

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

November 19, 2011
Korean Women's Association, Senior City Apartments
31635 23rd Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2011-2013 Biennium is \$232,000 for FY 2012 and \$219,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$451,000. 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.
- **Unemployment Claim:** Last month, the agency received an unanticipated unemployment claim from the Employment Securities Department for a former executive assistant. This directly impacts the agency's discretionary budget and severely limits all spending. It is unknown whether further monies will be needed at this time.
- **Governor's Budget Reduction Alternatives:** On October 27th, the Governor presented a list of budget reduction alternatives which includes a 5% reduction applicable to all small state agencies. If it goes in effect, this would apply to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. A 5% reduction would amount to \$23,000 for the biennium with a reduction of \$11,600 and \$10,950 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. A 10% reduction would amount to \$45,000 with a reduction of \$23,200 and \$21,900 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. The agency may be able to manage in FY 2012, however, in FY 2013, the agency will not be able to maintain current staffing levels or have any discretionary funding.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Casework System:** The agency continues its implementation phase of an integrated online casework system to streamline operations, strengthen accountability, and offer top-rated customer service. This system was created in response to the community's growing needs and population increase. It expands our agency's ability to collect data on AAPI ethnic groups going beyond federal and state requirements and allows us to identify trends impacting the community. Since implementation, staff has seen a rise in requests related to employment discrimination, financial resources for education, and employment opportunities.
- **Public Records Request:** On October 12th, the agency received a public records request. Staff has met compliance and fulfilled the request.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Special Session:** On September 22nd, Governor Gregoire announced that she will call legislators in for a special session, beginning on November 28, 2011. This announcement came after the state economist lowered the revenue forecast for the 2011-13 biennium by \$1.4 billion.
- **Regular Legislative Session:** The regular legislative session will begin on January 9, 2012 in Olympia. At the November board meeting, Commissioner Aragon, our legislative liaison, will circulate the 2012 legislative priority sheet for review and approval. Continued support will be sought for the legislative priorities from the previous biennium year that align with the

commission's strategic plan in the areas of: education, healthcare, human services, and economic development.

- **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.

4. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **E-Jobs Alert:** In August, staff began developing a new resource for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in response to a rise of requests and data indicating that those Asians unemployed face longer durations of unemployment in comparison to other groups. Expanding on our preexisting webpage on jobs, staff will begin sending out regular electronic alerts of job listings received by our office. Community members can sign up to receive our *E-Jobs Alert* by visiting the main page of our agency's website and entering their email address and clicking on "government services" or contacting agency staff. Employers can also email job postings to our agency at capaa@capaa.wa.gov
- **Community Connections:** Removing barriers and increasing access for our community is the main catalyst behind the development of a new program which will be launched at the beginning of next year called, "Community Connections." The aim of this program is to institutionalize a longstanding infrastructure within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community that allows for regular direct in-person exchanges of information and offers an alternative forum for the community to raise issues of concern. Community organizations interested in participating should contact capaa@capaa.wa.gov
- **Reports Page:** Building off of the August updates to our state agency's data page which included information on population data sorted by race, demographic characteristics, and population by county and legislative district, staff launched *Phase One* of a new "Reports" webpage. A collection of recently issued reports and publications on AAPI issues is hosted in this section. *Phase One* focuses on education. To follow will be sections on the commission's remaining priority areas of health, human services, economic development, and immigration.
- **Initiatives:** After successfully partnering with the community on its launch of an AAPI education initiative earlier this year, the commission is exploring the development of future initiatives in the areas of health disparities and economic development. Commissioner Aragon is the lead for the health disparity initiative and Commissioner Dash is the lead for the economic development initiative. Staff is conducting research on state and national models. Community members are invited to offer ideas, recommendations or input by contacting the respective commissioners.
- **Filipino American History Month:** Special recognition to Commissioner Pascua for his successful efforts in establishing October 2011 as Filipino American History Month in Washington State. For the past two years, he has worked with the legislature on the passage of resolutions and the Governor's Office on a proclamation recognizing this special time. He was instrumental in working with school districts, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and numerous organizations to raise awareness of this month.
- **Accepting Applications for the CAPAA ACLF Fellowship:** Celebrating the third year of the fellowship program sponsored by the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF), we invite future leaders to apply. The fellowship is based in Olympia during the regular legislative session beginning in

January 2012. We welcome applications from college juniors, seniors, and graduate students. Application review will begin on December 1st and more information can be found at www.capaa.wa.gov

5. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to conduct community outreach and provide advocacy on policy related issues facing the AAPI community and outreach to underrepresented populations. Over 110 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities, and community organizations have occurred in the last three months, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
 - **AAPI Community Members Meet with Governor's Staff:** On November 8th, at the request of the statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, CAPAA assisted in setting up a meeting between the community and the Governor's Office. The meeting focused on several issues impacting the community ranging from human services to immigration.
- **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. Department of Health and Human Services:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published final standards for data collection on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability status. The final standards add seven Asian subgroups (Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Japanese, Korean and other Asian) and four Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroups (Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan and other Pacific Islander). The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs provided public comment on this issue and advocated for the inclusion of more subgroups based on our state's population.
 - **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** Staff connected with Renée Dagseth at the Environmental Protection Agency to request that specific outreach be conducted to the Asian American and Pacific Islander 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 September 29th and November 4th, our commission participated in two national conference calls hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders where we learned about the work of Minnesota's AAPI Council and the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs.
 - **Advancing Justice Conference:** In October, the executive director participated in the Advancing Justice Conference which the commission was a co-sponsor. The Advancing Justice Conference is a national civil rights and social justice conference that aims to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders in one place to address a broad range of issues facing the AAPI community. It is a joint project by the Asian American Institute (Chicago), Asian American Justice Center (Washington, DC), Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (Los Angeles). At the conference, a landmark report was released called, *A Community of Contrasts, Asian*

Americans in the United States: 2011. More information can be found at www.advancingjustice.org

- **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:** Victor Chacon, our agency liaison, provided an update on the agency's proposed reductions and how they may impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A representative from the agency will speak at our next board meeting. Secretary Susan Dreyfus is also leaving the agency at the end of this year.
 - **Employment Security Department:** Staff continues to meet with Eddie Maiava, our agency liaison, to discuss ways to provide more assistance for jobseekers in the AAPI community given that our community faces longer durations of unemployment once unemployed. Upon the request of our commissioners, an agency representative met with members from the Samoan and Korean communities. The agency will also be featured on our Korean radio pilot program on November 23rd to discuss available state resources.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** Staff connected with Lyn Peters on programs of interest to the AAPI community. Our agency made a recommendation that more materials be translated into Asian languages. Brochures in Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean on the Foreclosure Fairness Act and Mediation program which include information for homeowners facing foreclosure will be available in the near future.
 - **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff continues to meet with Elena Granados on policies affecting the AAPI community and to advocate for outreach programs. The commission is currently working with the Office of the Attorney General to submit a grant proposal which would provide outreach to the statewide AAPI community on consumer fraud issues.
 - **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Walter Wong provided our staff with an update on programs and policies of interest for the AAPI community. The Workforce Board is currently focusing on youth unemployment and came out with a plan which can be found at www.wtb.wa.gov. Our commission has requested data on AAPI youth unemployment in our state.
 - **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** Staff continues to provide policy recommendations and input through our representation on the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. The committee is currently working on procurement reform recommendations. The executive director also continues to meet with Cathy Canorro, our liaison, on a monthly basis to discuss economic development opportunities for AAPI small business owners.
 - **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff met with Joel Domingo, a new program manager at the Office of the Education Ombudsman, to provide recommendations on a program in development called, "No Parent Left Behind." This program will provide classes on education advocacy for parents of K-12 public school students and also train

members from diverse communities to teach classes for parents. Trainings will be in Seattle, Tacoma, Bellingham and Vancouver.

- **Human Rights Commission:** Sharon Ortiz, our agency liaison, provided an update to staff on programs and events of interest to the AAPI community. 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 Asian American and Pacific Islander community.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Last month, the application for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant of \$60 million over four years for our state was submitted with a letter of support from our commission. Community members may be interested to know that applicants are being sought for the Trainer Approval Board which reviews and qualifies trainers for child care provider continuing education. More information can be found at www.del.wa.gov
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser, our agency liaison, to discuss Worker's Compensation Reform. The Department of Labor and Industries has proposed a 2.5 percent average increase to workers' compensation premium rates. This is the lowest workers' compensation rate increase in five years. A series of six public hearings took place last month. More information can be found at www.lni.wa.gov
- **Department of Licensing:** Community members may be interested to know that the Department of Licensing recently introduced several new services to its website. The latest additions enable drivers and ID card holders to change their address, replace a lost or stolen card, and get a copy of their driving record. Most people can also renew their driver license or ID card online every other time it is due for renewal. The website is www.dol.wa.gov
- **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. AAPI businesses may be interested in checking out this new consolidated resource, the *Washington State Small Business Guide*, which contains a wide range of information including sections to plan, start, run, and grow your business. The guide can be found at www.ora.wa.gov/business.asp
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff met with Rick Stedman to discuss current policies and programs for the AAPI community. The Department of Revenue has received a number of questions from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community on taxes which are currently being addressed. Community members may be interested in a new *Business Tax Workshop Workbook* that provides better information on Washington's tax structure and a basic overview of the taxes that apply to various business activities in Washington State. The workbook can be found at www.dor.wa.gov and specialists are available to answer tax questions at 1-800-647-7706.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff connected with Chewon Lee, our agency liaison, who provided an update on policies, programs and resources for the AAPI community. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner recently produced an online *Appeals Guide* in Chinese to assist community members in appealing health denials. This resource can be found at www.insurance.wa.gov. OIC also completed their "Consumer

Assistance Program” where over 25% of the events held were specifically for the AAPI community. Our commission was a co-sponsor on these events.

