



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Meeting

Spokane Public Library
906 West Main Avenue
August 18, 2007

Begin: 10:35 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions – Tony Lee

Commissioners Present: Tony Lee, Doug Heyamoto, Thi Huynh, Ron Chow, Fel Abille, Tanya Tran, Jagdish Sharma, Rey Pascua

Staff: Ellen Abellera, Jared Jonson

Not Present: Lua Pritchard, Elliot Kim, Habib Habib

Guests: Senator Chris Marr, Lindia Tye, Christy Curwick, Diana Clark

Introduction:

Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed new commissioners Jagdish Sharma and Rey Pascua

Agenda and Minutes:

May 19, 2007 Minutes

Motion for approval: Tony second: Doug PASS

Chair's Report

- 1) APIC will sponsor APA Statewide Community Summit – **September 2008**
 - to be held at the Tacoma Dome Convention Center on **9/19 or 9/26**
 - centered on 'civic engagement'
 - APIC is planning to hold a series of trainings and events leading up to summit
 - APIA Vote – will aide in efforts have targeted Washington/Seattle as one of '10 Key sites'
 - Hyeok Kim and Jared Jonson are heading an 'APA Youth Civic Engagement Program' to coincide with summit
 - APA Legislative Day will be a scaled down version
 - APIC will invite gubernatorial candidates, congressional candidates
 - "Immigration & the Contributions of Immigrants" will be main issue theme of the year
 - Tony and Lua will be CAPAA's main contact points for commissioners for 2008 planning
 - Trainings and workshops will seek to increase civic engagement and voter turnout for APA community

Commissioner Reports

Doug Heyamoto

Agency Overview No business to report

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

Pleased to have commissioners in Spokane, sends a great message to our constituency, that CAPAA represents all corners of the state

Best wishes to Lua and her recovery!

13th Annual Unity Festival – Spokane’s largest multi-ethnic celebration
-occurred during CAPAA meeting

Jagdish Sharma

- 1) No business to report

Fel Abille

- 1) Working with Ethnic Unity Coalition group in Kitsap area on APA Heritage Month for 2008, mtg on 9/11

Ron Chow

- 1) Continuing work on Hmong Farmers assistance with Thi Huynh & Hmong
-community leader Bee Cha
- 2) Working with Mayor of West Richland, Dale Jackson on forming regional commerce coalition

Rey Pascua

- 1) Harvest season in Yakima Valley – keeps in contact with APA farming communities
- 2) 75% Hispanics, APA issues become subverted
- 3) Lack of workers due to highlighted anti-undocumented immigrant issue
- 4) Addressed rise of gang activity in Yakima Valley
-concerned with city ordinances and racial profiling
- 5) Some growers are discussing “guest worker program”

Tanya Tran

- 1) Working with KWA, Lua Pritchard on getting office for Vietnamese Community
- 2) Attended grant writing workshop – for ELL students
-no available grants for Asian communities in the Southwest WA area

Executive Director’s Report

Ellen Abellera

- 1) Audit
 - CAPAA is currently undergoing audit
 - fully cooperating with Auditor’s document requests
 - main issue was “incoming collect calls,” others issues were food during CAPAA meetings and other charges during the previous audit in 2002
 - all issues occurred during previous administration*
- 2) Whistleblower Complaint

-Subpoenaed by Executive Ethics Board former Executive Assistant, Jovi Legaspi's CD-ROM and Hard Drive

- 3) Education
 - Need more involvement from standing Education Committee
 - OSPI not being cooperative to the concerns of the APA community
 - Still need to follow up with Dr. Terry Burgeson on disaggregated student data by school district

- 4) Economic Development
 - received \$500 grant from Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
 - 2 Certification Workshops with OMWBE
 - 8/27 – Safeco Jackson St Center
 - 9/18 – Everett Transit Center
 - Currently 10 MWBE firms signed up
 - proposed certification tutorial to Gov. Office, OMWBE, & other ethnic commissions
 - funds to come out of IT Development funds increase

- 5) Health
 - CAPAA led Health Summit in 2005 spawned 5 major Health Legislation in 2007
 - Discussion during community forum
 - Gov. Interagency on Health Disparity seeking input from CAPAA & APA community to develop the 2012 Action Plan
 - through health survey for culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and interpretive services
 - survey needs to be much broader
 - survey should be given to community-based health agencies

Discussion

- 1) Audit
 - Tony clarified that most of the issues in questions occurred during the previous director Miebeth Bustillo's administration
- 2) Whistleblower
 - Tony clarified that former Executive Assistant, was running his personal business from CAPAA office, also that Ellen, Tony, and several commissioners warned him about his computer usage prior to the complaint
- 3) Linked Deposit Program Report
 - APA firms highest number by far of certified, loan enrollment - 20.8 Million
 - Program is extremely important to APA community
- 4) Budget Report – requested by Thi
 - Ellen will provide a budget breakdown of expenses at the next meeting with regards to strategic planning

