**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, September 09, 2023 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Everett Community College, Jackson Conference Center, Room #106

2000 Tower St. Everett, WA 98201

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Quorum reached at 9:54 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 10:06 AM.

*Present:* Chair Nam Nguyen, 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia , Cmmr. Chongsun Abbott, Cmmr. Lalita Uppala, Cmmr. Carrie Huie, Cmmr. Ping Ping, Cmmr. Kendall Kosai, Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Cmmr. Kiana McKenna, Cmmr. Sam Cho, and Cmmr. Scott Lehrman

*Absent:* Cmmr. David Phongsa (excused)

*Staff:* Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager K’gnausa Yodkerepauprai, and Project Coordinator Brenda O’Brien

1. **Welcoming Remarks**

Welcoming remarks were made by **County Executive Dave Sommers** and **Mukilteo Councilmember Jason Moon**. Snohomish County is a very diverse county of 850,000 residents, and it has a robust thriving community. It's really a home for aerospace and manufacturing. Boeing is the largest employer.

Public safety is a huge issue for us. Over 76% of our budget is on law enforcement and justice causes. We're trying to deal with folks that are struggling with addictions compassionately, and we're working hard to really provide pathways to people to get back on track.

I lost my brother to fentanyl this last spring, so really know the harm it's doing to our communities and our businesses. Housing affordability is another big issue. We got to travel around the world and so many communities are struggling, and it's still an echo and a ripple from the 2008 recession.

We've really worked hard in the last couple of years to increase the availability of affordable housing.

We know that's critical to our families and communities. It's a huge barrier, so we passed an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units) ordinance that encompasses both rural and urban areas.

We're really excited about getting a light rail finally and have been prioritizing workforce development. We want all our residents to have access to jobs and our businesses. We hear it from Boeing, we hear it from everybody, that they need workers. Our efforts to restructure how we do that has changed. We are focusing

on communities that may not have had access in the past, or at least not had as good access as others.

We live in an environment today that’s faced with difficulties, and people feel it's alright to act out their angers and aggressions, particularly people that come from different backgrounds and communities. We are really working hard to build partnerships with organizations such as yours. It’s very important that we all stand together and speak out.

Hate has no home here. It is not welcome here. Kendi Yamaguchi used to work for me and she was very active in this commission, so I'm familiar with your work. I just really am so thrilled to have you here.

Anything that I or my administration can do to assist you in your work, I'm very happy to do that. I can now take any questions you may have.

**Cmmr. Uppala**: What an honor to meet you today. I just had a question about your budget. You mentioned 76% is law enforcement. I want to know what percentage is allocated to human services.

**CE Sommers**: The 76% comes from our general fund budget, so that would be our property taxes.

We have a very large human services budget also, but a lot of it comes in the form of grants.

The budget set aside for it is almost the same as for law enforcement. But again, much of it comes from grants that come in and we designate that to our non-general fund dollars, where the majority of it is dispersed to the community in areas such as affordable housing and in serving the homeless.

**ED Hasegawa**: I don't have a question that I just wanted to share a little bit about some of the work that CAPAA has been able to do, particularly as it relates to a demographical analysis of our community members being Asian-American and Pacific Islanders in Washington State. We were actually able to take 2020 census data and supplement that for 2020 American Community Survey data because it disaggregates at a finer level to get the best picture possible of who our communities are and where they are, including by county.

I'm sure you already know this, but the newest numbers in Snohomish County show that Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders do make up 15.18% of the general population. Disaggregated that is 1.13% Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders and 14.05% Asian community members, which are some of the largest representations of those two communities in *any* county in Washington State.

As we went around and did our intros, you did hear the different parts of Washington State that we represent, and you may have noticed that we do not have a representative of Snohomish County.

I see that as a place where we can definitely partner with your office the next time we go around and start the opportunity for recruitment, that maybe you could help us amplify and get the word out.

My follow-up question is, you mentioned that you have an equity and social justice office and then a commission.

What is the name of the commission?

**CE Sommers**: Human Rights Commission.

**Chair Nguyen**: We have another welcome from the first Korean-American to serve on the Mukilteo Council.

**CM Moon:** Hello, it’s nice to meet everybody. My name is Jason Moon from the City of Mukilteo. I'm a council member there.

So how did I get here? I never thought about politics prior to three years ago. I joined the Mukilteo DEI Commission when it was first created in 2021 because I used to work at Amazon and I was part of their affinity group of Asians at Amazon.

