



The State of Washington  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**  
*Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans*

**Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting**  
Marshall Center  
1009 E McLoughlin Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663  
March 17, 2018 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Regular Business**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Dickinson, Finau, Guerrero, Gurung, Nguyen, Sinclair, Wada

Commissioners Absent: Dinh, Gaur, Sisavatdy, Tufono

Staff: Executive Director, Michael Itti, Project Coordinator, Sam Le

**COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioners and staff gave introductions and acknowledged Vancouver City Councilmember Linda Glover, who attended the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made at 10:05 AM by Commissioner Guerrero to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Sinclair. With no further changes, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made at 10:06 AM by Commissioner Wada to approve the January 20, 2018 meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Sinclair. With no further changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**COMMISSIONER PRESENTATION: Commissioner Roslyn Leon Guerrero**

Commissioner Guerrero represents Clark County and is excited to be a voice for Southwest Washington residents on the Commission.

A sizable Asian American and Pacific Islander population resides in SW Washington. A big piece of the local economy is education workforce.

Commissioner Guerrero overviewed the history and context of the Oceania region, which includes Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia. Commissioner Guerrero heritage is Chamorro.

Commissioner Guerrero emphasized the importance of promoting representation and leadership for AAPI communities in the region.

Commissioner Guerrero discussed her SMART Goal to advocate and support AAPI communities in Southwest Washington and expressed how AAPI communities are sometimes tokenized and their issues not included and incorporated when policies are implemented.

### **COMMUNITY PRESENTATION: UTOPIA PDX**

Manumalo Ala'ilima (Malo)  
Chair, United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance

The UTOPIA PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Final-revision-UTOPIA-PDX-for-CAPAA-March-2018-Board-Meeting.pdf>

Manumalo Ala'ilima presented:

- An overview of the Pacific Islands and the Oceania Diaspora
- Information about gender identities, pronouns, being Pacific Islander and LGBTQ2SPIA+
- A history of UTOPIA and UTOPIA PDX
- Accomplishments and activities of UTOPIA PDX

### **Commissioner comments & questions:**

- Commissioner Sinclair asked if UTOPIA has a website.
  - o The website is currently under development.
- Commissioner Finau inquired about resources to help educate API students and families and ways to create safe spaces for those conversations.
  - o Malo said church leaders are important to include in the conversation. UTOPIA is working to support family members and create safe spaces to have these discussions.
  - o Commissioner Finau further added that teachers/parents should be equipped to address it. The climate and situation for students/LGBTQ+ communities can be difficult and they are too often targeted for harassment and bullying.
  - o Malo expressed a need for a Pacific Islander Cultural Center to be a hub for PI's to gather.
  - o Commissioner Guerrero: There needs to be trainings and physical spaces for students where they can receive support from educators/administrators and the community.
  - o Malo added the need for help to share the message and begin addressing the issues Commissioner Finau has asked. Requests leaders, such as the CAPAA Commissioners, to support creating additional pathways.
- Vice Chair Dickinson commended UTOPIA PDX for how much work they have accomplished within their first year.
- Director Itti asks how CAPAA can support the work of UTOPIA.
  - o Malo said if a policy discriminating against trans and LGBTQ+ communities is proposed, then they would appreciate the Commission's support to oppose these policies.

### **COMMUNITY PRESENTATION: Equity Committee of Clark County**

Dolly England  
Committee Member, Equity Committee of Clark County

Diana Avalos-Leos  
Committee Member, Equity Committee of Clark County

The presenters provided a brief overview of the goals and background of the Equity Committee of Clark County.

Many members of the Equity Committee of Clark County serve on the committee as volunteers, but also receive support from organizations to advance the goals of the committee.

The Committee formed to address anti-immigration policies and fear related to federal policy changes after the last presidential election. Mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, and community leaders organized an open conversation about the atmosphere and about how to ensure safety. Through the dialogue, the committee aimed to form trainings for different institutions on addressing issues of inclusion and equity.

The Committee works to create policies and procedures through an equity lens. They are working with community organizations and other institutions to encourage participation and a commitment to support their employees and community members in the trainings.

Equity Committee hopes to be a source for equity trainings for all spheres of work and organizations.

### **Commissioner comments & questions:**

Commissioner Wada noticed during her time volunteering to do outreach for the Affordable Care Act that there were an increasing numbers of ethnic communities in Southwest Washington that were significantly lacking bi-lingual services. Commissioner Wada asked how the committee plans to address language barrier issues.