Old Business

- 1) Assistance to Hmong Farmers
 - meeting with Ron Sims, Aaron Reardon being arranged by Ellen Abellera with Hmong Community leader Bee Cha
 - Ron Chow & Thi Huynh working directly with the Hmong Community
- 2) Commissioner Vacancy/Governor's New Appointments
 - Gov. Gregoire's office is seeking a Hmong representative on the commission
 - next preference is Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Laos, Thai)
 - perhaps another eastern Washington representative

New Business

- 1) OMWBE Workshops
 - August 27 and September 18
- 2) Next Steps After Disaggregating API Student Data
 - Data provided by OSPI is incomplete
 - Data provided is of 'English Language Learners' only
 - CAPAA has had a difficult time getting disaggregated APA Student data from OSPI
 - CAPAA will send a letter to Gov. Gregoire & OSPI, Terry Burgeson
 - outlining the inefficiency over data requests of OSPI by CAPAA for the past two years
 - Discussion and overview of Washington Learns and the Governor's P-20 Council
 - needs to address "closing the achievement gap" for all ethnic minorities
- 3) New Posters for Heritage Month 2008 – Year of the Rat
 - New posters needed for 2008
 - funding can come out of our donations
- 4) Future Meeting Schedules
 - October 6th or October 13th – Kitsap
 - November 17 – Vancouver
- 5) Review of Standing Committees
 - Committees need to be pro-active
 - Difficulty in finding time to meet outside of board meetings

Adjourned 3:19 p.m.

Community Forum

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
 - Commissioners, Staff, and Guests

Guests

- 2) Senator Chris Marr (D-Spokane)
- 3) Lindia Tye – Spokane Regional Health District
- 4) Christy Curwick – Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
- 5) Diana Clark – President & CEO, Life Center Northwest

Senator Chris Marr – (D-Spokane)

Spokane County Health Disparities in the State of Washington

Skyrocketing health care costs do not reflect a rational business model.

Health Care represents 18% of Spokane economy

Health Care Disparities in WA in communities of color.

- Medical differences and health outcomes
 - Lack of access to health care. Addressing issues with the most vulnerable
 - New studies regarding health disparities reveal the following:
 - Asian American women have lower cancer screening rates Higher rates of liver cancer rates caused by Hepatitis B
 - High rate of TB
 - Higher mental health problems.

- Women over 65 have highest suicide rate.
 - South East Asian women have post traumatic stress syndrome and young Asian women have highest rate of depression.
 - Highest increase in smoking for 7-12th graders
 - Causes of disparity
 - Economic
 - Uninsured families 1 in 5 Asians do not have insurance. 37% Korean. Self employed males.
 - Adults between 18-35. Those with less education
 - Coast of uninsured
 - Many are not eligible for Medicaid
 - Doctors refuse to accept Medicare patients Language barrier- Many minorities lack English and other skills required for a job
 - Cultural barriers
 - Communication
- Solutions for decreasing the health disparities
 Insurance the 40,000 uninsured
 Improve communication
 Provide educational material

Encourage development of a relationship with the family primary care physician

Provide parity for mental health

- Mandate for mental health coverage does not apply for companies under 15 people
- Increasing mandate for mental health requires increasing premiums 3-6%
- Increasing Medicaid reimbursements

- Lindia Tye -Director of disease prevention and response division, Spokane Regional Health District

Oversight of community health assessment and aids programs

Public health use of data collection and making informed decisions regarding health access

Determinants of Health

- Education
- How we use data
- Percentage of people reporting to surveys
- What causes us to be healthy 2002 reports?
 - Health Behavior 40%
 - How we eat
 - Physical activity
 - Genetics 30%
 - Social conditions 15%
 - People in poverty have poorer health
 - Sexual inequality
 - Access to health care 10%
 - Environmental conditions 5%
 - Predisposing Factors
 - Cultural issues
 - Cultural issues on suicide. We need to approach people using special culturally sensitive methods
 - Environment. Many people do not feel safe within communities therefore; do not exercise outside of the home.
- Changing individual behavior by addressing the following:
 - Exercising
 - Eating healthy
 - Support system i.e. family
 - Pure education

Rules and regulations should all be the same.

Better clarifies individual and family rights when dealing with organ donations.

Allows families to be in the position of making pertinent decisions for children.

Facilitating donations and encouraging results by informing the general public about organ donation and transplantation.

People chose not to donate because of the following reasons:

- Patients lack trust in care system

- Fear of disfigurement or mutilation of the body

- Personal issues

- Fear of not being taken care of properly by the hospital

- Lack of marketing

- People are not informed

- Answers are not widely answered

- Reasons are the same as they were 20 years ago

Adjourned 3:19 PM