We had about 22,000 members. But our logo was a Chinese style logo, so my team being the marketing team wanted to redo the logo. But even within our Asian ERG, we called it, we had different groups like Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Indian. I started to wonder about including other groups. What about the Laotian folks? What about our Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian folks? So we reached out to all those groups, Thai and Cambodian, and others.

Even within our Asian Diaspora, there's so much diversity that often just gets relegated to a check box.

That's what drove me to be on the DEI Commission. And through that, I found out that Snohomish County has between 15-16% Asian Americans, yet, we don't have much representation. Then people begin to ask if I had thought about joining the council and that led to how I got appointed.

I graduated from the University of Washington. I was born in Chicago but moved to South Snohomish County about 37 years ago and have been here ever since. Thank you again for having me. I'll take any questions that you might have.

**ED Hasegawa**: Does Mukilteo have a legislative agenda and if so, are there any items for the upcoming session that we should be aware of?

**CM Moon**: We don't have anything on the agenda. There are things that are kind of in the works, but the main focus right now is on the waterfront and housing, which is something that some folks aren't willing to have a conversation about, but we have to, because in the next 20 years we have to make the changes.

**Cmmr. Abbott**: You mentioned that the Korean American population is over 50% in Mukilteo. Is that due to the Naval Station?

**CM Moon**: Not at all, actually. It's because of the school district.

If you look at Snohomish County, Kamiak High School used to have one of the highest populations of Korean-American students, and that started in the mid-90s, when the campus first opened up. Because of the school district and because Boeing engineers wanted to send their kids to a good school, it made sense to have Mukilteo as their employment.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Sisavatdy

Seconded by: Cmmr. Kosai

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Cho

Seconded by: Cmmr. Faitalia

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Approval of Action Item**

An action item was presented to the Commission by Executive Director Hasegawa pertaining to a policy update. The policy is mandated by the Governor requiring WSDOT to oversee that all agencies have a Commute Reduction Plan in place. The spirit of this policy is that it would remove people from the roads. Single car commuters would be encouraged to carpool. There are policies outlined for how carpool participants will participate and highlights other values, such as telework, that will effectively be able to keep people off of the roads. Even though we're a small agency and there's only three staff, this is something that we are required to implement. The draft that you have before you was drafted within consultation with the AAG’s office and WSDOT. We are seeking your approval for this document today for implementation immediately.



Motion to approve: Cmmr. Uppala

Seconded by: Cmmr. Abbott

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave a verbal overview of the Staff Report at 10:30 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



**VI. Required Equity Training - Tutorial**

PC O’Brien gave a verbal outline on how to create a Learning Center account. Full instructions can be accessed below.



**VII. Commissioner Roundtable Updates**

**Cmmr. McKenna**: <Provided a self-introduction as a first-time Commissioner.> My name is Kiana McKenna. My pronouns are she/her. I'm in Spokane, was born here in Spokane, and this has mostly been my home since I was born. I didn’t think I would be here for this long, but it has become home. and I absolutely love the tight-knit community here.

In my work life, I am the Director of Policy and Civic Engagement at the Pacific Islander Communities Association of Washington. I've been there for three years and started there shortly after the pandemic hit in 2020. My organizing here in Spokane actually began with APIC Spokane, which has now rebranded as Asians for Collective Liberation, but I started organizing with them and then got involved with PICA, and haven't stopped since. I think I'll be a community organizer for life.

My roundtable updates include Spokane APIC’s rebranding. They now do identify as Asians for Collective Liberation. The reason for their rebranding was to be further in alignment with their mission and work, and further in alignment with the disaggregation efforts that are happening around the country between the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community.

I was recently able to sit down with their executive director and talk about some of the changes that they're undergoing. I'm really happy to hear that they are both establishing their vision moving forward for where they want to go in their work, but also really taking on wellness in a radical way for their community members and their staff. They've actually just switched over to a 32-hour work week, which I thought was incredible.

Another update that I have is PICA is actually opening an office in Spokane. Although we've been working here in Spokane with the community for over three years, we have never had a physical office space and a lot of the work has happened in the community at different community institutions like schools, churches, etc., as well as my own home.

Many of you know that Spokane is home to the second largest Marshallese population in the country.

The first one's in Arkansas, but we're really excited to have a hub for service and expand our work here in a really physical and tangible way.

UTOPIA and PICA are also working together on voter registration this fall. NHPI have some of the lowest rates of votership among those who are actually eligible to vote. This is in both Washington State and in the country, so we're really excited to be engaging in some of these civic engagement and civic power efforts. We are also examining how folks that are not eligible to vote can still be civically engaged.

