Executive Director’s Report

June 27, 2020
Prepared by Toshiko Grace Hasegawa
Executive Director’s report to the Commission covering activities, progress, and updates from March 21, 2020 to June 26, 2020.

1. **STAFF AND COMMISSION ACTIVITY**

**Governor’s Leadership Academy & Ruth Woo Fellowship:** The Governor’s Office cancelled the 2020 Ruth Woo Leadership Academy.

**Commissioner Activity:** Commissioners submitted activity reports for the time period of March 21 – June 19, 2020. Total events reported = 137; Activity Report response rate = 83% (10/12 respondents – only 10 are listed, as one Commissioner did not respond, and one Commissioner had zero activity to report for this period.) Details of Commissioner Activity can be found in Appendix I. Outstanding reports for this reporting period: Commissioner Sam and Commissioner Christensen.

**Appointments:** The Nominations Committee conducted interviews with new applicants and forwarded official recommendations for appointment to the Governor’s Office in the month of May. Governor Inslee is reviewing recommendations and conducting background checks on prospective Commissioners and will make an announcement by July 1, when the new terms are effective. Other appointments for this quarter include the following:

- Commissioner Lydia Faitalia was appointed as CAPAA’s PI representative, and Commissioner Tam Dinh was appointed as CAPAA’s AA representative, to serve upon the Statewide Task Force on Re-opening Public Schools.
- Per CAPAA’s recommendation, Puao Savusa was appointed to represent Seattle’s Office of Police Accountability upon the Washington State Police Accountability Task Force. Her formal affiliation will be changed to CAPAA.

**Staffing Updates:** A hiring committee conducted interviews with candidates for the Project Coordinator position and made an offer to Brenda O’Brien prior to the Governor’s hiring freeze. Brenda’s first day will begin Monday, July 6, and she will earn $50,000/year.

2. **FINANCE**

The June 2020 Financial Status Report shows CAPAA is in excellent financial condition, and on track to use approximately all of its appropriation. Notable adjustments to the budget include the following:

- $3,000 savings from the Ruth Woo Fellowship cancellation;
- $1,505 savings in travel for the month of June;
- Misc. savings in printing, training, professional development, and subscriptions.

Due to budget shortfalls, Governor Inslee issued an enterprise-wide cancellation of the 3% General Wage Increase for all exempt staff under his authority. He also directed all agencies under his authority to:

- Implement a furlough of one day a week as soon as possible but no later than June 28, 2020 through July 25, 2020 for positions where a relief employee is not required.
- Implement a furlough once a month at least through November.
 Agencies shall also immediately offer voluntary furlough options to employees beyond the days described above.

As a result of the furloughs, **CAPAA will be closed for operations on Friday July 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th**. To ensure minimal disruption to pay for employees, agencies will be able to make immediate application to ESD’s SharedWork program to provide some financial support to affected employees during the furloughs.

Due to previously unaccounted expenditures by the State and projected budget shortfalls, CAPAA and all other state agencies have also been asked to conduct a 15% budget reduction scenario for hypothetical purposes. This worst-case-scenario mandate would necessitate either closing CAPAA’s physical office, or spending approximately $20,000 out of the donation account, though closing the physical office would negatively impact our budget appropriation. Other cuts to CAPAA’s budget include eliminating spending on printing, training, subscriptions, in-state air travel and lodging, as well as reductions to contractual services (needs assessment), travel, supplies, and attorney general services.

3. **RULES**

   CAPAA formally filed a CR-103P with the Washington State Register. The changes to the WAC sections are now permanent and available online: [https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=34-02](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=34-02).

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

   **Website:** CAPAA’s website has been updated to reflect the following new resources:
   - APAHM 2020 Events
   - COVID-19 resources
   - Report Hate/Discrimination
   - Bystander Resources
   - Combatting Anti-blackness
   - LGBTQ Resources
   - 2020 Census Resources

   **Newsletter:** CAPAA’s newsletter is sent to the entire e-mail listserv of 2,393 unique contacts (+257) from the March E.D. Report), 2,199 of which are subscribers.

   **Facebook:**
   - 1,831 Likes (+ 158)
   - 1,994 Follows (+ 199)

   **FB May:**
   - APA Heritage Month Campaign
   - COVID-19 announcements, updates & resources
   - Census 2020 General Announcements

   **FB June:**
   - Census 2020 General Announcements
   - Pride
5. APA Heritage Month (APAHM)

CAPAA participated in a number of activities in recognition and celebration of APA Heritage Month (APAHM):

- CAPAA co-sponsored RISE Asian America: Town Hall Series (all staff and Commissioners were registered to attend);
- CAPAA staff participated as headline panelists/featured speakers at events including APAHM Celebration, OSPI, OMWBE, City of Tacoma, Zillow;
- Organized CAPAA’s APA legislators video series;
- Assisted with APAHM Proclamations for Washington State, City of Bellevue, Port of Seattle, and King County;
- Online promotion of partner events, such as, *Yellow Peril in the Age of COVID-19* Town Hall & many others;
- Promoted vignette on Taki Kimura, Bruce Lee’s senior-most student;
- Promoted AAPI Day Against Bullying and Hate, in commemoration of Vincent Chin’s birthday

6. COVID-19

**Language Access Plan:** Following multiple complaints from many corners of the state, the Governor’s Office launched the WA State Language Access Plan. CAPAA advised the Office of the Governor on the development of the plan.

- Translation for all vital information in light of COVID-19 into 37 languages, including 22 APA languages;
- Mandatory telephonic interpretation services, with listed information about the availability of telephonic interpretation service on the agency website;
- The creation of a dual and multi-lingual employee pool who may be called on to provide emergency translation, interpretation or other duties related to language access.