- Diana answered that the City of Vancouver is working to provide multilingual materials.
- Dolly answered that interpreters and navigators will need to be compensated more and that accessibility to interpreters is a must.

Commissioner Finau asked how the committee is addressing the need for diversifying the teacher workforce, particularly when classrooms are becoming more diverse.

- Local school districts are working with youth who are interested in the teaching profession. With the growth in Portland, SW WA is facing challenges in meeting these needs.

Director Itti expressed that CAPAA can assist in connecting the committee with different state agencies to work more closely together with communities and organizations in Southwest Washington.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Itti provided an overview of the Director's Report, which includes an update on the Commission's financial report, legislative session review, agency outreach, community events, and issue areas.

The 2018 legislative session concluded.

- COFA health care legislation passed and implementation will begin after the Governor signs it into law.
- Legislation that expands the Commission's legislative authority to also advise the Legislature passed.

Governor has formed an interagency workgroup to reduce poverty.

Update on the Governor's Business Diversity Sub-cabinet to ensure equitable opportunity for state contracting and procurement.

Commissioner Finau asked about the implementation of REAL ID.

- Director Itti responded that a workgroup has formed to begin initial review of Real ID implementation.

The next CAPAA board meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup> in Wapato.

View the full report on the CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/executive-directors-report-for-march-18-2018/>

## **COFA COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Director Itti provided a brief overview of the legislation that expands health care access for COFA Communities, including keys to success in passing the legislation and a review of SSB 5683.

View the presentation on the CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/COFA-Bill-Review-3-2018.pdf>

Questions/Comments from community audience

- Do military health benefits affect eligibility for the COFA Assistance Program? An example is from the Oregon COFA Assistance Program. VA benefits had disqualified them from receiving Oregon COFA Assistance Program, and this is a significant question for COFA Washingtonians.
  - o Director Itti will follow up with an answer after checking with HCA and other agencies.
- When will open enrollment begin?
  - o Open enrollment begins on November 1, 2018.
- How many COFA Washingtonians would be eligible?
  - o HCA estimates 2,500 are eligible.
- Will new COFA immigrants coming to Washington State be eligible?
  - o The legislation includes an eligibility requirement that they must be a Washington resident. The Health Care Authority will be determining how to implement this program based on the eligibility requirements. An advisory committee will be created to provide input.
- Is there a way to get a copy of the SB5683?
  - o Can be access online: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5683-S.PL.pdf>
- What is the Silver level plan enrollment?
  - o There are three levels. The difference between the levels includes deductibles and insurance premiums. These plans will be dependent on the provider and found on the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.
- Will medical assistance from the state make COFA members ineligible? What are the different programs/ assistances that disqualify individuals from the COFA Assistance Program.
  - o The legislation includes ineligibility criteria including those who are receiving a federal or state medical assistance program administered by the Health Care Authority. The HCA will be implementing this program based on this criteria.
- Do recipients of TANF or welfare have access to the COFA Assistance Program?
  - o If someone is eligible for TANF, then they would likely be eligible for a federal health benefit depending on their income and other criteria.
- Will beneficiaries of the program need to wait for reimbursement?

- CAPAA recognizes the concern and problems with the reimbursement-based system. The Health Care Authority will be forming an advisory group to further discuss and explore these issues.
- It is difficult to pay for co-pay and deductibles, even if being reimbursed, it is hard to come with the payment. Is there any way to put the money in a general fund to assist with the initial payment and avoid the reimbursement route?
  - These are great suggestions that we'll share with our state agency partners and encourage the advisory group to raise as well.

Commissioner Guerrero added that there is a need to have community members on the advisory committee to address these questions and concerns.

