**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, November 20, 2021 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom Conference Call

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

*Present:* Chair Nam Nguyen, 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia, 2nd Vice Chair Carrie Huie-Pascua, Kendall Kosai, Toka Valu, Julio Diaz, Chongsun Abbott, Ping Ping, Lalita Uppala, Sam Cho, and Ekk Sisavatdy.

*Absent:* None

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

1. **Welcome**

Welcoming remarks were given by Senator Yasmin Trudeau of the 27th Legislative District at 10:04 AM.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made at 10:09 AM by Cmmr. Cho. Seconded by Huie-Pascua. *Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes made by Cmmr. Cho at 10:10 AM. Seconded by Cmmr. Ping. Cmmr. Valu made a motion to correct spelling of last name. Motion to approve amended minutes made by Chair Nguyen. *Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **Commissioner Community Updates**

Cmmr. Abbott conveyed that Pierce County is struggling to hire workers. Small businesses, especially, are finding it difficult to hire new workers, and have to turn away clients due to being understaffed.

KWA has a new CEO who has a different vision for the organization, so Cmmr. Abbott will meet with them to figure out how to best provide caregiving services to elderly clients.

Cmmr. Valu reported that there are several organizations partnering with King County to pilot “Restorative Community Pathways” that addresses BIPOC youth being disproportionally incarcerated. Vaccines are also continuing to be promoted, as well as efforts to recover from the pandemic.

Cmmr. Kosai noted that since our last meeting, there has been a precipitous rise in attacks against some of our faith-based communities. The recent attacks against a Khmer Buddhist temple in Tacoma, a Sikh temple in Federal Way, and a Muslim mosque were three such incidents that have kept this anti-Asian hate on the forefront of many people’s minds.

Conversations are being had to discuss the safety of the ANHPI community, especially in places where they should feel safe. OCA Greater Seattle is also holding a bystander intervention training and self-defense course today.

Cmmr. Cho relayed that the Korean American Coalition held their 2nd annual Candidates Forum that allowed the candidates from the recent elections to directly answer questions from the Korean American community in King County. It was broadcast live on Radio Hankook, as well as YouTube and FB Live.

The Coalition also received a grant that will be used for booster shots for the Korean American community. He reminded the Commission of the necessity that any vaccination/booster clinics be held outside of normal business hours to accommodate the small business owners.

Cmmr. Faitalia alerted the Commission to the fact that it is Trans Awareness Week. A tree-planting

ceremony hosted by Utopia was held yesterday in Kent. They are also hosting another event tonight.

She also reported that the EOGOAC representatives are on fire and doing amazing work. She has been able to sit in on several of the calls and their efforts in minimizing the gaps our community faces unapologetically has been incredible to witness. One feedback they have been receiving from the community is that there is a lack of social/emotional materials available in their languages, so continued advocacy on that front is still very much needed.

Along those same lines, the communities have been expressing the need for assistance on navigating things like paying a ticket. Often there are no instructions or resources in their languages to instruct them on how to take care of those kinds of issues or where to go. Websites may be down as well, so they are at usually at a loss in how to fulfill their obligations.

Lastly, she thanked Cmmr. Cho for his call on holding vaccine clinics during times they are available. She will take that to the organizations she is working with in planning future clinics.

Cmmr. Huie-Pascua shared that during the celebration of National Filipino American History Month, the Filipino American National Historical Society sent out a press release stating that Wapato Community Hall is being considered as one of two historical sites for our state. The community hall will be celebrating its 70th year in March of 2022.

Another notable event that recently transpired, is that a well-known organic farm in their area, Inaba Farms, has sold their land back to Yakima Nation. This has highlighted the historical support that the

tribe has given the Asian community and the strength in partnership that the BIPOC community has held.

On November 13th, a ceremony recognizing Chinese American veterans from WWII, was held. Cmmr. Huie-Pascua’s father was formally recognized and given a Congressional Gold Medal. The moment has indicated a growing movement towards finally honoring the contributions made by the ANHPI community.

