

The State of Washington

CAPAA

COMMISSION ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



Executive Director's Report

November 20, 2010
Vedic Cultural Center
420 228th Avenue, Southeast
Sammamish, WA 98075

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1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **Operating Budget:** The agency's operating budget for the 2009-2011 Biennium is \$216,000 for FY 2010 and \$236,000 for FY 2011 with a total of \$452,000. In compliance with Executive Order 10-04, the agency submitted a 6.3% reduction package for the 2011 biennium which resulted in a fiscal reduction of \$15,000. The new FY 2011 budget is \$221,000. The agency identified goods and services as areas for reduction. The financial report provided by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS) indicates that the commission ended the third fiscal month with a savings of \$1,733.
- **2011-2013 Biennium Operating Budget:** At the last board meeting, staff updated the commission on the submission of the 2011-2013 Biennium operating budget to the Office of Financial Management. The operating budget is \$237,000 for FY 2012 and \$221,000 for FY 2013 with a total of \$458,000. The Governor asked agencies to prepare for a 10% reduction. This is a reduction of \$23,700 and \$22,100 in the respective fiscal years of 2012 and 2013. The agency has identified supplies, printing, purchased services, and miscellaneous as the areas for reduction. 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.
- **Temporary Layoffs:** Last session, the legislature passed a furlough bill resulting in an additional \$3,000 reduction in staff salaries and benefits. Staff continues to take furlough days.

2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Agency Closure Dates:** ESSB 6503 requires agencies to close on the dates listed in the bill unless the agency has a compensation reduction plan approved by the Office of Financial Management. The agency will be closed on December 27, 2010 and January 28, 2011. Regular service will resume following the closure date.

3. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **Launch of Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL-Network):** The Commission completed its launch of a statewide agency network with over 20 participating agencies to build a long-standing infrastructure to ensure that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has access to education, health care, human services, economic development, etc. This infrastructure provides our state with an effective and efficient means to exchange information on programs and policies' impacting the community, creates an opportunity for more collaboration and partnerships, and strengthens the agency's ability to provide advocacy and assistance.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Initiative:** Ten statewide events are in progress connecting our community to information on how the government works and important state resources during these critical times. These workshops are in partnership with

community groups and organizations representing our diverse populations, including but not limited to: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Samoan, Vietnamese, Indian, Tongan, and Cambodian. Examples of a few partnering organizations include: APIC of King and Pierce counties, Vietnamese Friendship Association, First Tongan United Methodist Youth Ministry, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Japanese American Citizens League, Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation, Hmong Association of Washington, Chinese Information and Service Center, and the Korean American Coalition.

The civic engagement workshops provide a curriculum that includes cultural-specific information, civic engagement tools, and background on government processes. Education as a particular public issue is used as an example. There is an average attendance between 50-100 community members at each event.

- **Website Translation:** The Department of Information Services has completed the addition of a new *Google* feature allowing for the translation of our agency's website content into multiple Asian languages. The selection of this program was based on our budgetary limitations and usage by other state agencies. Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Tagalog, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Thai and Vietnamese are a few languages available. The agency intends to expand the website into more languages, as they become available.
- **Immigration Resource Tab:** Earlier this year, the agency launched a new website highlighting the commission's three priority areas of education, health/human services, and economic development. A particular focus of the website is on connecting the community to state services during this challenging economic time. A rotating topical tab featured information on the 2010 Census. As the census has concluded, a new tab focusing on government services for immigrants is now available.
- **Policy Papers:** Following the release of our agency's first comprehensive report on the *State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington*, CAPAA has entered into an agreement to continue working with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality. The center is currently producing white papers on our priority areas for possible dissemination to policymakers during this upcoming legislative session. White papers are reports that focus on particular issues or problems and are commonly used by decision makers to help inform policy development.
- **Radio Pilot Program:** Special recognition to Commissioner Lee for her continued work on the monthly radio pilot program with Radio Hankook (a pioneer in Korean-language radio programming in the United States). This pilot radio program continues to provide governmental related outreach and education to Korean speaking Washington state residents. We hope this pilot program will be successful and similar radio programs for other communities will be established.

4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Despite limited resources, staff continues to maintain efforts to outreach to underrepresented populations, provide information on government services, and to hear first-hand accounts on the concerns facing our community. Over 75 meetings and events with stakeholders and governmental entities have occurred since the last board meeting, not including the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their counties.
- **Federal Outreach:** In addition to statewide and agency outreach, staff met with several national organizations and federal agencies.