## **COMMUNITY FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT**

- City Council Member Linda Glover
  - Welcomed and thanked the Commission for being present in SW Washington and creating dialogue on important issues concerning AAPI communities.
- Rosalba Pitkin, WA State Minority and Justice Commission
  - The Latino Community Resource Group will have a multi-resource community fair on April 1, 2018 at Clark College.
  - Appreciates the Commission for hosting the Public Board Meeting in Southwest Washington.
- Dr. Clemente, Choice Wellness Center
  - Introduced Choice Wellness Center, which has expertise in serving AAPIs and communities of color through its diverse workforce.
  - Working to address the opioid epidemic and reduce barriers/stigma facing AAPI communities by providing culturally-relevant services at its treatment centers.
  - Additionally, addiction has been an issue area that has not been given enough attention in AAPI communities, especially gambling and alcohol.
  - Requested that CAPAA assist in addressing the issue and mentioned that the Choice Wellness Center is willing to partner to conduct research.
- Manumalo Ala'ilima (Malo), UTOPIA PDX
  - Gave a welcome and introduced the mission statement of UTOPIA PDX.
- Aaron Helenihi, KSSA OR/SWWA
  - Mentioned efforts to expand and support language schools and cultural support in the region.
  - Gave background on the needs of the Native Hawaiian community and the challenges they are facing.
- Addressing health disparities. OHSU trying to make prescription labels bilingual. Washington should address this issue.
- Ana Betancourt, LULAC
  - Mentioned that LULAC (League of United Latinos) is hosting an Elder's Justice Conference on March 24, 2018. Will send invitation link and materials to Commissioner Guerrero.
- Akiko Betcher, Kaiser Permanente
  - Mentioned the need for navigators to promote health care access.
  - Expressed a need to ensure health care is accessible and that issues with reimbursement systems need to be addressed, as communities that qualify for various reimbursement programs face challenges of affording the initial costs.
- Lillian Onelungel, UTOPIA PDX
  - Mentioned the "Islander Soldier" film as a potential project for CAPAA to assist in sharing. The movie highlights the untold story of Micronesian soldiers in the US military.

- Perry Samun, CANN
  - o Shared information about CANN (COFA Alliance National Network)
  - o Expressed the desire to continue to collaborate and provide information to the community.

### **Legislative Session Review**

Michael Itti, Executive Director of CAPAA provided an overview of the 2018 legislative session and of bills that the Commission tracked or may impact AAPI communities.

View the Legislative Session Review Presentation on the CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CAPAA-legislative-update-2018-3-17.pdf>

### Community Questions:

Does the College Bound Scholarship cover out of state schools or housing?

- Commissioner Guerrero answered that College Bound only covers Washington institutions and tuition. Students apply when they are in middle school.

How can the community get more involved with the Commission and be present at the community meetings?

- There are many ways to connect with the Commission such as reaching out to a Commissioner or staff on their issues or concerns.

### **COMMISSIONER/COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Project Coordinator Le reviewed the changes to the Commissioner Activity Report and the roles of the Committees & Committee Chairs.

To view the Commissioner Activity Report: <https://capaa.wa.gov/commissioner-report-for-march-18-2018/>.

### Commissioner Discussion on Activities

- Vice Chair Dickinson: Attended a Small Business Conference calls that will be of interest for the Economic Development Committee.
- Commissioner Guerrero: The presentations at different conferences/summits are in need of follow-ups with the students and their families to maintain engagement. For the Education Committee follow-up after presentations will be a topic to discuss.
- Commissioner Gurung: As a first generation Nepalese community member, education/economic issues have been key. The World Language Credit Program is important for the community to know about to promote and preserve their identity. Community raising money to fund the language school and having a space to learn. Additionally, many have established small businesses.
- Nguyen: Represented the Commission at the Governor's Poverty Workgroup. Additionally, Commissioner Nguyen attended the Day of Remembrance and represents CAPAA at the Washington Immigrant Workgroup organizing meetings. An event is being planned for June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Governor's Mansion.

- Commissioner Sinclair: Working with Commissioner Wada on hypertension education to Korean community members. APCC Tacoma is working to build the new Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Ruston.
- Commissioner Guerrero: Asked how the Marshallese Community could make their Day of Remembrance recognized.
  - o Commissioner Nguyen answered that they need to have legislators sponsor a resolution.
- Commissioner Finau: Worked on the Pacific Islander minor studies at the University of Washington. Working on expanding the number of students registering in the minor. Joined the committee to create the curriculum for a major.
- Commissioner Wada: Senior University requests to teach about Medicare and Social Security. Involved with the Department of Health and crisis of care standards to respond to pandemics and promoted opportunities for community engagement focused on health related emergencies. and Representing CAPAA on the Health Disparities Council. Sick leave and minimum wage changes are affecting the small/rural businesses. Commissioner Wada inquired whether these changes are impacting the number of violations impacting small business owners. Many activities happening within the Korean community especially around economic development.
  - o Director Itti will find data via the Department of Labor & Industries.

Director Itti emphasizes the need to distribute CAPAA brochures at events and spread the word about CAPAA. Vice Chair Dickinson commented that Commissioners should request these materials from CAPAA staff when they are presenting or attending events.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerrero at 2:05 PM to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Sinclair. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by Sam Le.