



The State of Washington  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

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*Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans*

**Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting**

Together Center

16225 NE 87th Street, Suite A-5, Redmond, WA 98052

Saturday, January 16, 2016

**Regular Business**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.

**INTRODUCTION OF FELLOWS**

- Bronson Purcell
- Joseph Park

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Mohan Gurung, Tam Dinh, Lakshmi Gaur, Lori Wada, Lynette Finau, Ty Tufono, Lisa Dickinson, Zer Vue, Didi Cabusao

Commissioners Absent: Darren Pen, Ka`imi Sinclair, Tashi Khamshitsang

Staff: Executive Director, Michael Itti, Project Coordinator, Brianne Ramos

Fellows: Bronson Purcell, Joseph Park

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made at 10:07 a.m. by Commissioner Dickinson to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Vue. With no further changes, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2015 MINUTES**

Motion was made at 10:08 a.m. by Commissioner Wada and seconded by Commissioner Gaur. Commissioner Dickinson suggested that the minutes reflect that amendments were made to the Commission's legislative agenda. The minutes were approved as amended unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Itti provided Director's Report overview including an update on the Commission's financial report, accountability audit, records retention issue, legislative session, APA legislative day, agency outreach, and issue areas. View the full report here: <http://capaa.wa.gov/executive-directors-report-for-january-16-2016/>.

Chair Tufono inquired whether the donation account was included in the financial report and recommended that Commissioners develop further criteria regarding the use of the funds, which may include stipends and refreshments. The Chair urged regular reporting of the donation account to ensure greater transparency.

Director Itti: The donation account is not included in the amount reported in the financial summary, just the state allocation. It will be included going forward.

Commissioners inquired whether the audit report would be made public.

Director Itti: Yes.

Commissioners requested a pie chart of areas of spend for the Commission's budget.

Director Itti: A breakdown will be provided.

Chair Tufono: Is CAPAA funded at the same level as the other ethnic commissions?

Director Itti: No.

Q from the public: Does the state translate documents in Indian languages?

Director Itti: Translations into Indian languages at the state level is not typically done.

## **INDIA ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN WASHINGTON (IAWW)**

Welcome by Dr. Neeti Mittal, President of IAWW

Lalita Uppala, Director of Community Program, IAWW

Background: IAWW was founded 34 years ago on the basis of a simple and holistic mission – to respect our seniors, nurture our youth and cherish our community. They have expanded over the years to reach other communities across the state of Washington.

### Community Program

- IAWW has addressed the needs of the community over the past 30 years.
- Recently created a new community program that was envisioned to bring different age groups into one physical space so that the community can interact with each other.
- Their programs are put on only through volunteer efforts.
- IAWW's comprehensive program is one of the first of its kind in the greater Seattle area.
- Senior Interactions:
  - Fitness classes
  - Workshops
  - Bonding
  - Community lunch
- Youth Conversations:
  - Career counseling
  - Mentoring
  - Kindering playgroup
  - Open exchange

- Conversation on taboo topics
- For Families/Adults
  - Active yoga Health and nutrition workshops
  - ANVI professional women's workshop
  - Bollywood fitness dance
  - Music events
  - Bridge club
  - Community conversations on topics
  - Safe place for women and families
- The community connects through cultural or health and wellness needs.

## Q & A

Commissioner Wada: How do you raise funding for programs?

Uppala: Community fundraising.

Commissioner Vue: I suggest working with local schools since many have a volunteer requirement.

## IAWW Youth Program

Annu Luthra, Director of Youth Program, IAWW

- The IAWW Youth Board has an age range of 14-17
- Examples of youth projects:
  - Garba
  - Club Fusion
  - Duwamish River clean up
  - Food drive to St. Mary's
  - IAWW Diwali and Republic Day
  - Camp Bharat
- Vision of Youth Program:
  - Collaborate with the IAWW Community Program to offer educational info and events to Youth Board
  - Counselor session to education about drug addiction
  - Continue to improvise YB leadership training, workshops, YC service events
  - Fundraising to meet needs of programs
- IAWW offers scholarships for Camp Bharat

## Q & A

Commissioner Finau: Is this program advertised through schools?

Luthra; Information is sent through IAWW contacts.

Chair Tufono: I recommend that IAWW send information about the program to CAPAA to be included in public communications.

Commissioner Gaur: The program is youth driven and students receive high school credit hours.

## IAWW Seniors Program

Dr. Pran Wahi, Director of Seniors Program, IAWW

Background: The senior program started 18 years ago.

Programs:

- Monthly lunch program
- Annual health fair
- Music/dance programs
- Field trips & annual picnic
- Senior transportation service
- Volunteer support

New services:

- Senior support group – providing help/service to seniors in times of crisis
  - Most members providing service are seniors
- IAWW community program on Thursdays

Commissioner Cabusao: I suggest partnering with Meals on Wheels.

