues to meet with Lyn Peters on programs and policies of interest to the AAPI community. In December, the Department of Financial Institutions in partnership with the Korean American Coalition and the Korean American Bar Association hosted an event on foreclosure prevention. Of possible interest to the community are two new programs focused on Investor Education in Your Workplace which offers a 10-course online financial education program free of charge

and the Elder Investor Fraud and Financial Exploitation Prevention Program. Community members may also be interested in attending the Jump\$tart Washington event on January 18, 2012 at the Tukwila Community Center focusing on the new standards being proposed for the k-12 system and how it relates to financial education. More information can be found at www.dfi.wa.gov

- **Office of the Attorney General:** In November, the executive director provided a briefing to the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General. Topics of discussion included increasing outreach to the AAPI community given that some cases of fraud are appearing more prevalent in particular AAPI communities, future partnerships, and policy issues.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walt Wong provided staff with an update on programs, policies, and data of interest to the AAPI community. Beginning this year, the main focus of the board is youth unemployment. Staff recently requested data on Asian American and Pacific Islander youth unemployment. Current ACS 2010 data indicates the unemployment rate among 18-24 year old AAPI's is 16.8% in Washington State. AAPI youth communities experiencing the highest rates are: 34.3% Micronesian, 27.2% Polynesian, 20.9% Chinese, 16.3% Filipino, 15.5% Hawaiian, and 11.8% Indian. An annual report on the state's workforce development strategy is now available.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** The executive director continues to meet with Cathy Canorro, on a monthly basis, to discuss policies, programs, opportunities for AAPI business owners. The most recent state data for FY 2011 indicates the AAPI certified firms led all other minority groups in doing business with the state. There has been an increase from 59 in Q1 to 140 in Q4. In FY 2011, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders accessed the Linked Deposit Loans Program amounting to \$33,761,798. OMWBE presented resources and programs at almost all of the commission's statewide board meetings and the commission most recently provided policy recommendations on procurement reform. OMWBE will also be featured on our Korean radio pilot program in January to discuss services and programs.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff connected with Cathy Liu and continues to provide recommendations on outreach strategies to ensure the AAPI community is aware of the services of the Office of the Education Ombudsman. The 2010-2011 Annual Report indicates there has been an increase in services to AAPIs: 16% of callers identified as Asian, 10% of students served were Asian, 4% Pacific Islander, and 6% Southeast Asian. The commission is also providing policy recommendations on the school provision of interpretation and translation for limited English speaking parents.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Staff met with Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, who provided an update on programs and events of interest to the AAPI community. Staff made a data request on AAPI human rights complaints received by the state to monitor this area since the last report indicated a rise in Filipino Americans filing in King County. Our commission will be presenting at a future board meeting for the Human Rights Commission to update members on our work and the current issues facing the AAPI community. Community members may be interested in attending the next meeting for the Human Rights Commission on January 27, 2012. The commission is in the beginning stages of rulemaking on sexual orientation and gender identity.

- **Department of Early Learning:** In September, our commission submitted a letter of support for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant. The commission is pleased to announce that Washington State was awarded the grant, which will bring up to \$60 million to our state over the next four years to help ensure all children start school ready to succeed. This month, the agency will conduct the final round of outreach on our state's Early Learning Guidelines. A special recognition to Janice Deguchi and Ben Kodoma for their work representing the commission and community on this issue. More information can be found at www.del.wa.gov
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff continues to meet with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, to discuss Worker's Compensation Reform. AAPI business owners should be aware that there will be no general rate increase on average in workers compensation rates next year. More information can be found at www.lni.wa.gov
- **Department of Licensing:** The commission continues to monitor policies and proposed rules impacting the AAPI community. The Department of Licensing is proposing to amend WAC 308-104-075, to deny the application or reapplication for a driver's license or identicard of a person who has been convicted of one of the prohibited practices listed in RCW 46.20.0921(1)(3) when making application for an original driver's license or identicard for a period of five years. A public hearing took place on January 10, 2012 on this proposed rule change.
- **Secretary of State:** Patrick Reed, our agency liaison, has been working with several state agencies in an effort to consolidate the many business resource guides provided to new and prospective businesses. Community members should be aware that the office continues to offer a series of educational workshops and symposiums across the state, designed to educate nonprofit and charitable board members on their duties and responsibilities.
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff continues to meet with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs for the AAPI community. In conducting outreach to the AAPI community, a representative from the Department of Revenue attended the Korean-American Grocers Association of Washington Trade Show and spoke on the commission's pilot radio program. The bi-annual report on Tax Facts that summarizes changes and provides information about tax laws administered by the agency can also be found at www.dor.wa.gov
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff connected with Chewon Lee, our agency liaison, who provided an update on policies, programs, resources and outreach to the AAPI community. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner is a sponsor to the commission's AAPI Health Disparity Initiative and a representative will be speaking on the Affordable Care Act at each of the initiative events. OIC recently produced a report on health coverage in Washington State which illustrated that approximately 1 million Washingtonians have no health insurance and the key factors include: stagnant incomes, unemployment, costs outpacing inflation, and increased costs borne by employees for their coverage.
- **Department of Commerce:** Joe Olson connected with staff to discuss programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The commission continues to advocate for outreach to AAPI small businesses and recently provided contacts for each statewide AAPI chamber of commerce. AAPI small businesses should be aware of two new

