



**Washington State Commission  
on Asian Pacific American Affairs**

# **Executive Director's Report**

**September 12, 2020**

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September Public Board Meeting: ONLINE

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Improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by examining issues, advancing advocacy, and ensuring access to government.

## Executive Director's Report

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Executive Director's report to the Commission covering activities, progress, and updates from June 27, 2020 to September 11, 2020.

### 1. STAFF AND COMMISSION ACTIVITY

**Commissioner Activity:** Commissioners submitted activity reports for the time period of June 20, 2020 – September 4, 2020. Total events reported = 110; Activity Report response rate = 100% (12/12 respondents). Details of Commissioner Activity can be found in Appendix I.

**Appointments:** The following is a list of notable updates regarding CAPAA appointments:

- Dr. Ann Ishimaru was appointed to represent CAPAA upon the OSPI Family Engagement Framework Workgroup.
- Adrienne Wat was appointed to represent CAPAA upon Seattle University's Race & Criminal Justice System Task Force 2.0, led by Director Lorraine Bannai of the Fred Korematsu Center for Justice.
- Raj Manhas resigned from his position as the Asian community representative upon the Ethnic Studies Workgroup.
- Lynette Finau resigned from her position as the Pacific Islander community representative upon the Ethnic Studies Workgroup.

The work of the Ethnic Studies workgroup is temporarily on hold, but will re-boot in late September. CAPAA hopes to have two new appointees by then.

**Staffing Updates:** Due to statewide budget constraints, the 3% general wage increase for the Executive Director and Project Manager have been cancelled. Additionally, all staff were furloughed for 1d/wk during the month of July. All staff will continue to take one furlough day each month through November.

### 2. FINANCE

The August 2020 Financial Status Report shows CAPAA is in good financial condition, and on track to use approximately all of its appropriation, remaining in good financial condition until the end of the year.

CAPAA has not been asked by the state to make any cuts for the FY20. 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 for FY21. This worst-case-scenario could mean closing CAPAA's physical office, 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. COMMUNICATIONS

**Website:** CAPAA's website has been updated to reflect the following new resources:  
[Languages](#) (WA St. Language Access Plan, LEP community info, improved sample of languages & dialects)  
[Population Data](#) (Demographic Snapshots from 2010 Census, CAPAA 2018 Need Assessment, AAPI Data 2020 State Factsheet)  
New [Commissioner](#) and [Staff](#) information have also been updated.

**Newsletter:** CAPAA's newsletter is sent to the entire e-mail listserv of 2,472 unique contacts (+79) from the March E.D. Report), 2,264 of which are subscribers.

**Facebook:** 1,877 Likes (+46)  
2,059 Follows (+65)

#### Content

**Campaigns:** *Conversations with CAPAA* via Facebook Live:

- Senator Joe Nguyen
- Commissioners Faitalia & Valu
- Commissioner Dinh & Sui-Lan Hookano re: Back to School
- AGO Legislative Director Yasmin Trudeau
- CAAA E.D. Prince & CHA E.D. Siguenza
- FHM: City Councilmembers Cynthia Delostrinos (Tukwila) & Leslie Daus (Bremerton)
- Former Dept. of Ecology Dir. Maia Bellon & Duwamish River cleanup

### 4. COVID-19

**Statewide workgroup on re-opening public schools:** Commissioner Tam Dinh, Commissioner Lydia Faitalia & CAPAA Sili Savusa represent CAPAA upon OSPI's Workgroup on Re-opening Public Schools, and will provide a joint update to CAPAA's Education Committee and Asia Pacific Director's Coalition Education Committees on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 2 PM via Zoom.

**Governor's COVID-19 Social Support Advisory Group:** CAPAA supported the Governor's COVID-19 Social Support Advisory Group by helping host 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. Commissioners Toka Valu, Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Helen Christensen and Carrie Huie-Pascua were instrumental in planning and facilitating the events. Executive Director Hasegawa provided a report-back on the Asian Community Listening Forum to the Advisory Group on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Her presentation can be accessed online at the CAPAA website, at <https://capaa.wa.gov/about/board-meetings/>. PICA Executive Director Joseph Seia reported back to the Advisory Group on the Pacific Islander Community Listening Forum on Friday, September 11. Those materials will be made available online on the CAPAA website.

**Challenges with Employment Security Division:** In light of consistent barriers to service for API and ELL community members, ESD is hiring for bilingual unemployment insurance specialists. Folks with Marshallese, Chuukese, Korean, and Vietnamese language speaking skills are encouraged to apply.

## 5. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

**Special Session** may be called for November, 2020.

**Equity Office Task Force** has concluded its work and filed its final report to the Governor and state legislature. The full report can be accessed online:

- [2020 Equity Office Final Report](#)
- [2020 Equity Office Final Report Appendices](#)

The final report was updated prior to finalization to address many of CAPAA's concerns and reflect many of its recommendations, as presented in a letter to staff and discussed at the final meeting. The final meeting can be watched here: <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2020071131>. Public comment can be watched at approximately the 2:00:00 mark, which includes remarks from the following, who are listed in order of appearance:

- Eddie Rye Jr., Washington State Civil Rights Coalition
- Michael Itti, Chinese Information Service Center
- Commissioner Tam Dinh, Mercer Island School Board
- Hayward Evans, Washington State Civil Rights Coalition
- Senator Bob Hasegawa
- Commission Nam Nguyen, Acting Chair
- Maria Batayola, Asia Pacific Directors Coalition
- David Anitok, Washington State COFA Alliance
- Lin Crowley, APIC South Puget Sound Chapter

Director Hasegawa's comments and a motion to update the final proposal can be watched at the 2:52:00 mark.

## 6. 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 27<sup>th</sup> are as follows:

- Nationally – 65.6% self-response rate
- Washington State – 71.68% self-response rate, 96.8% total response rate
- Clark County – 76.0% self-response rate
- Thurston – 75.0% self-response rate
- Whitman County – 61.5% self-response rate

Washington State is tied for second-best response rate in the country. Clark County has the highest response rates in the state. The response rate in Thurston County is relatively high, and APIC-SPS will soon host another Census 2020 informational session to review efforts and progress to-date.

Whitman County has the lowest response rate of the three target counties, and is lagging behind both the state and national response rate. Rural areas are greatly under-performing as compared to census tracts surrounding Pullman. Door-to-door efforts began in mid-August for non-responsive households or people who require some form of follow-up, which has been helpful. However, environmental conditions make it difficult to continue in-person GOTC efforts.

