



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
Saturday, September 12, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Zoom Conference Call

**I. Call to Order**

Quorum reached at 10:00 AM. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM.

*Present:* Acting Chair/1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Nam Nguyen, 2nd Vice Chair Lori Wada, Commissioners Carrie Huie-Pascua, Tam Dinh, Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Lydia Faitalia, Lalita Uppala, Helen Christensen, Sam Cho, Toka Valu, Ping Ping, and Julio Diaz.

*Absent:* None

*Staff:* Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager Rosa Mai, Project Coordinator Brenda O'Brien

**II. Welcome/New Commissioner Intros**

Commissioner Ping Ping, representing Spokane County:

Cmmr. Ping was born and raised in China, and came to Spokane in 2001. She has a PhD in Sociology and is currently teaching at Spokane Falls Community College. As an immigrant herself, she has firsthand knowledge of experiencing life as an immigrant and being viewed as a foreigner. Spokane has 88% of its population identifying as white, and the API Community is small. They will get together to celebrate their own holidays, but do not get together to discuss their hopes, experiences, and the common issues that they face as an API community. She would like to go on record to state that the Chinese people are also interested in making a better and safer Washington. She considers it a privilege and honor to serve her community as voice for the API Community. Her hopes include being able to unite them and instill a stronger desire to participate in civil issues, pursuing justice for all POC, and advocating for human rights.

Commissioner Toka Valu, representing South King County:

Cmmr. Valu came to the US in 1997 with his late mother as a young teenager. He is Tongan, which is in the South Pacific Seas. Who he is and how he moves through the world is informed very strongly by his native Tongan values. He is thankful for the work CAPAA does and is looking forward to taking part and learning how he can be best of help to his community.



Commissioner Julio Diaz, representing King County:

Cmmr. Diaz works for the Weyerhaeuser Corporation and is Chair for the Federal Way Civil Service Commission. He is also active in the Filipino Community in Seattle. He has been getting familiar with everything CAPAA has been doing and is looking forward to working with the Commission for the next three years.

### **III. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made at 10:11 AM by Cmmr. Faitalia. Seconded by Cmmr. Huie-Pascua. *Motion passed unanimously.*

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve last meeting minutes made at 10:12 AM by Vice Chair Wada. Seconded by Cmmr. Cho. *Motion passed unanimously.*

### **IV. Committee Reports**

Civil Rights and Immigration Committee: Since June, Acting Chair Nguyen served as the Interim Chair to this committee, after the resignation of Cmmr. Sina Sam. During that time, there have been two issues the committee has addressed. One was in response to an anti-Muslim message from a local organization. A letter condemning the Islamophobic message was signed off on by CAPAA and various other organizations. Other anti-racism issues around the state are continuing to be monitored by the committee, and a forum on Anti-Blackness in the APA Community was hosted by CAPAA in August.

Economic Development Committee: Cmmr. Cho reports that the Keep Washington Working Work Group met a few weeks ago. A report for the state legislature is being worked on that is required to be published and delivered to them by the end of the year. Cmmr. Cho has been strongly focusing on small business access and support for communities of color and those that are underserved.

Another focus of the group has been on the analysis of the desegregation data, which has been challenging due to the diversity of the API community. There simply is not granular enough data to determine which communities are being disproportionately affected by the pandemic and/or need assistance as small business owners. One thing that will be called for are for agencies, like the Dept. of Commerce, to find ways to collect data than just checking of an AAPI box on a form.

Cmmr. Cho has also been pushing for rural broadband access. COVID-19 has really magnified the areas that the broadband infrastructure has underserved. Students that live in rural areas trying to access online learning are at a great disadvantage, and it is an issue of inequity among communities. Keep Washington Working will include this as a component on the plan being developed.



Lastly, the committee has been working on making more translated resources available for small business owners. Cmmr. Wada has been working with L&I on training our community on the regulations. The challenge has been that updates on regulations do not always get passed on to small business owners of color in a way they can digest quickly. This can result in fines being charged to them on changes that they were not aware of. Keep Washington Working will work on having resources available in the primary language of these small business owners.

With the retirement of a few commissioners, the Economic Development Committee is a bit thin. Cmmr. Cho is sending out a call to join the committee, especially towards the new commissioners.