Cmmr. Huie-Pascua has been able to provide some more DEI training this period, and is finally starting to see some results of the work being done on that front. Specifically, there is activity starting to happen around services being provided through their assessment tools, which have historically blocked access to Communities of Color.

Finally, Yakima County continues to have low vaccination rates. Only 62% of the population has received at least one dose and 55% have been fully vaccinated, so they are highly vulnerable in that region.

Cmmr. Ping conveyed that the Board of Spokane public schools has hired a consulting company to draft a six-year Strategic Plan. Parents and community feedback has been solicited regarding a more equitable and inclusive school environment. Cmmr. Ping has been recruiting members of the Chinese and Filipino communities to participate.

She has also stood in solidarity with PICA to support the removal of the John R. Monaghan statue in downtown Spokane. Monaghan has long been a symbol of white supremacy and genocide for the Pacific Islander community.

Another movement Cmmr. Ping has been supporting is the BIPOC community’s push for the City Council and the mayor to establish an Office of Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Equity. She has been soliciting support from other members of the community as well.

Lastly, like Yakima County, Spokane also has a low vaccination rate. Those who have received one dose of the vaccine is at 66%.

Cmmr. Sisavatdy has been working with the SE Asian Pacific Islander Health Education Summit in dispersing a community survey gauging awareness of the pandemic, as well as their reactions to the rise in Anti-Asian hate. The survey has been given in stages to different groups. In September, they started with the elderly community, and in October they distributed it to university students. The last group will be targeted shortly, and he looks forward to sharing the results with the community soon.

Since the other commissioners have brought up vaccination rates, he looked up the rates for the state and King County. As of November 15th, 80% of those 12 and up, in the state, have received at least

one dose, and 73.9% have been fully vaccinated. In King County, 90% have received at least one dose, and 84.2% have been fully vaccinated. He has been able to identify 10 zip codes in the county, however, that have low vaccination rates in the Asian community, especially amongst the elderly (those 65 and up). This underscores the continued need and importance of talking to our communities about the vaccine.

Cmmr. Uppala has been involved with East King County APIC’s efforts to organize redistricting sessions. The sessions have been promoting the importance of community input surrounding redistricting. She has also been working with APIC to hold listening sessions informing the community of the agenda for the upcoming APIC Legislative Day.

She reiterated the COVID concerns expressed by the other commissioners. The pandemic has continued to impact revenue for small business owners. She has been working with several cities on the possibility of providing commercial rental assistance to them, which has led to deeper conversations on how else they can be supported so that they don’t fold. Many have yet to get their booster or flu shots, due to concerns about its effects on fertility and the like, so the need for continued education is still there.

On the legal front, inquiries related to domestic violence and microaggression have increased. Increased MH issues have become apparent amongst youth and seniors as well. Traditional resources are not being accessed, so the question about how to create culturally-informed help for communities of color is being raised.

Cmmr. Diaz invited all the Commissioners to attend the next Economic Development Committee meeting on 12/10. Erin Nielsen from the WA Dept. of Financial Institutions will be a guest to get some feedback on what small businesses are experiencing. The Department of Commerce will also be a guest and would like to co-sponsor a listening session with CAPAA soliciting feedback from CBO’s, pertaining to a capital funding package they are working on.

OMBWE recently formed a policy subcommittee because of an executive order. Cmmr. Diaz has been invited to participate to help address the issue of equity in public contracting. The committee will work on the language of the policy as well as focus on the sustainability and growth of small businesses.

Cmmr. Diaz also had the chance to meet with Jessica Comacho, who is the Director for the Small Business Resiliency Network at the Dept. of Commerce. She is based out of Yakima and has been providing information to small businesses on banking, financing, and training. He encourages the Commission to learn more about Jessica and her team on the Commerce website.

Lastly, the Anti-Defamation League recently held a listening session that he was able to sit in on. He learned a great deal about what they are facing and realized how important it is for our communities to stand together.