**Statewide workgroup on re-opening public schools:** Commissioner Tam Dinh & CAPAA EOGOAC Rep. Sili Savusa were appointed to OSPI’s Workgroup on Re-opening Public Schools. These are large meetings with limited opportunity to weigh in, so CAPAA’s Education Committee met to create form input and sent a letter, co-signed by CAPAA’s EOGOAC Reps. Sili Savusa & Frieda Takamura.

**Department of Commerce Economic Recovery Support Function:** Economic Development Committee members and Commissioner Sisavatdy join in. Large calls, limited opportunity to weigh in.

**Department of Commerce CARES Act Funding:** CAPAA advised Commerce on the design, rollout and engagement for this important relief opportunity, and participated in a press conference with Governor Inslee announcing the program.

**Governor’s COVID-19 Social Support Advisory Group:** ACRS Executive Director Michael Byun was activated by Governor Inslee to serve upon the Governor’s COVID-19 Social Support Advisory Group. CAPAA will partner with him and on hosting two statewide conversations regarding access to health & human services: 1) One specifically geared towards the PI community and; 2) One specifically for Asian community members. Commissioner Lydia Faitalia has been identified by stakeholders as the CAPAA participant for the PI community convening. Carrie Huie Pascua, Ekkarat Syavatdy and Helen Christensen will work with Michael Byun and others on planning the AA community convening. All Commissioners will be expected to support outreach and event promotion leading up to both of these events.
Challenges with Employment Security Division: CAPAA has received consistent reports of challenges for members of the public trying to apply for unemployment. Primary challenges include required fields that don’t apply to COFA citizens, and language access issues. CAPAA staff has been working with Micronesian Consul General Joe Enlet and staff and ESD to advise members of the community, however a permanent solution is needed. The Governor’s Office is also aware of the issue and are working with CAPAA staff to identify a solution.

Discrimination, Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes: CAPAA has been in communication with the Governor’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, the Hate Crimes Task Force, and the Covid-19 Response Coalition regarding the rise of anti-asian sentiment and the need for support for APA’s.

- CAPAA E.D. co-authored an blog post with Sec. Wiesman entitled, “It takes all of us to reduce stigma during disease outbreaks”;
- CAPAA issued a public statement denouncing terms associating viruses with race or place;
- CAPAA issued a public statement encouraging people to report hate crimes and bias incidents;
- CAPAA spoke with members of the press interested in covering the issue;
- CAPAA advised in the process to establish a WA State-specific incident tracking tool (community-led, non-governmental);
- Helped draft anti-hate proclamations or statements (Washington State, Port of Seattle, City of Renton, King County Council);
- Participated in an anti-hate panel hosted by ADL.

7. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Special Session is likely to convene in August, 2020.

Equity Office Task Force continues to meet. Proposed recommendations have been circulated and CAPAA EOTF representatives are working with Commissioner Tam Dinh and Executive Committee members to provide formal feedback to EOTF staff in early July. There is official outreach to ensure the recommendations authentically reflect the priorities and voice of constituent stakeholders. The work of the EOTF is scheduled to conclude in July, 2020.

8. CENSUS 2020 FULL COUNT EFFORTS

CAPAA adopted three counties where there are high concentrations of AAPI’s in Washington State, with great risk of a population undercount. Census 2020 returns as of March 27th are as follows:

- Nationally – 61.7%
- Washington State – 67.1%
- Clark County – 71.2%
- Thurston - 70%
- Whitman County – 57.8%

Clark County has one of the highest response rates in the state. In Clark County, CAPAA is working in partnership with the Noble Foundation, who are creating coalitions of communities of color and organizations serving people of color. They are looking for trusted messengers to work in/with the Marshallese community in Clark. They’re cognizant that things are still very sensitive given the police
shooting a while back, and they want to approach the community in a respectful manner. Commissioner Faitalia suggested that I connect them to Jiji Jally, Esther De'brum, and David Anitok.

In Thurston County, APIC SPS has held several events, such as Census forums, to conduct outreach. The response rate in Thurston County is relatively high, and APIC-SPS is starting to reach out to the neighboring Mason County, which has a lower response rate.

Whitman County has the lowest response rate of the three target counties, and is lagging behind both the state and national response rate. During a discussion with Commissioner Sam and Stephen Bischoff, Director of Multicultural Student Services at Washington State University, we discussed ways to tackle this issue. Looking at the map by census tracts, the more dense and urban areas near WSU are relatively high compared to the rest of the county, which is facing the issue of the digital divide and limited outreach. We plan on working with AAPI staff to reach out to student organizations that can help us with organizing and doing outreach within the university. However, we need to hold a follow-up conversation regarding the rest of the county, particularly in forming a strategy in getting out the count in the rural areas of the county.

9. CAPAA EVENTS

CAPAA/APIC Statewide Conversation on Bias in the APA Community & State Violence
Date/Time TBD, @ Online

PI Statewide Conversation on Access to Health & Human Services
Monday, July 27
5:00 – 7:00 PM @ Online

AA Statewide Conversation on Access to Health & Human Services
Monday, July 27, 2020
Time TBD @ Online

September Public Board Meeting – Yakima County (Elections)
Saturday, September 12, 2020 (2nd Saturday)
10:00 – 2:00
Fil-Am Yakima 211 W 2nd St. Wapato, WA 98951

November Public Board Meeting – Snohomish County
Saturday, November 14th, 2020 (2nd Saturday)
10:00 – 2:00
Everett Community College (Exact Room TBD)

End of Year Celebration
TBD
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<td>4/8/2020</td>
<td>Lydia Lafaitele Faitalia</td>
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