January Public Board Meeting: ZOOM

Improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by examining issues, advancing advocacy, and ensuring access to government.
Staff Report
January 23, 2021

Staff report to the Commission covering activities, progress, and updates from November 7, 2020 to January 15, 2021.

1. STAFF AND COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Staff Update: Executive Director Hasegawa began maternity leave on December 22, 2020, through March 2021.

Commissioner Activity: Commissioners submitted activity reports for the time period of November 7, 2020 – January 15, 2021. Total events reported = 98; Activity Report response rate = 100% (12/12 respondents). Details of Commissioner Activity can be found in Appendix I.

Appointments: Applications to serve upon the Commission will open in April 2021. Per CAPAA’s rules, 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia will convene a nominations committee, which will work inclusively to establish a process to review and recommend applicants for appointment.

- Commissioner Wada’s 3rd term expires 6/30/2021
- Commissioner Dinh’s 2nd term expires 6/30/2021
- Commissioner Cho’s 1st term expires 6/30/2021
- Commissioner Huie-Pascua’s 1st term expires 6/30/2021
- Commissioner Uppala’s 1st term expires 6/30/2021

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: CAPAA’s newsletter is sent to the entire e-mail listserv of 2,619 contacts (+71 from the November E.D. Report), 2,380 of which are subscribers.

Facebook: 2,001 Likes (+34)
            2,209 Follows (+44)

Social Media Content:
- Legislative Updates
  - Asians in Legislative Leadership graphics series
  - Governor Inslee’s Equity Budget
- Holiday posts
  - Hmong New Year post
  - Diwali post
  - New Year’s post
- COVID-19 announcements, updates, and resources (#CapaaCovid)
- Healthcare coverage
  - #GetCoveredDay
  - COFA Health Care & Dental enrollment

3. COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution
Washington State has begun distributing COVID-19 vaccines. The distribution is happening in phases. We are currently in Phase 1B, Tier 1, meaning that the vaccine is available to:
- Anyone 65 and older
- People 50 and older who also live in a multigenerational household
- Health care workers at high risk for COVID-19 infection
- First responders
- People who live or work in long-term care facilities
- All other workers in health settings who are at risk of COVID-19

The next phases are:

1B, Tier 2: High-risk critical workers 50 years or older who work in certain congregate settings:
Agriculture; food processing; grocery stores; K-12 (educators & staff); childcare; corrections; prisons, jails or detention centers; public transit; fire; law enforcement

1B, Tier 3: People 16 years or older with 2 or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions

1B, Tier 4: High-risk critical workers under 50 years who work in certain congregate settings (as noted in 1B, Tier 2). People, staff, and volunteers in congregate living settings: Correctional facilities; group homes for people with disabilities; people experiencing homelessness that live in or access services in congregate settings

Information on phases 2-4 are TBA.

**Working Washington Small Business Grants**
The Washington State Department of Commerce launched Round 3 of the Working Washington Small Business Grant from December 3 – December 11. The grant awarded up to $20,000 for small businesses that had been affected by the pandemic. CAPAA launched a small social media campaign to encourage businesses to apply, including through limited translated materials. Additionally, CAPAA sent a newsletter to businesses we had previously contacted during the small business resource phone bank, sending them the application link and information for those who had not been able to apply previously or did not receive a grant.

**Washington Immigrant Relief Fund**
In October, Governor Inslee announced the Washington State Immigrant Relief Fund, to assist Washington workers who miss work due to COVID-19, but are unable to access federal stimulus programs and other social supports due to their immigration status. While the fund is operational, eligible recipients will receive $1,000, with a limit of $3,000 per household. In his budget, the Governor is requesting $10 million to maintain this fund, as well as additional funding to conduct a feasibility study on how to replicate the state's unemployment insurance program and other social safety nets to individuals regardless of citizenship status.

4. **2021 LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITIES**

**2021 Legislative Session:** The legislative session convened Monday, January 11th, and will end on Sunday, April 25th. Session will take place almost exclusively online. Legislative buildings will be closed to lobbyists and the public.