Cmmr. Wada reports that she has been working with Commerce on the CARES Act, which provides funding to small businesses affected by the pandemic. She has been working closely with both Commerce and the Korean Women's Association, and a contract was just finalized to assist Korean small business owners. Since last Friday, they have received 140 phone calls inquiring about assistance. There appears to be a desperate need to help small businesses who have closed or are on the verge of closing. The situation being dire, Cmmr. Wada would like to second the call to join the committee. There is a real need to be able to assist business owners access the funding available.

Education Committee: Cmmr. Sisavatty reports that the committee is currently a part of 10 work groups, committees, and task forces. The full list of groups can be accessed on our webpage [here](#). For this report, he specifically wants to highlight the work being done with these groups:

- Family Engagement Framing Work Group- Dr. Ann Ishimaru was just recently appointed into this group. It exists to help identify the engagement for early learning to high school. Best practices are being looked at from not only our state, but nationally, to determine what to implement in Washington.
- Family Engagement-Reopening Washington Schools Work Group- Thanks to the participation of Cmmrs. Dinh and Faitalia, we were able to work with OSPI to become a part of this group.
- Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee- We just met with Cambodian Coalition of Washington, which is doing phenomenal work. We felt empowered by their efforts and advocacy, so we invited them to identify Khmer educators who might be interested in joining this work group. Sui-lan Ho'okano was also invited to join, based on the recommendation of Cmmr. Faitalia. Currently, the work on this committee is on a halt, but we are planning to reconvene this month.
- Finally, there will be a Zoom meeting taking place Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-2 pm with the EOGOAC and Reopening Washington Schools Group. Cmmrs. Dinh and Faitalia will be providing updates and we would like to invite everyone to come who would like to attend.

Health & Human Services Committee: Cmmr. Dinh reports that as a result of COVID, much of the work being done has been in responding to the crisis. This has the committee spread out addressing many



different issues ensuring that the voices of the API Community are heard. Her plan is to gather the committee after the Board Meeting and get updates on the concerns being tackled.

Census 2020 Ad Hoc Committee: ED Hasegawa reports that the work of this committee has been tremendous. CAPAA has adopted three counties that have been identified as having substantial populations of both AA's and PI's, who are at risk for an undercount. We dedicated funding and hired an independent contractor to help assess the needs and create a strategic "Get Out the Count" plan to achieve a full count of Asians and Pacific Islanders in these counties. With the resignation of Sina Sam, there is a crucial need for connection to be reestablished in Whitman County, as Eastern Washington is underperforming on the census.

Cmmr. Wada reports that she has been tracking census response rates, both throughout the state and nationally. The data shows that some of the more rural areas are not completing the census as well as cities in Western Washington. They have also been utilizing methods such as car caravans to target areas that have had lower response rates. The caravans have been successful, as areas visited showed an increase in census rates the following week.

## V. Elections

September is when we transition leadership within CAPAA. Currently, the positions for Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair are open. We also have various leadership and membership positions for our committees that need to be determined today.

- Chair- Cmmr. Cho nominates Nam Nguyen. Seconded by Cmmr. Sisavatdy. Cmmr. Nguyen accepts the nomination. No other nominations are given. Motion is passed unanimously with one abstention from Cmmr. Nguyen.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair- Cmmr. Wada nominates Lydia Faitalia. Seconded by Cmmr. Dinh. Cmmr. Faitalia accepts the nomination. No other nominations given. Motion is passed unanimously with no abstentions.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair- Cmmr. Wada nominates Carrie Huie-Pascua. Seconded by Cmmr. Cho. Cmmr. Huie-Pascua respectfully declines the nomination. Cmmr. Christensen nominates Ekk Sisavatdy. Seconded by Cmmr. Dinh, Cmmr. Sisavatdy accepts the nomination. No other nominations given. Motion is passed unanimously with no abstentions.
- Committees- All commissioners are encouraged and required to join at least one committee. Multiple committees can be joined to determine which one best suit your role and interests.
  - Civil Rights & Immigration- Cmmrs. Faitalia and Uppala have chosen to remain on the committee along with Cmmr. Nguyen, who has been acting as Interim Chair. Cmmrs. Diaz. and Ping join as new committee members.
  - Economic Development- Cmmr. Wada lobbies the call to join: There is a lot of support needed by the API Committee and opportunities from the government to grant that



support. The API Community is not as easily connected to those, due to factors like the language barrier, so there is a real need for advocacy for them.

- Cmmr. Cho adds that with COVID-19 and record unemployment, the work of this committee has faced its most important role since he joined. ED Hasegawa interjects a Point of Information. CAPAA is a point of contact for the Dept. of Commerce in regards to the distribution of CARES Act funding. It is incredibly important for us to liaison with the small businesses that we are seeking to serve, so I implore any commissioner who works in an organization that is in contract with Commerce to join.

