Executive Director’s Report

November 14, 2020
Prepared by Toshiko Grace Hasegawa
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Executive Director’s report to the Commission covering activities, progress, and updates from September 12, 2020 to November 13, 2020.

1. STAFF AND COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Commissioner Activity
Commissioners submitted activity reports for the time period of September 5, 2020 to November 6, 2020. Total events reported = 143; 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:

- Sui-Lan Ho’okano was appointed to represent CAPAA upon the OSPI Ethnic Studies Workgroup
- Vesna D. was appointed to represent CAPAA upon the OSPI Ethnic Studies Workgroup

Committees:
- Sili Savusa, Cmmr. Tam Dinh & Commr. Lydia Faitalia held a community report back to CAPAA’s Education Committee, APDC’s Education Committee, & APIC-WA on September 18th regarding the work of OSPI’s Committee on Re-opening Schools.
- Civil Rights & Immigration, Economic Development, Education, Executive, and Health & Human Services committees all established regular virtual meetings. These meetings will be posted publicly to CAPAA’s webpage & shared via the newsletter.

2. FINANCE

The October 2020 Financial Status Report shows CAPAA is in excellent financial condition, and on track to remain in excellent financial condition until the end of the year. Although CAPAA’s budget will not be impacted by cuts this biennium, we are waiting to hear back about FY 22-23. The Governor will release his proposed budgets sometime in the month of December.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Website: CAPAA’s website has been updated to reflect the following new resources:
Commissioner Emeriti Page: https://capaa.wa.gov/commissioner-emeriti/

Newsletter: CAPAA’s newsletter is sent to the entire e-mail listserv of 2,548 unique contacts (+78), 2,323 of which are subscribers.

Facebook: 1,967 Likes (+90)
2,165 Follows (+106)
Social Media Content
Campaigns:

Conversations with CAPAA via Facebook Live:
- Senator Joe Nguyen, 34th LD
- PI’s in public service ft. Commr. Faitalia & Cmmr. Valu
- School Reopening Discussion ft. Sui-Lan Ho’okano & Cmmr. Tam Dinh
- Attorney General’s Office Legislative Director Yasmin Trudeau
- Ethnic Commission Directors: CAAA E.D. Prince & CHA E.D. Siguenza
- Filipino American History Month: Local Pinay Elected Officials City Councilmembers Cynthia Delostrinos (Tukwila) & Leslie Daugs (Bremerton)
- Environmental Justice Discussion: Former Dept. of Ecology Dir. Maia Bellon
- Filipino American History Month: The inception of CAPAA & the legacy of advocacy ft. Pio DeCano III & Cmmr. Julio Diaz
- Storytelling with Cindy Domingo & David Della

Filipino American History Month Capstone Event: The History of the Alaskan Cannery workers, the summary executions of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, and the Anti-Marcos movement, ft. community leader Cindy Domingo & former CAPAA E.D. David Della, facilitated by Nick Vann of the Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

4. COVID-19

Small Business Resource Phone Bank
In an effort to raise awareness of relief services offered by the state, CAPAA staff and volunteers designed and implemented a phone bank to over 100 APA businesses to raise connect them with CBO’s that can provide them with technical support, as well as the grant relief opportunities being offered by the state. The phone bank targeted businesses identified in Clark, Thurston and Whitman counties through our 2019 Needs Assessment.

Statewide workgroup on re-opening public schools
Commissioner Tam Dinh, Commissioner Lydia Faitalia & CAPAA’s 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 18th, 1 – 2 PM via Zoom.

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. CAPAA advocated to ESD on the importance of hiring community folks to promote access to critical services, and helped promote the job opportunity via its newsletter.