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. Committee meetings and floor sessions can be watched live or after they’re archived on TVW.

Fewer bills will be passed this Session compared to previous years. We are anticipating that committees will be meeting for fewer days, while floor action will take longer.

Notable legislative activities relating specifically to AAPI’s include:

- 2021 API Legislative Week
- Day of Remembrance
- Lunar New Year
- MOCC POC Elected Officials Reception

**2021 Budget:** There are currently no legislative proposals to cut funding for CAPAA. We will be tracking the Senate and House budgets as they are released to see how they affect CAPAA and our communities.

**Legislative Tracking & Advocacy:**

CAPAA Project Manager Rosa Mai established an electronic bill tracking system using the online platform *Trello*. Priorities tracked in the Trello board were identified by CAPAA staff, Commissioners, APIC-WA, the NHPI COVID-19 Report, and recommendations from task forces and work groups where CAPAA was a member.

**The following have been identified as potential priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session, organized by committee:**

**Civil Rights & Immigration Committee**

HB 1264 (Thai): Establishing an equity impact statement for legislative proposals.
- Requires legislation with a fiscal impact statement to also conduct racial/equity impact assessments
- Assessments will also be at request of legislators, regardless of fiscal impact.

HB 1082 (Goodman)/SB 5051 (Pedersen): Concerning state oversight and accountability of peace officers and corrections officers.
- Modifies the priorities and composition of the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC).
- Expands the background investigation requirements for persons applying for peace officer, reserve officer, and corrections officer positions.
- Expands the conduct for which the certification of a peace officer or a corrections officer may be revoked.
- Requires employing agencies to report all separation and disciplinary matters regarding a certified officer to the CJTC.
- Removes confidentiality of complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions for certified officers and requires information be maintained on a publicly searchable database.

HB 1054 (Johnson): Establishing requirements for tactics and equipment used by peace officers.
- Prohibits peace officers from using chokeholds and neck restraints.
- Prohibits peace officers from using unleashed police dogs to arrest or apprehend persons.
- Prohibits law enforcement agencies from acquiring or using tear gas and certain types of military equipment.
• Prohibits uniformed peace officers from intentionally covering, concealing, or obscuring the number or other identifying information on their badges.
• Prohibits a peace officer from seeking, and a court from issuing, a search or arrest warrant granting an express exception to the "knock and announce" rule.
• Establishes restrictions on vehicular pursuits.

SB 5055 (Nguyen): Concerning law enforcement personnel collective bargaining.
• Establishes an arbitrator selection procedure for grievance arbitrations for law enforcement personnel that applies to all disciplinary grievance arbitrations heard on or after January 1, 2022.
• Requires the Public Employment Relations Commission to appoint a roster of nine arbitrators who hear disciplinary grievances for law enforcement personnel on a rotating basis.
• Prohibits a public employer of law enforcement personnel from entering into a collective bargaining agreement that prevents implementation of, alters, or suppresses a city or county ordinance or charter that establishes civilian review of the discipline of law enforcement personnel.

HB 1267 (Entenman): Concerning investigation of potential criminal conduct arising from police use of force, including custodial injuries, and other officer-involved incidents.
• Creates the Office of Independent Investigations

Supporting community-based organizations
• Fund community practices across the state that will advance racial equity in the state's funding decisions and further investments
• Department of Commerce will work directly with community leaders and orgs to support these robust strategies and fund community capacity building assistance

Economic Development Committee

HB 5010 (Das): Prohibiting the use of credit scores to determine rates for personal lines of insurance.
• Prohibits the use of credit history in determining rates or premiums for personal insurance (auto, homeowner, renter, and boat insurance)

SB 5188 (Kuderer): Concerning the creation of the Washington state public bank.

HB 1297 (Thai): Concerning working families tax exemption.