1. **SB 5264 Re: Chinese American History Month**

Sen. Keith Wagoner from the 37th LD presented on [SB 5264](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5264&Initiative=false&Year=2021). It is a bill that was brought to him by the community and that he co-sponsors. It has wide bi-partisan support, including from Sen. Hasegawa. The bill got lost amidst the pandemic and did not go through in the last session, but he is hoping that he can gain CAPAA’s support in pushing the bill through at the next legislative session.

The bill seeks to honor a segment of the population that has had a unique history in our state, much like the Japanese community has experienced, in being vilified, and in some cases outright killed. There are also uplifting stories that we need to share in our schools. It is a voluntary bill that gives schools the tools to honor those of Chinese descent during the month of January.

He will make two changes to the bill going forward. One is to change “Chinese American” to “Americans of Chinese descent.” The second is to include funds for the schools to be able to provide the promotional and educational tools needed to implement the commemoration.

Cmmr. Cho asked for clarification on if this bill may not have been prioritized as highly as other bills, or if it was considered a zero sums gain. Sen. Wagoner assured Cmmr. Cho that he did not consider this bill a zero sums gain, and that when you honor a group, it doesn’t take away the honor from other groups. Honor grows on itself.

Sen. Wagoner also addressed Cmmr. Uppala’s earlier comments about the rental relief program. This was the first time he had heard the specific concerns mentioned, and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, he would like to further discuss this with her to figure out how to fix the issue.

ED Hasegawa wondered if the bill could be more comprehensive in including specific milestones, similar to the bill for Filipino American history. Sen. Wagoner is open to looking at that bill and seeing if there are aspects to it that should be included on SB 5264. He does have some reticence that any changes to the bill may cause it not to sail as smoothly through as it did during the last session.

1. **Public Comment**

Darya Farivar, the Public Policy Director at Disability Rights Washington, and her colleague Ivanova Smith has been working on [HB 1566​](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapp.leg.wa.gov%2Fbillsummary%3FBillNumber%3D1566%26Year%3D2021%26Initiative%3Dfalse&data=04%7C01%7Cbrenda.o%27brien%40capaa.wa.gov%7C5f042dce9c604e986eae08d99f091cee%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C637715683790911999%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=M7HRhP5Uc2dshbXB0e7otKoeConEYnz%2FXSlmg6BXkao%3D&reserved=0) with Rep. Pollet. The bill, also know as “The Nothing About Us Without Us Act,” seeks to ensure that those with disabilities are a part of the conversations that very much impact their lives, their care, their education, etc.

It is very important that the full diversity of the disability community is represented in conversations with legislation, otherwise nuances around this issue can be missed. They would like to invite the Commission to join this effort and to be a part of their coalition [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmmgNezXR11dx-ZZEKTYvfT4Xa7FFJ5a3azHVoyQU2TFC7KQ/viewform).

Susanna Rodriguez, from L&I, joined today to learn more about ways that L&I can connect with ANHPI communities to make them aware of who they are and to access their services. They have been

working on addressing systemic gaps and identifying barriers, such as language access, so that communities of color know how to receive their services.

Linda, from Asians for Equality, voiced her support of Sen. Wagoner’s updating of the language in SB 5264. She agreed that leading with “Americans of Chinese descent” over “Chinese Americans” is much stronger, as we are all Americans. She wants to express how much this bill means to their community. When students researched their history, they often encountered a vacuum, and wondered why so much of it was not being taught. SB 5264 is a step in the right direction to help Americans of Chinese descent feel proud of their ancestry. She is encouraged by ED Hasegawa’s supportive comments and hopes that CAPAA will advocate for this bill.

Kan Qiu, from Asians for Equality, also voiced his support of SB 5264. His experience through his children’s education is that Chinese history is limited in the classroom and textbooks. As a result, the children are not taught very much about their connections. This bill would be a huge plus for children to learn about Chinese history and their contributions to our country, especially in light of the current anti-Chinese sentiment.