Cmmrs. Wada and Cho have chosen to remain on the committee. Cmmrs. Diaz, Faitalia, and Uppala join as new committee members.

- Education- As stated earlier, a lot of work has been done, but there still remains much to be done in the coming year. Cmmrs. Sisavatdy, Dinh, and Faitalia are the current members and they will remain on. Cmmrs. Ping and Valu join the committee as new members.
- Health & Human Services- Cmmrs. Dinh, Huie-Pascua, Wada, Faitalia, Christensen, and Valu are currently serving on this committee. All will remain. Cmmr. Sisavatdy joins as a new committee member.
- Census 2020- Cmmrs. Huie-Pascua, Nguyen, Christensen, Dinh and Faitalia will remain on this committee. Cmmrs. Ping, Valu and Sisavatdy join the committee as new members.

Normally, at this point, the committees would break out into groups to elect their chairs concurrently. Due to being online, however, we will elect committee chairs in sequence. ED Hasegawa adds a Point of Information. New commissioners may nominate themselves as chair. You were appointed for your leadership abilities and commitment to serve, so if you have the vision and the capacity, you are welcome to nominate yourself.

- **Committee Chairs**

- Civil Rights & Immigration- Cmmr. Faitalia nominates herself for chair. No other nominations given. Committee unanimously votes to appoint nomination with no abstentions.
- Economic Development- Cmmr. Wada nominates Cmmr. Diaz. Seconded by Cmmr. Cho. Cmmr. Diaz accepts. No other nominations given. Committee unanimously votes in approval with no abstentions.



- Education- Cmmr. Dinh nominates Cmmr. Sisavatdy to continue as chair. Seconded by Cmmr. Faitalia. Cmmr. Sisavatdy accepts. No other nominations given. Committee unanimously votes to appoint nomination with no abstentions.
- Health & Human Services- Cmmr. Christensen nominates Cmmr. Dinh. Seconded by Cmmr. Huie-Pascua. Cmmr. Dinh would like to decline and nominate Cmmr. Valu. Seconded by Cmmr. Faitalia. Cmmr. Valu accepts. No other nominations given. Committee unanimously votes to appoint nomination with no abstentions.
- Census 2020- Cmmr. Nguyen nominates Cmmr. Huie-Pascua. No other nominations given. Cmmr. Huie-Pascua accepts. Committee unanimously votes to appoint nomination with no abstentions.

## **VI. Public Comment**

Jen Cole, from Snohomish County- As someone who has served on various workgroups advocating for access, equity, and for our students, I appreciate the work being done by the commissioners in education. Currently, I've been working with my son's school in supporting his learning at home. My son needs special education and it has been a struggle to ensure access to online learning. Our state ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation in providing access to students with disabilities and it is impacted even more now with the pandemic. I have a specific concern for access to sexual education. Despite Senate Bill 5395 having been passed, there is now a measure on the ballot seeking to repeal it. It is critical, now more than ever, that students have access to this education while homebound, as it is medically and scientifically accurate, inclusive of gender identity, defines what sexual consent is, and teaches what sexual violence entails. I thank ACRS and APIC for approving Referendum 90.

Cmmr. Dinh responds to public comment by asking if there are any particular strategies Ms. Cole would recommend in helping to amplify her voice on this issue. Further conversation on this is welcome by her and the committee.

## **VII. E.D. Report**

E.D. Hasegawa provides verbal overview of her written report at 11:28 AM.

## **Q&A**

Commr. Dinh encourages the new commissioners to read the report relating to the Office of Equity Task Force and see the evolution of the work that was done. It is a great example of how our advocacy has fundamentally shifted the focus onto the best implementation of a solution. It significantly reinforced the need for offices at the highest government levels and the systems in place to be accountable to the



communities, honor the existing work being done, and consider how funding and resources are best allocated.

Commr. Huie-Pascua adds that the work, report, and the final meeting culminated in showing just how connected CAPAA is to its community. It was an amazing example of uplifting and showcasing the voices of the people we represent. We really need to keep up those relationships because it works.