Vision: For IAWW to have a permanent location.

Commissioner Dinh: I recommend looking into ways to secure resources for a community center.

Next event: Republic Day on January 23, 2016 at Liberty High School.

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAP OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (EOGOAC)**

Frieda Takamura, Co-Chair, EOGOAC

Background: The EOGOAC is a legislative mandated committee and has different ethnic communities represented.

Findings of EOGOAC:

- All students bring some type of asset to their school.
- Public education system is inherently good, but the impacts of the system can be negative in the long run.
- Education needs to be changed on systemic and holistic levels.
- Education stakeholders care very deeply.

2016 Recommendations:

- EOGOAC has eight main recommendations:
  - Reduce the length of time students of color are excluded from school due to suspensions and expulsions and provide student support for reengagement plans
  - Enhance the cultural competence of current and future educators and classified staff
  - Endorse all educators in English language learner/second acquisition
  - TBIP accountability for instructional services provided to English language learner students
  - Analyze the opportunity gap through deeper disaggregation of student demographic data

- Invest in the recruitment, hiring and retention of educators of color
- Incorporate integrated student services and family engagement
- Strengthen student transitions
- EOGOAC takes a multidisciplinary approach reviewing academic, social, emotional and health supports
- Integrated student services
- Accountability
- Support for educators
- Family engagement
- Professional development
- Cultural competence
- EOGOAC emphasizes the importance of disaggregated data

**Q&A:**

Chair Tufono: The mixed race category should be more clearly defined.

Commissioner Wada: How is school discipline reported?

Commissioner Vue: Typically, the vice principal handles discipline issues and reporting is required within 24 hours.

Commissioner Gurung: How can we educate the community and learn of the impacts?

Commissioner Vue: Is there data for recommendation number six on recruiting educators of color.

Takamura: The data is tracked and the WEA website has more detailed information.

Chair Tufono: What efforts have been made regarding school discipline?

Takamura: A proposal was introduced in the Senate related to the opportunity gaps. The EOGOAC's recommendations are contained in HB 1541, which utilizes a holistic approach to address the gaps. The next EOGOAC meeting is next Tuesday in the Olympia area.

**OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION OMBUDS (OEO)**

Carrie Griffin Basas, Director, Office of the Education Ombuds

What the work looks like:

- Work with individual families and schools to resolve disputes that impact student achievement
- Provide information to families regarding their rights and responsibilities in the public education system
- Conduct trainings for families and school communities on issues relating to student rights and family/school partnerships
- Make annual recommendations to policy makers to improve equity, fairness and access to public education for all students

Gaps in outreach:

- Communities of color
- Multiracial students

- LEP families

#### Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Students and Families

- Majority of OEO's API cases take place in Seattle, Federal Way and Bellevue
- Top issues:
  - Special education
  - Poor communication or relationship breakdown
  - Academic progress
  - Discrimination
  - Student safety
  - Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
  - Discipline

#### API Language Access

- OEO created a poster with 12 different API languages with information about OEO and how to contact them
  - Request Commissioners to review the poster and distribute the final version to community based organizations and families

#### Strategic plan shifts:

- Trying to spend more time with families that are new to OEO
- Providing more support for homeless and foster youth
- Training
- Making efforts to reach more educators
- Re-engaging communities

#### Q&A

Commissioner Wada: Shared experience with a teacher who reached out to the Korean community to ask for their help with a student.

Director Basas: OEO is trying to find opportunities to educate teachers about resources. 8% of calls are from educators, but we are trying to encourage more participation and build relationships.

Commissioner Dickinson: Is your outreach only through word of mouth? I like the idea of the flyer, but it does not include a list of OEO's services. The flyer should include the services OEO can provide communities.

Director Basas: We will make edits to the flyer with our services. Should we add that in all languages or just in English?

Commissioner Dickinson: The one pager is helpful since it's easier to carry around than multiple copies of different pamphlets. I understand the challenge of fitting all the content and translations on one page, so I suggest adding the list of services in English and then bilingual speakers can translate the information to the community.

Director Basas: OEO is trying to communicate and reach out to communities and places that we have not historically gone.

Commissioner Finau: On reestablishing communication, is the Finding Your Voice training still available to the public? It was really effective and I still utilize that training in my teaching.

Director Basas: Unfortunately, we do not provide that training currently but we have trainings on parts of it. It was funded by a grant and we no longer have that grant. We would love to revive that training.

Commissioner Dinh: Some outreach ideas to target Asian Pacific Islander communities more directly would be to attend the Lunar New Year with the Vietnamese community, outreach to churches and temples and various language classes.

Commissioner Gaur: I recommend compiling a list of different ethnic organizations to outreach to then send out a monthly newsletter.