Jen Chong Jewell, from the WA State Coalition for Language Access, shared that they are getting ready to submit their final recommendations to the legislature on what needs to happen around language access. Much work has been done in the last two years, but there is still much left to do. She is hoping that the Commission will have this work on their radar and support any bills that provide more meaningful access to language support for families with K-12 children.

More information about this workgroup can be found [here](https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/workgroups-committees/currently-meeting-workgroups/language-access-workgroup#dexp-accordion-item--3).

1. **November Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave the verbal overview of the Staff Report at 11:20 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



1. **EOGOAC Updates**

Maria Flores, Heather Rees, and Frieda Takumura provided an update on EOGOAC at 11:39 AM. Full presentation can be accessed below.



Rep. Sharon Santos emphasized the importance of the role that CAPAA has played, and continues to play in the work of the EOGOAC. They are a product of our work connecting communities to state

government throughout the state. They are very grateful for CAPAA’s appointment of people who are very dedicated to education, and are passionate about the work they do.

Sen. Wellman also expressed what an honor and a revelation it has been to serve on this committee. Before joining, she thought she understood how school worked, and how it worked for all people. Since then, she has realized what actually does happen, and has become aware of things she didn’t realize.

1. **Good of the Order**

Chair Nguyen stated that the Executive Committee will decide if the January Board Meeting will move from January 15th to January 22nd.

1. **Adjourn**

Cmmr. Diaz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cmmr. Huie-Pascua seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

1. **Chat Box Transcript**

From Rosa Mai, CAPAA to Everyone: 10:02 AM

Hello everyone! Documents

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 10:06 AM

Good morning everyone! So glad to be in community with all of you!

Congratulations Commissioner — err — SENATOR Trudeau!

From Lydia M.Faitalia to Everyone: 10:08 AM

Thank you Senator Trudeau.

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone: 10:08 AM

Congratulations Senator Trudeau - we wish you success and an inspirational journey

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone: 10:09 AM

Congratulations Senator Trudeau!

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 10:09 AM

congratulations Senator Trudeau, thank you for the great welcome remark!

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 10:18 AM

Cmmr Kosai — please send your opportunities to Rosa and we will include in our upcoming newsletter!

(That goes for ALL Commissioners)

From Sam Cho to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Commissioner Faitalia, I'd love to work with you and APCC on setting up a booster shot clinic.

KAC has some model funding available to support.

modest\*

From Lydia M.Faitalia to Everyone: 10:25 AM

That would be amazing, Comm. Cho. If I can put in a request for business owners in King as well.

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 10:35 AM

I support Cmmr. Ekk's thoughts: disaggregate data to zip codes, to deconstruct "model minority" myth, thank you Ekk. NHPI community in Spokane County also has this point wants me to deliver to CAPAA.

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 10:41 AM

Economic Development Committee meeting: 12/10

We will need EVERYONE’s help to promote this opportunity with Commerce

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 10:50 AM

Link to the legislation: https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5264.pdf?q=20211120104933

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 10:59 AM

Fill Am History month intent section: https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.117.120

From Rosa Mai, CAPAA to Everyone: 10:59 AM

For context: here is the link to the Filipino American History Month bill - https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5865&Year=2019&Initiative=false

From Lydia M.Faitalia to Everyone: 11:00 AM

Thank you Senator

From Senator Keith Wagoner to Everyone: 11:00 AM

It was my pleasure.

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 11:00 AM

Thank you Senator Wagner

From Jen Chong Jewell (she/her) to Everyone: 11:00 AM

Can I make public comment?

From Rosa Mai, CAPAA to Everyone: 11:01 AM

Hi Jen, we've added you to our public comment list. Thank you.

From Nam Nguyen to Everyone: 11:01 AM

Jen, I will put you on the list.