programs. The Department of Commerce launched a \$1.6 million Export Washington program for small businesses already benefitting from the new State Trade and Export Promotion grant program. The program aims to aid over 100 small businesses and generate \$58 million in new export sales. Commerce also announced several new programs to help small businesses get financing to grow and hire. These programs specifically targets underserved communities and businesses facing challenges securing conventional business loans. More information can be found at www.commerce.wa.gov

- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison, provided policy updates on the Bullying Workgroup, Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, Gangs in School Taskforce, and the Dropout Prevention Team. Staff and representatives from our AAPI community continue to sit on each of these groups.
- **Department of Health:** Staff connected with Jovi Swanson, our agency liaison, who provided updates on programs, policies, and events of interest to the AAPI community. Our commission continues to advocate for the inclusion of Asian languages on the Department of Health's website for those community members that may have limited English proficiency.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Staff met with our new agency liaison, Antonio Sanchez, to discuss issues of interest to the AAPI community. Discussions included topics covering the commission's work on wine exports to Asian countries. The office is working on arranging representatives from Hong Kong, the consulates of Korea, China, Japan, and the TECO office, to conduct a comprehensive state wine tour. A meeting and a wine tasting of local companies is being arranged for the CEO of the Japanese Nishiyama Brewery.
- **Legislative Outreach:** Upon the request of legislative members and staff, the commission provides information on the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander community and the agency.
 - **APA Legislative Members:** On December 15th, 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. House members have requested five standing meetings a year.
 - **Report to the Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services:** Staff met with Mary Mulholland with the Office of Program Research at the House of Representatives and Sherry McNamara with Senate Committee Services to provide a presentation and overview of the agency's programs and services.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** The remaining statewide board meetings in 2012 will be held on March 17th, June 16th, September 15th, and November 17th. Special acknowledgments to the Filipino Community of Seattle for being a partner for our January board meeting and providing a venue and refreshments.

- **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.

UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** On January 25, 2012, the next Advisory Council meeting will be held for the initiative. The meeting will cover the completion of the statewide focus groups, research updates, and planning for the two education summits. 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 continue to represent our community on this committee. Commissioner Takamura will provide an update at the next meeting.
 - **Education Workgroups:** Representatives from our community 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.
 - **Pacific Islander Education Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **AAPI Health Disparities Initiative:** In December 2011, the commission launched the AAPI Health Disparity Initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Washington State. The main focus areas of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention, and education on the Affordable Care Act. As part of the initiative, a series of events held in partnership with the community focusing on increasing awareness and encouraging testing for prevention will be held. The first event will be in January. This is a historic initiative for the community because of the collective sponsorship by several state agencies, including: the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Health Care Authority, and the Department of Social and Health Services. Commissioner Aragon serves as a liaison to this initiative.
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The council continues to develop policy recommendations for their new priority 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. The council also discussed the creation of advisory committees. The executive director serves as a representative on this council on behalf of the commission.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Governor's Strategy on Small Business Growth:** On January 5, 2012, Governor Gregoire outlined a series of proposals to accelerate Washington State's economic recovery. The plan includes new reforms to free up cash for our state's small businesses to help them grow and hire. The plan also includes job-training for Washingtonians hit hardest by the recession, including minorities to help them gain skills necessary to land new jobs. The issuance of an Executive Order to set up a pilot study with the restaurant industry was also announced. More information can be found at www.governor.wa.gov
- **Economic Development Workgroups and Committees:** Albert Shen, a member of the Economic Development Committee, continues to serve 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.
- **Consul General of the Republic of Korea:** On December 1st, the executive director attended an event sponsored the Consul General for the Republic of Korea and the Washington State Korean American Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the successful ratification of the KORUS FTA that will increase U.S. exports to Korea by \$11 billion, create 70,000 American jobs, and strengthen the strategic alliance between the two countries.
- **Washington Wine Asia Export Initiative:** Commissioner Leung met with the Wine Commission, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, trade organizations, businesses, and Congressmen Jay Inslee's office to develop an outreach plan in the promotion of the trade of wine between Washington and the Pacific Rim. Special thanks to Commissioner Leung for her work.