Commr. Wada comments that she has been with the agency for almost nine years. What she sees differently now is that not only are we well connected with the communities, but that ED Hasegawa has done a great job engaging in liaison work with other state agencies, such as Commerce and ESD. Without the liaison work of ED Hasegawa, those agencies would not have come to CAPAA seeking our input and help, especially during a critical time such as this. In the nine years here, she has not seen other state agencies come to us like they have with the CARES Act, to include us in their policies and programs. At this stage of her appointment, she is very pleased to see how well rounded CAPAA has become in its role in serving our communities.

#### **VIII. Good of the Order**

Commr. Diaz comments that as he's been listening today, he has gotten a good sense of the work CAPAA is doing and of the Commission. He really appreciates being able to be a part of this group.

Commr. Valu comments that in a lot of API spaces, it has sometimes been deflating to be the only Pacifica voice in the room, and not have their voices heard. He'd like to thank ED Hasegawa for not only elevating their voices, but also lending credibility to them as ones that should not be erased.

Chair Nguyen closes with the final comment. This time has been the most challenging time that he seen this country face, in his lifetime. It seems we are at a breaking point, which is why he appreciates all of our work. It is what keeps this nation a multi-racial, multi-ethnic society. He would like to continue working with former Chairs Lisa Dickinson and Ty before him. He hopes to be able to empower all of us as well, to do the important work we do.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made at 12:02 PM by Commr. Wada.

Commr. Faitalia seconds.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **X. Chat Box Transcript**

From CAPAA CAPAA to Everyone: 09:59 AM

Please sign card for Lisa

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/bb8cccd5eee7b91>



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

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 10:05 AM  
Welcome Commissioner Ping Ping, Commissioner Valu  
From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 10:16 AM  
Commissioner Valu is logging back in right now. He was booted

From Toshiko Hasegawa, CAPAA to Everyone: 10:19 AM  
Thank you Cmmr Faitalia!  
From Yolonda -WSDOT to Everyone: 10:21 AM  
The 24th annual Washington State Biz Fair will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 10  
from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. It is presented by Score, Small Business Liaison Team, ESD, L & I, and  
Greater Seattle. No cost to attend. Questions and information. [www.bizfair.org](http://www.bizfair.org) or  
[info@bizfair.org](mailto:info@bizfair.org)

From Toshiko Hasegawa, CAPAA to Everyone: 10:25 AM  
thank you Yolonda. Di you have a flyer you can email me? We'll be glad to distribute:  
[Toshiko.hasegawa@capaa.wa.gov](mailto:Toshiko.hasegawa@capaa.wa.gov)

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 10:36 AM  
Thank you Team! It is an honor  
From Tam Dinh to Everyone: 10:38 AM

What a great executive team. Thank you Commissioners Nam, Lydia, and Ekk for your  
service.

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone: 10:39 AM  
Congratulations CAPAA Leadership Team!  
From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone: 10:39 AM  
Congratulations to a great executive team!  
From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 10:44 AM  
Thank you Commissioner Dinh , Comm. Uppala and Comm. Pascua,  
I'd like to join Economic Development  
From Commissioner Sisavatdy to Everyone: 10:49 AM  
Thank you Commissioner's Valu, Ping, Faitalia, Dinh!  
From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 10:52 AM  
Go ahead Commissioner Dinh  
From Jen Cole (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 10:57 AM  
This is Jen Cole, I would like to make public comment during the forum  
From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 10:58 AM  
Thank you Team  
From Ping Ping to Everyone: 10:59 AM  
Thank you Lydia for your leadership!  
From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:00 AM  
Thank you Commissioner Ping Ping. I am so excited to work alongside you and our team  
From Tam Dinh to Everyone: 11:03 AM





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

New chairs, thank you for stepping up to lead us. Please know that we are all here to work alongside you.

From Toka Valu to Everyone: 11:04 AM

Thank you, team!

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:15 AM

Commissioner Pascua, thank you for sharing this vital information

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone: 11:15 AM

Thank you Commissioners for your joining the census committee.

From Lisa Jill Dickinson to Everyone: 11:15 AM

Just wanted to say hello and thank the Commission for the gifts and say hello to the new Commissioners! You are all in great hands with Comm. Nguyen at the helm.

From Tam Dinh to Everyone: 11:16 AM

Thank you Commissioner Pascua for your tirelessly advocacy and work.

From Jen Cole (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 11:19 AM

Thank you for accepting my public comment

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:19 AM

Hi Chair Dickinson!

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone: 11:20 AM

Thank You Chair Dickinson for your outstanding leadership

From Tam Dinh to Everyone: 11:20 AM

We miss you former Chair Dickinson. Thank you for your service and leadership. We misssss you.