- **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** In September, staff met with Daphne Kwok, newly appointed chair to the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, to discuss national policy efforts impacting our community and future partnership opportunities. CAPAA congratulates Hyeok Kim who was also appointed as a member to the national commission representing our state.
- **Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP):** In November, staff met with J.D. Hokoyama, President and CEO of LEAP, a national organization focusing on corporate and community leadership to explore possible partnership opportunities in the Pacific Northwest region. LEAP offers two community leadership programs for the AAPI community: the Executive Director Leadership Program (EDLP) and the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Application deadlines for both programs are fast approaching. More information can be found at www.leap.org
- **Agency Outreach:** Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison-Network (APASAL-Network), staff met with 20 agency liaisons. Meetings cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, and policy issues. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for the community. Updates on a few state and federal agencies are below.
 - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff met with new cabinet member Victor Chacon, Senior Director of Diversity, on the impact of the recent budget cuts on the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A few programs of concern to the AAPI community are reductions in the state food assistance program, naturalization, TANF/WorkFirst, refugee services, and the disability lifeline. Further discussions on the naturalization program occurred with Jackie Sledge, administrator of the program. At the request of the community, a representative from DSHS will be speaking at the next CAPAA board meeting.
 - **Employment Security Department:** Staff met with Tim Gugerty to discuss ways to partner with ESD to better provide opportunities and assistance for jobseekers and employers in the AAPI community given our challenging economic times. The agency is offering unlimited free access to Microsoft’s comprehensive e-Learning library to help our community gain computer skills and be more competitive in the job market. This service is available to any Washington citizen, free of charge at www.Go2WorkSource.com and at local WorkSource offices. ESD also has a Shared Work program providing businesses greater flexibility in retaining employees at reduced hours rather than laying them off. An employer can temporarily reduce employees’ hours 10 to 50 percent, and qualified workers may receive partial unemployment benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages.
 - **Department of Financial Institutions:** A meeting between staff and Lyn Peters on ways to better connect the AAPI community with DFI’s services took place in October. The AAPI community should be aware that DFI offers a financial education program at no cost. The *Investor Education in Your Community* program offers free, unbiased information on the basics of investing and how to avoid being a victim of investor fraud. Also available is a homeownership hotline (1-877-894-HOME) that helps homeowners and hopeful homeowners with free counseling and access to legal aid if there is evidence of illegal activity or fraud in a foreclosure case.

- **General Administration:** Staff met with Rosalind Knox on increasing the AAPI community's access to state contracting opportunities and to explore ways in which small businesses can better bid and compete. AAPI small businesses should be aware that the annual vendor training is coming up in 2011 and that it will host several training modules providing the community assistance in government contracting.
- **Office of the Attorney General:** Elena Perez is our agency's new liaison. In response to our agency's request for programs and policies for the AAPI community, under current development is a program on *Immigration Assistance Fraud*. Data indicates that high rates of immigration assistance fraud are occurring in the Vietnamese community. Many victims report waiting months or years for clearance from immigration officials regarding paperwork that was never filed, or filed incorrectly. CAPAA is working in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General on this program.
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board:** Staff met with Walter Wong to discuss ways to continue working together to serve the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Last month, staff participated in *Retooling Washington's Workforce*, a statewide conference held by WTECB. The agency provided input on an initiative to be implemented this fall to help the unemployed gain skills for jobs, meet employers workforce needs, and outreach to unemployment insurance exhaustees. The community should be aware that WCTEB is currently accepting applications for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) that pays undergraduate educational tuition for two years at an accredited public or private college or university, or licensed vocational school. Eligibility requirements and more information can be found at www.wtb.wa.gov
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** In September, the agency entered into an interagency agreement with OMWBE to provide support and consul in the certification of AAPI businesses. A representative from OMWBE will be the guest speaker at our board meeting to discuss certification, the linked deposit program, and upcoming events. Business owners should be aware of the upcoming seminars and workshops hosted by OMWBE. Details can be found at www.omwbe.wa.gov
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Staff met with Cathy Liu to discuss ways to inform the Asian American and Pacific Islander community about OEO's services. Our agency will be working in partnership with OEO on an outreach plan for our community to ensure parents have access to information about their children's education, especially parents with limited or no English proficiency. Parents who do not speak or understand English need to know that they can access services in their language through the Ombudsman language line, 1-866-297-2597.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Staff met with Sharon Ortiz to discuss programs her agency can offer the AAPI community. The Human Rights Commission is currently developing a community based "Know Your Rights" program and is looking to partner with community organizations.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Bonnie Beukema provided our agency an update on DEL's current programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WAKids) pilot is currently underway. It is being implemented in 120 classrooms in 54 school districts across the state and focuses on bringing together families, teachers, and early learning providers to support each

child's learning and transition into public schools. Community members provided input on this program earlier this year.

- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Staff met with Dave Wasser on current policies impacting the AAPI community and to discuss the expansion of their agency's outreach to our community's business owners and employees on issues relating to workplace safety, health, and wellness. The community should be aware that L&I is available to assist immigrant workers in helping them understand their labor rights. Workers who get injured on the job may open an L&I claim.
- **Department of Licensing:** Assistant Director Ralph Osgood met with staff to discuss the unlicensed activity of cosmetologists. Community members practicing in this field should be aware of the requirement to obtain a professional license. CAPAA is providing consul and advice to DOL to ensure effective communication with our AAPI communities on licensing requirements. More information on the procedure and process for licensing can be found at www.dol.wa.gov
- **Secretary of State:** Staff met with Operations Manager Patrick Reed and Deputy Director Linda Shea on current policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. A recent increase in the annual business reporting fee to \$10.00 became effective in August. The executive director also met with the newly hired Minority Language Education Coordinator, Cristina Labra, to advocate for outreach strategies for the AAPI community. The agency made a recommendation for more Asian languages, beyond the Section 203 requirement, to be featured on a website that is currently being developed. These recommendations were based on the predicted population growth of our community that may be reflected in the census data to be released.
- **Department of Revenue:** Staff met with Rick Stedman on future partnership opportunities and programs impacting the AAPI community. Thanks to the agency and Commissioner Lee's efforts, material is available on a number of taxes and programs in Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Chinese at www.dor.wa.gov.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner:** Staff continues to meet with our liaison, Chewon Lee, to strengthen awareness of their services and increase access for the community. Because OIC recently received two federal grants, CAPAA is partnering with the agency on two programs for the AAPI community slated to roll out in the next few months focusing on Medicare fraud and providing assistance to those community members in the Affordable Health Care Act appeal process.
- **Department of Commerce:** Deputy Director Jan Marie Ferrell is our agency's liaison. The Governor recently signed Executive Order 10-05 aimed at assisting our state's economic recovery by helping small businesses succeed and expand. In addition to working on the development of new strategies to streamline or eliminate regulatory procedures, DOC has been directed to work with small businesses to develop a plan to submit for federal funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative this month. The AAPI community should also be aware that funding still remains for the Cash for Appliances program which helps people upgrade to new, energy-efficient appliances while offering rebates. Details and eligibility requirement can be found at www.cashforappliances.wa.com

- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Staff met with Susanne Beauchaine who continues to be our agency liaison for OSPI. An update was provided on education policies impacting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the Achievement Gap Oversight Committee, and HB 3026.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs:** Commissioner Pascua continues to provide translation assistance on a service pamphlet for the Filipino American community.
- **Washington State Liquor Control Board:** Ruthann Kurose provided our agency an update on current programs and policies impacting the community. Recently, the liquor board conducted outreach to the Korean American community on licenses, processes, enforcement, and taxes. Some key documents have been translated into Korean. A few partnership opportunities that CAPAA is exploring include: expanding translation services and alcohol awareness information to the AAPI community.
- **Department of Health:** Staff met with Jovie Swanson, our agency liaison, about current programs and policies impacting the AAPI community. We are in discussion on future partnerships with the agency.

5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **Board Meetings:** Please save the dates for our board meetings in 2011 on January 15, March 19, June 18, September 17, and November 19th.
- **Standing Committees:** Standing committees continue to meet on the commission's three priority areas of education, health care/human services, and economic development. Committees meet on a monthly basis in-person or by conference call. All three committees continue to host roundtables to gather input on issues and policies impacting our community.
- **API Legislative Day and Legislative Session:** The legislative session begins on January 10, 2011. API Legislative Day will be on February 17, 2011 in Olympia. CAPAA should continue to support the legislative priorities from the previous biennium year that align with our strategic plan. The priority areas are: education, health care, human services, and economic development. A 2011 legislative priority sheet will be circulated for review at our board meeting by our legislative liaison, Commissioner Aragon.
- **Special Acknowledgment:** A big thank you to Commissioner Albert Shen for his most valuable and dedicated service. Commissioner Shen was recently appointed to serve on the board of trustees for the Seattle Community College. Policies restrict him from serving multiple board appointments; however, he will continue to be an active member of CAPAA's economic development committee.