Maintain the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund
• Fund the Washington Immigrant Relief Fund
• ESD & DSHS will conduct a feasibility study on how to replicate the state's unemployment insurance program and other social safety nets to individuals regardless of citizenship status

Increase minority contractors
• Fund the Business Diversity Management System, which measures and tracks the state’s progress toward equity in public spending and state contractors
• OMWBE will launch the Washington State Toolkit for Equity in Public Spending to support state agencies and educational institutions

Support financial literacy
• The Department of Financial Institutions will create a diversity, equity and inclusion staff position dedicated to working with financial institutions; federal, state and local government agencies; and community partners
Support career development

- Continue and expand WSDOT's pre-apprenticeship program
  - Awards groups that provide outreach, pre-apprenticeship training and supportive services to underrepresented populations in the construction trades
  - Pre-apprenticeship training in one or more highway construction trades
  - Support services that may include assistance with transportation, child care, basic tools and housing. Typically, women, minorities, veterans, and other disadvantaged individuals need these barrier-reducing supports to enter and succeed in apprenticeships
  - Mentorship and retention training
  - Cultural competency training to foster and encourage a safe and welcoming worksite for every person working Department of Transportation construction projects

Education Committee

SB 5044 (Das): Concerning professional learning, equity, cultural competency, and dismantling institutional racism in the public school system.

- Adds equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism to existing cultural competency training for school board directors, district staff, and school staff.
- Directs school districts to prioritize one of three professional learning days to focus first on these topics.

HB 1153 (Orwall): Increase language access in public schools.

- Requires school districts to implement a language access program that includes:
  - Administer a self-assessment
  - Develop and implement a language access policy, procedures and plan
  - Districts with at least 50 percent English Language Learners or greater than 75 languages spoken by students or families, must have either a full-time language access coordinator OR annually report to OSPI the total number of hours district staff spent performing the language access coordinator duties

Invest to close the digital divide

- Fund residential broadband connections for families who cannot afford connection services in their area
- Contract with a nonprofit entity to support a digital navigator program in 10 regions across the state, with two navigators in each region. to provide 1-1 digital skills to support individual seeking work, families with students in K-12, ELL individuals, and older Washingtonians
- The Governor’s budget proposed more than $3 million (operating) to expand the Washington State Broadband Office. This would go toward increasing broadband access throughout the state, enhancing digital inclusion and equity, and fostering regional broadband advisory team efforts.
- The Governor’s budget also proposed $45 million (capital) for additional broadband infrastructure projects, with some of those funds potentially unlocking federal broadband funding.

Remove barriers to financial aid

- Fund the Aim Higher Free Application for Federal Student Aid initiative

Advance equity on college campuses

- Establish a new center for diversity, equity, and inclusion that sets up collaborative reviews of the curriculum, and removes equity barriers to student success
- Fund technology grants and faculty stipends to conduct curriculum changes on college campuses
- Convert technical and laboratory-based instructions to an interactive online format
• Fund Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College, and Western Washington University DEI efforts
• Expand recruitment and outreach efforts to historically underserved students and faculty, increase student supports and mental health counseling, establish a new Native pathways Program and Ethnic Studies Program, and establish a new student center

Improve equity outcomes for foster and homeless students
• Provide grants, mentorship, and student support services to college students or apprentices who experienced foster care or homelessness
• Fund Passport to Careers Program, which serves students who lack family and financial support to complete their educational pathway

Expand outdoor recreation equity
• Statewide outdoor school
  o $90,000 for Western Washington University to explore the possibility and benefits of expanding outdoor residential school programs
  o Explore the COVID-19 impacts on institutions that provide participants with outdoor learning
  o Recommendations will center on using physical activity and exposure to natural settings to improve health disparities and accelerate learning for historically underserved populations
• Access outdoor recreation
  o State Parks and Recreation Commission will facilitate a work group with CAAA to identify inclusion barriers
• Physical Activity and School Facilities Task Force
  o $175,000 for the Recreation and Conservation Office to lead a task force that consider ways the state can improve equitable access to K-12 schools’ fields and athletic facilities, and local parks’ agency facilities
  o The task force will consider joint use agreements, partnerships, scheduling practices with local parks agencies including facility rental fees, and other strategies.
  o The goal is to increase physical activity for youth and families.