UW Survey on Prevalence of Covid-19 in Washington State
The University of Washington has been hired by the state to conduct a statewide survey that will a) produce a fuller picture of the prevalence of COVID-19 and b) provide insight into our immune systems’ response to the virus. Individuals who choose to participate from randomly selected households will undergo confidential nasal swabs and blood draws to identify COVID-19 infection and presence of antibodies against COVID-19. For your reference, the study is planning to allocate additional tests as needed to estimate COVID-19 prevalence in the highly impacted African American, Latinx, and Native American populations. CAPAA staff expressed concern that there is no recognition for the role of Asian
and Pacific Islanders – especially COFA islanders – as a highly impacted population, and provided multiple resources demonstrating the disparities, including:

- PI Task Force Report, which was recently published and describes disparities in detail;
- Analysis from Public Health — Seattle & King County showing that the NHPI community faces a disproportionate number of cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19. Please see the following article: King County has big racial disparities in coronavirus cases and deaths, according to public-health data, via Seattle Times;
- In Spokane County, NHPI people make up less than 1% of the population but make up nearly a third of cases. See this article by the Spokesman and KHQ;
- According to Refugee & Immigrant Services NW, in the last week of June, 71 Marshallese community members visited the drive-thru testing site in Snohomish County. Disturbingly, of this number, 28/71 (39%) tested positive for COVID-19;
- DOH number of cases in the NHPI community: 615 total confirmed cases, 80 hospitalizations, 12 deaths. Last updated June 22, 11:59 PM; https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/DataDashboard

CAPAA staff and Commissioners met with the research leads, Ms. Cheryl Dietrich and Dr. Keith Jerome to talk about the importance of capturing disaggregated data on the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Staff and Commissioners also requested to stay engaged on the public engagement component to ensure we are maximizing participation from our community members in the survey.

Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution
National efforts are underway to develop a COVID-19 vaccine to protect communities against the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is creating a plan for how to prioritize COVID-19 vaccine. CAPAA provided support to the DoH in its efforts to gain public input on 1) Recommendations on how COVID-19 vaccine should be prioritized across WA; and 2) Insight into how people are currently feeling about the vaccine in general. CAPAA staff and Commissioners participated in focus groups, invited DoH to attend existing committee, advisory group, council, or partner meeting to solicit feedback from attendees, and helped disseminate a public survey to reach broader API/NHPI communities.

Washington State Board of Health/Department of Health Notifiable Conditions Rules Update
In July, the WA State Board of Health adopted an emergency rule for COVID-19 reporting, which explicitly makes COVID-19 a notifiable condition. Labs, providers, and facilities must report COVID-19 results and include certain demographic information in those results, including a patient’s race, ethnicity, and primary language. Collection of disaggregated race and ethnicity data would help the state to understand which communities are hit hardest by the pandemic, and helps public health agencies prioritize resources to reduce disparities and conduct outreach that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. The Board’s emergency rule became effective on July 31, 2020 and expires on November 28, 2020.

After adoption of the emergency rule, DoH staff were made aware of unforeseen staffing changes at the Department as well as system limitations that prevented full implementation of the emergency rule requirements. Staff learned that the collection of data components outside of what is federally required, including detailed race, ethnicity, and language data, “is not feasible at this time.” The draft emergency rule is currently open for informal public comment. To ensure the work is community-informed, E.D. Hasegawa, Commissioner Dinh & Commissioner Faitalia attended an informational & listening session hosted by DoH on 10/26 to receive a briefing and provide input on behalf of the Commission.
5. REVIEWING APPLICATIONS FOR STATE JOBS AND GRANTS

**WA Immigrant Relief Fund**
Live on 10/23, this $40 million fund was created for the sole purpose of providing assistance to individuals that have been impacted by COVID and were left out of the stimulus package and were unable to access unemployment insurance. Commissioner Huie-Pascua sat on the proposal review committee to select a successful bidder. A community-based organization was selected & in the process of rolling out the grant opportunities. Legal Foundation of Washington was the selected bidder and will sub-contract with OneAmerica, NW Immigrants Rights Project, ACRS, Nuestra Casa (Yakima County) and Raiz Planned Parenthood (Spokane County) to help distribute $38,000,000 to families and individuals in need of support and who meet the criteria. The following is the link to apply: [https://immigrantreliefwa.org/](https://immigrantreliefwa.org/). To date, $5,000,000 has been distributed with 30,000 unique applications received.