Chair Tufono: You mentioned that a couple of your Ombudsmen are bilingual. What languages do they speak?

Director Basas: Spanish and Portuguese. Unfortunately, we do not have any Ombudsmen that speak Asian or Pacific Islander languages.

Chair Tufono: What are the ethnicities of your staff?

Director Basas: Latina and Native. Unfortunately, we do not have any Asian or Pacific Islander staff.

Chair Tufono: How do you become an ombudsman?

Director Basas: Many Ombuds are former teachers or social workers. We're working on a diversity plan to understand how best to serve communities of color.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Nadine Shiroma, former chair of Eastside API**

- Announcement that ICHS received 115,000 grant for outreach education on HEP B
- In the U.S., half of those who have Hepatitis B are Asian American or Pacific Islander
- U.S. Department of Defense policies are discriminatory towards people with chronic HEP B
- Working with Congressman Smith on this issue

## **Q & A**

Chair Tufono: Do you have a template of the letter that can be sent out?

Shiroma: Yes, we will send it out.

### **Sam Le, ACE at UW, SEAeD**

- ACT Conference will take place on April 16. The conference will focus on the need for more Asian and Pacific Islander representation in government, media and education.
- February 20 is the Asian and Pacific Islander Mental Health Summit at the University of Washington.
- Students of Social Justice event
- Coordinating workshops in the community for SEAeD

## **Q & A**

Commissioner Vue: SEAE had an event last year for communities to share their stories at the Wing Luke and discuss the importance of disaggregated data. Encouraged Commissioners to connect community youth groups with Sam and SEAE.

Chair Tufono: Encouraged Sam to send information about upcoming events so that CAPAA can inform the community.

Le: We are looking for API keynote speakers who have experience in political leadership, media, or education.

### **Taidi Fang, SCCAA**

- Shared information about Lunar New Year event
- Requested the Commission to spread the news about the event
- Expressed interest in collaborating with other communities in the future

### **REVIEW OF COMMISSIONER DUTIES**

Staff Brianne Ramos provided an overview of Commissioner duties and responsibilities.

### **DISCUSSION ON SPONSORSHIP AND LETTER OF SUPPORT CRITERIA**

Director Itti reviewed current policies around the receipt and use of donations in RCW 43.117.100 and administrative policy manual 2.20. The manual specifies the following criteria:

#### 2.20.10

The Commission may not donate funds to any agency or organization. The Commission may provide financial support as a co-sponsor for efforts and events so long as: 1) the event furthers the Commission's mandate; 2) the event involves participation and presence by the Commission; and 3) the Commission's financial involvement is not disproportionate to its participation when compared to other co-sponsors.

Director Itti presented information on the donation account for the previous and current biennium.

Commissioners requested a pie chart to see CAPAA budgeting.

Commissioner Dickinson commented that many Commissioners do not request reimbursement to save costs for the Commission and state. However, this may create a burden on some Commissioners, particularly those traveling from afar. Commissioner Dickinson suggested tracking when Commissioners do not request reimbursement to ensure the true cost is shown.

Commissioners inquired about travel policies and what is permitted for reimbursement. Commissioners suggested checking with other Commissions on their policies and procedures.

Commissioners emphasized increasing transparency and adopting more detailed procedures around the use of the donation account.

Commissioners discussed forming a committee to develop a procedure to update the Commission's policy on sponsorship.

Commissioner Dinh made a motion to form a committee to develop more extensive criteria around the use of the Commission's donation account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaur. The motion was approved unanimously.

Director Itti brought to the Commission's attention a request for sponsorship by students organizing an API Mental Health Summit at UW. A suggested amount of \$500 was made similar to what was provided for the UPRISE summit.

Commissioner Dickinson expressed concern about the lack of advance notice by staff on this request and information about how the event complies with existing sponsorship rules. Commissioner Dickinson also recommended that restrictions are placed on the use of CAPAA sponsorship funds to prevent inappropriate use.

Director Itti explained how the event would satisfy all three of the current sponsorship rules.

Chair Tufono made a motion for the Commission to provide a sponsorship of \$500 for the API Mental Health Summit at the University of Washington on February 20. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dinh and was approved with a unanimous vote. Commissioner Dickinson expressed concerns about approving sponsorship without first establishing clearer guidelines. She also urged that requests be received in a timelier manner.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**

Education: Announced the Education Roundtable on January 30, 2016 at El Centro de la Raza.

Health and Human Services: Commissioner Dinh presented a draft of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Wellness Survey. Commissioner Dinh asked if the other committees would like to include questions specific to their issue areas and requested the other Commissioners review the survey and provide input.

Economic Development: No updates to report.

### **COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Gaur to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Finau with no further discussion and unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM.

Minutes prepared by Brianne Ramos.