From Darya Farivar, DRW (she/they) to Everyone: 11:03 AM

First document is HB 1566 one pager second document is the coalition flyer. Link to sign up for the coalition email list is here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmmgNezXR11dx-ZZEKTYvfT4Xa7FFJ5a3azHVoyQU2TFC7KQ/viewform>

From ivanova Smith to Everyone: 11:04 AM

Thank you

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 11:14 AM

Welcome back, Jen!

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 11:15 AM

Thank you Linda and Kan for your speech.

From Jen Chong Jewell (she/her) to Everyone: 11:18 AM

Language Access Workgroup: <https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/workgroups-committees/currently-meeting-workgroups/language-access-workgroup#dexp-accordion-item--3>

From Lydia M.Faitalia to Everyone: 11:27 AM

Wooohooo, Congratulations Commissioner Valu and Commissioner Sisavatdy!

Thank you, Rosa!

From Toka Valu to Everyone: 11:35 AM

is the June date supposed to be a Saturday or is that a Tuesday?

From Nam Nguyen to Everyone: 11:36 AM

All dates are supposed to be on Saturday

From Rosa Mai, CAPAA to Everyone: 11:36 AM

That may be a typo--the June meeting should be June 23, I believe

Thank you for bringing that to our attention, Commissioner Valu!

From Ekkarath Sisavatdy to Everyone: 11:37 AM

MLK Weekend... Lots of activities in the community on Saturday

From Toka Valu to Everyone: 11:37 AM

Gotcha. Thank you

From Lydia M.Faitalia to Everyone: 11:37 AM

Thank you ED Hasegawa.

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 11:38 AM

June 25 is a Saturday

From Heather Rees (she/her) to Everyone: 11:45 AM

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/workgroups/eogoac/pubdocs/Synthesis2008Recommendations.pdf>

<https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/workgroups-committees/currently-meeting-workgroups/educational-opportunity-gap-oversight-and-accountability-committee>

From Toshiko Hasegawa (she/her) to Everyone: 11:45 AM

Thank you Toka and Ping Ping for the correction!

From Maria's iPhone to Everyone: 11:45 AM

Written by CAPAA and submitted to the Legislature

From Heather Rees (she/her) to Everyone: 11:46 AM

<https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/AchievementGapReport.pdf>

<https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/PacificIslanderAchievementGapReport.pdf>

From Ekkarath Sisavatdy to Everyone: 11:48 AM

Would love to see updates based on our 2020 census

From Maria's iPhone to Everyone: 11:49 AM

And Rep. Santos, Sen. Wellman, Sen. Hasegawa can share

From Ekkarath Sisavatdy to Everyone: 11:51 AM

how has the pandemic and student virtual learning factored into accountability work of EOGAC

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 11:55 AM

Edu. committee of CAPAA just starts to discuss priorities of year 2021-22, disaggregate data related to K-12 opportunity group with Asian groups and NHPI groups to know our student communities better and deeper; Ethnic Studies including ANHPI studies in K-12 implemented; ...

From 37 LD Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos to Everyone: 11:57 AM

Commissioner Sisavatdy: Many children of color - particularly some of our students from immigrant and refugee families - are experiencing post-traumatic stress that is reawakened through the pandemic.

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 1n1:57 AM

yes update research is so needed.

From friedatakamura to Everyone: 12:00 PM

Sen Hasegawa—Any comments from you to wind-up?

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone: 12:02 PM

Thank You this is so helpful to hear - community informed approaches are critical

From Maria's iPhone to Everyone: 12:02 PM

Yes- CAPAA would lead the research for the AAPI communities. We are so grateful for your leadership

From Toka Valu to Everyone: 12:03 PM

and I apologize for missing yesterday's Education Committee meeting

From Lydia M.Faitalia to Everyone: 12:05 PM

I’m available

From Toka Valu to Everyone: 12:05 PM

Jan 22nd would be great

From friedatakamura to Everyone: 12:05 PM

Thank you Heather, Maria!

From Ping Ping to Everyone: 12:06 PM

thank you Frieda for your help on interview with accessment of governance!

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone: 12:06 PM

Thank You everyone and to our CAPAA staff for all you do