**Filipino Historical Preservation Grant**
Commissioner Carrie-Huie Pascua advised the WA State Dept. of Archaeology and Historical Preservation on a $50,000 grant opportunity on a project to promote the story of Filipino Americans in Washington State. The RFP was published at the beginning of October and remained open through the end of the month. Commissioner Carrie-Huie Pascua and Commissioner Julio Diaz are slated to participate as part of the proposal review committee.

**Health Care Authority Request for Proposal: COFA Outreach Specialist**
The HCA will soon be issuing an RFP to hire a COFA Outreach Specialist. E.D. Hasegawa & Cmmr. Huie-Pascua are reviewing the draft RFP prior to publication and providing input. The RFP will go live sometime in December. CAPAA may need to identify volunteers to review RFP’s. Staff will share information about the RFP when it becomes available.

**Washington State Women’s Commission Director**
E.D. Hasegawa participated as a member of the interview panel to hire the Washington State Women’s Commission vacant Director position. Subsequently, Governor Jay Inslee appointed Regina Malveaux in September, 2020 and is stationed in Olympia, WA.

**Equity Office Director**
Applications to serve as the Equity Office Director are now open and accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. ED. Hasegawa sat upon the review panel screening all applications and making recommendations for interviews. Because a member of CAPAA applied, staff will not participate in the applicant interview process.

**DoH COFA Program Manager**
HCA received approval to fill a COFA Health Care & Dental Program Manager that has been vacant since June. CAPAA staff and Commissioners advised on the position description and helped promote the opportunity via its newsletter. The posting was live during the month of October and interviews are currently being held.
6. ADVOCACY

2021 Legislative Session
- No in-person meetings
- Buildings closed to lobbyists and public
- Meetings with constituents and legislators will be held remotely. Each building entrance will have information to help members of the public contact their legislators (phone numbers, e-mails, etc.).
- The Senate will livestream all floor and committee action to a Senate YouTube channel. TVW will also broadcast all floor and committee action via their cable and web streaming platforms. Credentialed members of the Capitol Press Corps will be permitted to observe floor action from the Senate gallery. No more than six members of the press may be present in the gallery at a time.
- Masks will be required of members, staff and press at all times.

The 2021 legislative session will provide members of the public with the opportunity to sign in and testify directly from their homes, places of business, or wherever is most convenient for them. Using the electronic sign-in process already utilized by legislative committees, the public will be able to sign-in up to one hour in advance of a scheduled committee meeting to receive a unique Zoom link. Chairs will then decide the order and length of public testimony as would be the case with an in-person committee meeting.

CAPAA 2021 Legislative & Budget Priorities
CAPAA Project Manager Mai will compile a list of legislative issues from various sources to compose CAPAA’s legislative priority list, which will serve as the agency’s legislative advocacy guide during the 2021 legislative session. The Priority List will be presented to the full board at the January 2021 Public Board Meeting. Sources include (but are not limited to):
- Police Accountability TF recommendations (independent investigations)
- Police accountability reforms (broader)
- Equity Office
- CAPAA Funding
- COFA Health Care & Dental
- Funding CBO’s to provide COVID-19 relief
- Small/Minority business COVID-19 relief
- State Bank
- Ins Commissioner piece
- APIC
- PICA
- MOCC

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Proposed Bill Language Naming CAPAA
WASPC proposed bill language that would make CAPAA and the other Ethnic Commissions responsible for organizing, launching and maintaining a statewide program to improve community-police relations. CAPAA provided its formal feedback on 11/2 sent to WASPC Policy Director James McMahan expressing our opposition to their proposed bill language. A copy of our feedback can be found in Appendix II.

Police Accountability Task Force
E.D. Hasegawa serves as an advisor upon this task force, and Puao Savusa is a voting task force member representing CAPAA. The task force has met every two weeks since September and will soon finalize its recommendations to the Governor on how to improve systems for police accountability in
Washington State, including independent investigations and prosecutions of police. Civil Rights Committee members will meet with Puao soon.