6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**
 - **Oversight Achievement Gap and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to represent our commission and community on this committee. A report on the committee's recommendations and their implementation

status, HB 3026, and several content briefings were made. Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos and Sen. Curtis King are now co-chairing the committee.

CAPAA representatives sit on the following committees or workgroups: QEC (ELL, LAP, Highly Capable), Data Governance, Building Bridges, and Common Core Standards. Outcomes from many of these committees and workgroups will be presented to the Legislature in the near future.

- **Pacific Islander Task Force:** The Pacific Islander Task Force was recently created and has been meeting on a regular basis over the past few months with Sili Savusa serving as the acting chair. On October 28, 2010, members from the Micronesian, Tongan, and Samoan communities gathered to discuss education policies impacting their communities. The next meeting will take place on December 9th at the Highline School District Office.
- **Education Trust National Conference:** Commissioner Takamura, Sili Savusa and the executive director joined representatives from the other state ethnic commissions in traveling to Washington, DC to attend the EdTrust Conference focusing on closing the achievement gap. No state dollars were used to fund this trip.
- **Early Learning Workgroup:** Alisa Torres, Janice Deguchi, Ben Kodoma, and Rochelle Fonti continue to represent our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities on this workgroup tasked with reviewing the guidelines in *Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks*.
- **State Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program Technical Working Group:** This group is tasked with making recommendations for a funding model linked to effective programs that support the academic needs of English Language Learners in our state. Final recommendations from this group were presented on November 17, 2010. Minh-Ahn Hodge is representing our community.
- **Gangs in Schools Workgroup:** Mustapha Math and Joseph Seia are serving as representatives for our AAPI community on this workgroup and Tyati Tufono is the identified alternate in their absence.
- **Ed Tech Workgroup:** Kao Saechao and Ekkarath Sisavatdy are serving as CAPAA's representatives.
- **Washington State Association for Multicultural Education's Annual Conference:** On October 30, 2010, Commissioners Takamura, Pascua, and staff attended WSAME's annual conference bringing together individuals from a variety of fields to discuss issues related to multiculturalism and diversity. Commissioner Takamura presented Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos with the 2010 Multicultural Excellence Award.
- **Health Care and Human Services:**
 - **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to represent our commission on this council. On behalf of the community, she is working with the council to develop areas of concentration that align with the priorities of our community.

Staff also participated in an Interagency LEP Workgroup hosted by the council that created a forum for state agency representatives to exchange knowledge, resources and best practices towards the goal of ensuring meaningful language access to state services. Agency representatives discussed assets and challenges facing agencies in regards to language access services, policies, and programs and ways that the workgroup can serve as a resource.

- **Grant Proposal Update:** Funding was recently approved by the federal Office of Minority Health for the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities to work with the commission to host Health Equity Roundtables. The purpose of this project is to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations to create a nation free of health disparities with quality health outcomes for all people.

- **Economic Development:**

- **Convening of statewide AAPI Chambers of Commerce:** On October 28, 2010, the commission held a meeting to convene all of the statewide AAPI Chambers of Commerce to discuss economic initiatives and possible partnership opportunities in the best interest of the collective community. The chambers discussed working together to build a long-standing infrastructure with the goal of assisting and supporting businesses, educating and providing resources to the community on state and federal programs, and developing tools to assist AAPI businesses. All known chambers were invited to attend.
- **Trade Mission:** From November 12 - 24, 2010, Commissioner Dash led our state's trade delegation to visit Orissa, India to expand economic and trade interaction between India, which is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia and in the world. The trade mission was sponsored by the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee (WASITRAC).

- **Immigration:**

- **Immigration Reform:** Commissioner Pritchard continues to work on immigration issues on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. On October 14, 2010, Commissioner Pritchard along with APIC and several community leaders held a press conference launching a statewide campaign for comprehensive immigration reform.