- **Department of Commerce:** Staff recently connected with Wilford Saunders, Broadband Policy & Program Manager, to discuss outreach efforts for the AAPI community on broadband issues. At the request of the agency, a representative from Commerce will be at our board meeting to discuss the Export Initiative which targets small and medium sized businesses to encourage companies to develop new international markets and customer bases, and increase the total export sales out of Washington.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff continues to meet with Susanne Beauchaine, our agency liaison for 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 sit on each of these groups. Community members may also be interested in a series of public forums that OSPI is hosting about implementing the Common Core State Standards. More information can be found at www.k12.wa.us
- **Department of Health:** Jovie Swanson, our agency liaison, provided updates on programs, policies, and events of interest to the AAPI community. The Department of Health is working on a new user friendly website. Our commission is advocating for the inclusion of Asian languages on the website for those community members that may have limited English proficiency.
- **Department of Ecology:** Recently, the Department of Ecology was featured on our commission’s radio pilot program to discuss environmental requirements and other resources of interest to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A special acknowledgment to Commissioner Lee for also providing diversity training to the Department of Ecology’s Underground Storage Tank inspectors on November 8th.
- **Office of the Lieutenant Governor:** Antonio Sanchez is our new agency liaison. Staff connected with our former liaison, K.D. Chapman-See, to discuss some upcoming work by our commissioners on wine exports to Asian countries.
- **Washington State Minority and Justice Commission:** On November 4th, the executive director represented the commission to provide feedback on how the Minority and Justice Commission might be more effective, how to better fulfill their mission, and how our organization might assist. The Minority and Justice Commission is charged with determining whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of Washington and to the extent that bias exists, taking creative steps to overcome it. Several minority bar associations and all ethnic commission representatives were present.
- **Washington State Coalition for Language Access Summit:** On October 14th, the executive director participated in the opening panel of WASCLA’s annual summit addressing language access barriers in state government.

6. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** Please save the dates for our board meetings in 2012 which will be on January 14th, March 17th, June 16th, September 15th, and November 17th. Special acknowledgments to the

Korean Women's Association for being a partner for our November board meeting and providing a venue and refreshments.

- **Standing Committees:** Special acknowledgment to Lua Pritchard for her service as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Commissioner Sofia Aragon will be serving as the new Chair of the committee.
- **Special Acknowledgments:** A big thank you to Commissioner Lua Pritchard for her most valuable and dedicated service. Commissioner Pritchard was recently appointed to serve on the board of trustees for the Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood.

7. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **South Seattle Community College AANAPISI Grant:** In September, South Seattle Community College received a federal grant to support their work serving Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders. This AANAPISI grant focuses on educational planners to help our AAPI students through their journey to degree attainment, cultural specialists to engage them, and online learning to provide access options. Asian American and Pacific Islander students are one of the highest demographics attending community colleges. Our commission applauds their continued efforts and work.
 - **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** On October 18th, the Advisory Council met which is comprised of AAPI leaders in early learning, K-12, and higher education. The first phase of the initiative is underway and focuses on community based research on the challenges and opportunities for AAPI's in the education system. Statewide focus groups are being held with parents from the Korean, Tongan, Cambodian, Bhutanese and Laotian communities. More focus groups are planned with other AAPI communities. Commissioner Takamura serves as our liaison to this initiative.
 - **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, and the Bilingual Education Advisory Committee. Staff also recently attended the OSPI & External Partners Dropout Meeting.
 - **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:**
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** The executive director represents our commission on this council. The council is currently developing a plan to create 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.

- **AAPI Health Disparities:** In 2012, the commission will be holding three events on health disparities impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In partnership with community groups and the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, the commission will be bringing speakers into the community to discuss particular health issues and the resources and preventative measures that can be taken.

- **Economic Development:**

- **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 serves 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.
- **Governor Gregoire's Trade Mission to China:** In September, Governor Gregoire led state and territorial governors on a trade mission to China to strengthen business relationships, encourage economic trade and ultimately create jobs as part of her state Export Initiative.
- **President of the Republic of Korea visits Washington:** Commissioner Lee attended the forum with President Lee and his wife on September 22nd to discuss opportunities to strengthen ties between Washington State and Korea. Our state is home to more than 60,000 Korean Americans and Korea was Washington's fourth largest export market last year.
- **Washington Wine Asia Export Initiative:** Under Commissioner Leung's leadership, the commission is meeting with the Wine Commission, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, trade organizations, businesses, and Congressmen Jay Inslee's office to gather information and develop a plan to facilitate and promote the trade of wine between Washington and the Pacific Rim. Special thanks to Commissioner Leung for her work.

- **Immigration:**

- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Ceremony:** On September 23rd, Commissioner Dash was the keynote speaker at the very first naturalization ceremony at Bellevue City Hall. There were 51 individuals from 21 countries who became naturalized US citizens on that day.