**Suicide Prevention Workgroup**

An effort is underway to update training around suicide prevention and treatment modalities. Addressed under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2411, the Department of Health is required to adopt minimum standards for advanced training in treatment modalities shown to be effective in working with suicidal individuals by January 1, 2021. The first of these 2 sessions took place on October 27, 2020, where the background and workgroup content was outlined, an overview of tasks to be accomplished during the 10/29 session were offered, and any preparatory questions were answered. The second session took place on October 29, 2020, and it was a focused work session to draft proposed minimum standards language for advanced training, and training in treatment modalities shown to be effective in working with people who are suicidal. CAPAA Project Manager Brenda O’Brien has been CAPAA’s rep at both these meetings. Though the required training is geared more towards the licensed mental health professionals that are required by the bill to take it, the workgroup is comprised of both licensed professionals and those that serve individuals who are more at risk of expressing suicidal ideations. As a result, it provides an important opportunity to help influence and shape the language and considerations that should be included in serving specific communities, when the final training standards are drafted.

**COFA Health Care & Dental**

Open enrollment began November 1. This is the time for people that have COFA Islander Health Care to update their application, pick a new plan and enroll in a dental plan. The community has until 12/15/20 to apply and pick a plan for a January start date and until 01/15/20 for a February start date. CAPAA is playing a supportive role to community and the HCA in promoting awareness and outreach efforts.

7. **CENSUS 2020 FULL COUNT EFFORTS**

The Supreme Court ruled to allow the Trump administration to shut down the census count before October 31. As a result, Census taking efforts ended on October 15th.

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 – 67% self-response rate
- Washington State – 72.4% self-response rate, 99.9% total response rate
- Clark County – 76.7% self-response rate
- Thurston – 75.7% self-response rate
- Whitman County 62.2% self-response rate

The Census Bureau reports that 99.9% of households in Washington have been enumerated. Of that number, 72.4% have responded on their own, including 62.5% that responded online and another 9.9% that responded by phone or by mail. The other 27.5% of households were accounted for through the Non-Response Follow Up operation that began on July 23.

**Self-Response Good News**

Washington was second in the nation in terms of self-response – and it exceeded its 2010 mailback response rate by 5.2%. Twenty-five (25) of 39 counties met and exceeded their 2010 mailback response rates, as did 19 of the 24 tribal areas that the Census Bureau tracked. The five leading counties in the state were: **Clark (76.7%), King (76.4%), Snohomish (75.8%), Thurston (75.7%) and Benton (75.3%).** See attached for county and tribal self-response rates, which could change slightly as the Census Bureau is still accepting paper forms mailed by October 15 and received by October 22.
Self-Response Challenges
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 tracks 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.


CAPAA is interested in partnering with an independent entity to capture API community demographical information based upon Census 2020 data that could be useful to state agencies, the governor and legislature when serving the API community. This would be the third installation of a quadrennial needs assessment of the API community as funded by the state. The project would begin once Census Data becomes available (February or March 2021) and conclude no later than June 2021.

9. **EVENTS**

**2020 CAPAA Holiday Social**
Wednesday, December 9, 5 – 6 PM via ZOOM

**E.D. Hasegawa Due Date**
Friday, December 18, 2020 – Parental Leave begins on birthday

**CAPAA Closes to Observe the Holiday Season:**
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020
Christmas Day, December 25, 2020
New Year’s Day, January 1, 2021

**First Day of Legislative Session**
Monday, January 11, 2021

**2021 Public Board Meeting Schedule**
January 23, 2021 10:00 – 2:00 KING COUNTY
March 20, 2021 10:00 – 2:00 PIERCE COUNTY
June 26, 2021 10:00 – 2:00 SPOKANE COUNTY
September 18, 2021 10:00 – 2:00 YAKIMA COUNTY
November 20, 2021 10:00 – 2:00 SNOHOMISH COUNTY

**2021 Statewide Elected Officials of Color Reception**
TBD
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<th>Name of Activity</th>
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<td>APC Democracy Day Summit</td>
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Dear Policy Director McMahan,

On behalf of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA), thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)’s proposed law enforcement reforms, which we received from you via e-mail on October 5, 2020.

CAPAA is a state agency whose mission is to improve the lives of Asian Pacific Americans in Washington State. We advise the Governor, State Legislature, and all other state agencies on law, programs, and policies affecting Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Over the years, CAPAA has proactively participated in a number of state-level efforts to bring law enforcement and communities together to work on solutions to complex policing issues. These efforts include the 2016 Task Force on Deadly Force, the 2019 Negotiated Rulemaking process led by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), and the 2020 Police Accountability Task Force.