Health & Human Services Committee

SB 5105 (Hasegawa): Implementing the recommendations of the office of equity task force.

HB 1182 (Orwall)/SB 5209 (Dhingra): Enhancing and expanding behavioral health and suicide prevention crisis response services.
• Builds infrastructure for enhanced and expanded 988 crisis services beginning in July 16, 2022
• Investments to, among other things, create a high tech crisis call center system, mobile rapid response crisis teams and crisis stabilization units, short-term respite facilities, peer-operated respite services, and behavioral health urgent care walk-in centers across the state and in collaboration with the tribes

HB 1191 (Thai): Ensuring equity in health coverage.
• Creates a state-only Medicaid lookalike program available to all state residents, regardless of immigration status.

SB 5141 (Saldaña): Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.
• Establishes environmental justice strategic plan incorporation, equitable community engagement and public participation, tribal consultation, assessment, and budget and funding obligation

- Establishes the Environmental Justice Council to adopt guidelines and provide technical assistance to support agency environmental justice work, review agency implementation of environmental justice obligations, and make recommendations on existing laws and proposed legislation to further environmental justice goals.

Invest in environmental justice
- Improve air quality and climate resilience in the most impacted communities by putting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and supporting project investments that make communities more resilient to climate change impacts.
- Ensure that the benefits of the clean energy transition are equitably distributed so that vulnerable populations aren’t left behind.
- Give overburdened communities a voice with a formal advisory role in climate governance by creating a permanent Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Panel.
- Incorporate environmental justice into environmental and economic development agency staffing and programs, and require that investments in climate change projects, programs and activities undergo an environmental justice analysis.

Invest in communities most impacted by climate change
- Any investment from the newly created climate investment account should undergo an environmental justice analysis
- Ensure that funds are directed toward eliminating environmental harm and economic and health disparities for vulnerable populations and overburdened communities

Misc.

Asia Pacific Cultural Center capital budget request for Commerce Building Communities Fund allowance.

The following are priority areas that have been identified, but have not had legislation introduced as of yet:

- Ending the use of cash bail
- Expanding unemployment benefits
- Closing digital divide
- Creating additional pathways for APAs in the medical field

The following are identified as issues we will oppose, but have not had legislation introduced as of yet:

- WASPC police reform bill naming CAPAA
- Cuts to funding for COFA Health Care & Dental

5. WORK GROUPS & TASK FORCES

Two recent work groups and task force that CAPAA participated in have concluded and released final reports and recommendations. The final reports are available on CAPAA’s website.

- Public School Language Access Work Group, represented by Sina Sam
- Governor’s Task Force on Independent Investigations of Police Use of Force, represented by Puao Savusa and Emma Catague
6. 2021 API Data Project (Needs Assessment Part III)

In early December, CAPAA finalized a contract with KAYA Strategik to capture API community demographical information based on data from the 2020 Census. This is the third installation of a quadrennial needs assessment of the API community as funded by the state. The project will begin once Census data becomes available in February or March, and conclude no later than June 2021.

The project will focus on data analysis and a summary report interpreting the data. Areas of analysis include ANHPI demographic information, including median household income, poverty, languages, and LEP households; the pay gap between ANHPI subgroups and genders, and compared to white communities; and education outcomes of ANHPI subgroups, percentage who go to college, and percentage eligibility for free lunch.

7. EVENTS

API Legislative Week
Monday, February 1, 2021 – Friday, February 5, 2021
Zoom

March Public Board Meeting – Virtual
Saturday, March 20, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

June Public Board Meeting – Virtual
Saturday, June 26, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

September Public Board Meeting – Yakima County (Elections)
Saturday, September 18, 2021
10:00 – 2:00
Fil-Am Yakima
211 W 2nd St. Wapato, WA 98951

November Public Board Meeting – Snohomish County
Saturday, November 20, 2021
10:00 – 2:00
Everett Community College (Exact Room TBD)

2021 Statewide Elected Officials of Color Reception
TBD