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:20 AM

Thank you Jen, look forward to connecting

From Commissioner Sisavatdy to Everyone: 11:21 AM

So great to hear from you, we miss you Lisa!

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 11:22 AM

Thank you Ms. Cole for your speech! It is very important issues, hope to follow up with you.

Thank you Lisa for everything!!

From Lisa Jill Dickinson to Everyone: 11:24 AM

Thanks all, I look forward to admiring your work from outside! I'm also available if there are outside liaison positions in regard to economic development. I miss you all!

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone: 11:25 AM

Thank you Lisa for all you do!

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:25 AM

We MISS YOU Chair Lisa Dickinson

From Dori Peralta Baker to Everyone: 11:26 AM

Dori Peralta Baker, APIC-Yakima [doribaker2020@gmail.com](mailto:doribaker2020@gmail.com)

From Jen Cole (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 11:26 AM

Jen Cole (Snohomish County) [jennifer.c.cole@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.c.cole@gmail.com)

From Tonisha Simmons to Everyone: 11:27 AM

Thank you for having us. Excited to be here and witness the work of this Commission.



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

From Yolonda -WSDOT to Everyone: 11:28 AM

Yolonda Brooks, Statewide Community Engagement Specialist for Washington State Department of Transportation, Office of Equal Opportunity. 360-522-0856. [Brooksy@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Brooksy@wsdot.wa.gov)

From Tiare Lefotu to Everyone: 11:29 AM

thank you to commissioner Faitalia to inviting me to this call. highly appreciative of everyone as well for creating space to speak as well. email : [tiarelefotu1@gmail.com](mailto:tiarelefotu1@gmail.com)

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone: 11:29 AM

Nick-- Looking forward to working with you on the NPS project.

From Nick Vann to Everyone: 11:30 AM

Nicholas Vann, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for WA State Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. [Nicholas.vann@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:Nicholas.vann@dahp.wa.gov).

Me too, Commissioner Huie-Pascua!

From Luisa Laulile to Everyone: 11:33 AM

Hi Everyone, sorry for not explain where I am from. However, I am a Foster Home Licensor with United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and work in child advocacy. I also am the treasure with PICAWA(Pacific Islanders Community Association of Washington), and a small business owner of Ofa Atu Events. I am proud resident of Pierce County and my email is [llaulile@unitedindians.org](mailto:llaulile@unitedindians.org) if anyone would like to reach out. We will have a family appreciation drive through on September 20th for our families in Foster Care, Adoptive, and Kinship Care. I will send Brenda the Flyer for those families who would like to register. Thank you so much for your time! Lisa thank you so much for you work and support for our communities.

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:35 AM

Thank you Rosa for ALL that you do!

From Tam Dinh to Everyone: 11:35 AM

Amazing work Rosa. We are so blessed to have you.

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone: 11:37 AM

Terrific work-- thank you Rosa!

From Dori Peralta Baker to Everyone: 11:45 AM

The APIC chairs throughout WA have been supporting their communities distributing masks, establishing food banks, COVID testing, PPE distribution, sharing information about small business relief as well rent relief, P-EBT and unemployment relief applications. Thank you CAAPA for your support of our immigrant communities.

From Lisa Jill Dickinson to Everyone: 11:47 AM

Regarding ESD/unemployment, encourage those denied to file an appeal even if untimely. At the appeals stage they are guaranteed an interpreter at their hearing, and will get the chance to explain their circumstances to a human judge. LD

In my "other life" I'm a part time unemployment judge for Office of Administrative Hearings, so you get a human like me to explain your case. :)

From Lydia M. Faitalia to Everyone: 11:53 AM

Thank you ED Hasegawa for all that you do and Congratulations on the new blessing.



From Sui-lan's iPhone to Everyone: 11:56 AM

mahalo nui loa. nā ho'omaika'i ma kēia hana ... 🙌 Thank you all. continued blessings and strength in this important work

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone: 11:58 AM

Connecting to our communities is about listening and collaborating to bring collective impact. ED Hasegawa, you and your team have certainly done an outstanding job of conveying needs and showing gaps.

From Sui-lan's iPhone to Everyone: 12:01 PM

mahalo iā'oe a me ka'ohana... congratulations to you and your ohana

From Jen Cole (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 12:02 PM

Thank you Commissioners - looking forward to all the amazing things CAPAA will be doing on behalf and in collaboration with the greater community and state agencies. For more information about referendum 90, you can connect to <https://www.approve90wa.org/>