We reviewed the proposed bill language offered in Point 12 of the “defining the role of law enforcement” section of your proposal. For easy reference, click here for text of your proposed bill language. Our feedback is outlined below.

1) The proposed bill lacks specificity, vision, goals and direction.

No justification is given as to why CAPAA is the most appropriate entity to house a statewide program. Mandating CAPAA to launch such a program instead of law enforcement negates the need for community trust-building programs to be adopted by law enforcement directly, as a part of their primary function. It is CAPAA’s position that law enforcement must embrace its own charge in proactively leading the effort to improve community-police relations. Law enforcement is an arm of government tasked with serving all members of the public. Instead of mandating that CAPAA launch and manage a new program to improve community-police relations, we recommend law enforcement promotes conduits for the public to engage and inform the CJTC, Washington State Patrol and other law enforcement entities on policing issues including: hiring panels, training curriculum development, independent investigations, officer discipline, police agency oversight, participation in use of force and driving review boards, and community advisory boards. It is important that community has entry points to overseeing, advising, and participating with the policing systems they don’t trust.
During the negotiated rulemaking process, the CJTC had rejected the notion of a statewide training program whereby new officers would complete community service hours by engaging with diverse communities to improve their cultural competency (and community-police relations). The CJTC argued that such training should happen in a localized context and tailored to the jurisdiction where the officers are slated to serve. It was generally accepted by the stakeholders engaged in the negotiated rule making process that this sort of community-building would be best championed by local departments, as opposed to a statewide entity. In this way, asking CAPAA to champion a statewide program to improve community-police relations falls short of addressing the nuances between departments, geographic regions, and communities. Furthermore, CAPAA is not an entity to oversee local programs.

WASPC offers no specific objectives on the statewide engagement program. Without vision, objectives, deliverables or strategies in mind from WASPC or law enforcement, CAPAA isn’t equipped with the directive needed to successfully construct, launch and manage a meaningful, effective program.

2) The bill’s mandate is not inclusive of all the necessary stakeholders and champions of this work.

This law would give CAPAA a leadership role in the effort to improve community-police relations. Although we appreciate that you considered engagement with Asian and Pacific Islander communities, this proposal undermines the important leadership role of community-based organizations, grass roots leaders and law enforcement entities who have championed this effort so far. Glaringly, it doesn’t account for the many important stakeholder groups who deserve visibility and should be engaged when addressing issues of improving public trust in policing, including (but not limited to) immigrants and refugees, LGTBQIA+ populations, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues, and transient populations.

As you know, in February 2019, HB 1064 was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee, and the CJTC opted into a negotiated rule making process to update the state’s rules on police training, which included parameters on cultural competency training. As a participant in that process, CAPAA helped identify stakeholders that law enforcement should continuously engage. WASPC should aim to engage stakeholders as listed in the updated rules for police training in WAC 139.11 (m – s), which was voted upon and passed unanimously by the CJTC in 2019.

In Section 1.2 of your proposed bill draft, you state that the media has, “a direct advertising driven profit motive to facilitate and exacerbate mistrust between the public and the police.” If this is truly your view, representatives of the media must be engaged. Addressing the
role of media in shaping public perceptions and narratives is not directly within the scope of CAPAA’s mission nor is it a part of our strategic plan.

**In sum, CAPAA should be removed from the bill language.** In its pursuit to meaningfully engage communities, CAPAA is committed to supporting law enforcement as it supports all state agencies: by opening the doors of stakeholders, offering perspectives from Asian and Pacific American communities, and advising in efforts to serve our diverse constituency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this legislation. We appreciate your consideration of our feedback and remain committed to working with you and others towards the shared goal of achieving meaningful reforms.

Sincerely,

Toshiko Hasegawa  
Executive Director

Nam Nguyen  
CAPAA Chair

Lydia Faitalia  
CAPAA 1st Vice Chair  
Civil Rights Committee Chair

Ekkarath Sisavatdy  
CAPAA 2nd Vice Chair

Ping Ping  
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