Assistance for housing continues be one of the most requested services for NHPI here in Spokane and across the state. We're seeing a lot of instability following the pandemic and knew that it would be a really long recovery road, but housing stability continues to be one of the largest, if not the largest, challenge that our community members are facing. I will also point out, because I'm doing a little bit of work there, that in Clark County, NHPI's actually have the worst outcomes as far as housing goes, and that's over in Vancouver area for anybody that's unfamiliar.

There's also a language access campaign happening right now in Spokane County. This is really good work being led by different community-based organizations. This is happening directly with the Spokane County

Commissioners and the city of Spokane. Recently, we had a few community members from ANHPI that have testified in front of commissioners and other council members to improve language access around the city and the county, especially within systems that we are highly interactive with.

The last update that I have is that there's a local group called the Citizens Advisory Council. They're working on efforts to remove the John R. Monaghan statue here in Spokane, due to some human rights concerns. There's been some progress recently with that, that have to do with the mayor's veto on a resolution that was introduced.

**Cmmr. Huie**: Provided update on work of the Health and Human Services Committee, which has been fairly busy this last couple of months. Recently, we had some guests come in to talk about studying the cannabis supply and demand and racial equity. Also in that meeting, we had presentation from Department of Health on Public Affairs and Equity regarding clinical trials and a legislative report briefing to us. Vice Chair Fatalia has also been involved with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities and the statute redesign.

The Language Access Workgroup was established as a result of SSB 5304, where DSHS was mandated to convene a workgroup to study and make recommendations to the legislature regarding Service Certification policies and programs. Washington really needs a tremendous amount of updating on those. The final report is due to the legislature on or before December 1, 2023.

Theresa Powell, the senior director and language equity officer of the Office of Equity, Diversity, Access and Inclusion was charged to convene the workgroup. The workgroup is comprised of anywhere from 40 to 50 individuals with several professional interpreters involved in the discussion, along with educational institutions, professors, and other language experts. Because of this, Cmmr Huie feels comfortable that those changes in policies are being covered very well.

Participted in a dedication of a permanent exhibit at the Yakima Valley Museum, recognizing the Japanese internment at Heart Mountain.

Mentioned that AANHPIs in Washington State and development of classroom curriculum is being spearheaded by Edwin Ong, who is a Stanford University graduate class of 2023. He's been working very hard on developing Chinese American history and Cmmr Huie will have an opportunity to speak in his class next month on the Chinese Exclusion Act and share about the impact that it's had on her family,

The Child Care Partnership Grant Program that is being put out by Department of Commerce, has received over 50 applications. Cmmr Huie is reviewing grants. The team has divided into two to cover the workload she will be reviewing 28 applications for the Child Care Partnership.

**Cmmr. Ping**: Was gone for two full months taking care of both parents. Attended a Pride event that was very well-attended with a strong presence by APIC Spokane. One of my students, who identifies as LGBTQ, told her that some of them were afraid of attending because of the tendency of the nation to be backwards in the acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ plus community.

The Chinese immigrants in Spokane have been concerned that their children in the school have experienced negative treatment from teachers and classmates. These parents felt the need to have support and discuss ways to deal with this, so on June 24, a group gathered in Manito Park to discuss how to be inclusive and who should comprise the group membership to act as the best support for their children and themselves.

**Cmmr. Lehrman**: <Provided a self-introduction as a first-time Commissioner.> My name is Scott Lehrman. I live in Franklin County, in Pasco. I've lived there since 2002, and grew up in Vancouver, Washington. My father was an area manager for DSHS and my mother was a high school chemistry teacher. They taught me about service over self and served on many boards as I grew up, providing that role model for me.

I went to Washington State University and have a masters degree in chemical engineering. I work out at the Hanford area as the project engineering manager. At WSU, I met my wife, Kim, who is a high school teacher. We have four kids, three girls, and a boy.

About 10 years ago, I started serving on the Pasco School Board, serving a little less than 10 years. I ran for three terms there, but I resigned this last spring so that my wife, who had been an employee in the Pasco School District, who had taken many years off to care for the kids, wanted to be re-employed in the district.

I learned about CAPAA from her, actually. She's active on social media and she came across the post recruiting for new commissioners. I'm honored to be on this commission, excited to work with everyone.

In the past, I might not have applied for this even a few years ago, but I recently read this book called “The Half Is Enough,” which were studies about Asian American identities. I used to think, “I'm half Japanese American, have a Caucasian last name, my father's German, and I'm not sure I’m Asian enough to apply for a board like this.” But I did apply, and I’m glad I did.

My parents are from southeast Idaho and my mother was born in 1950, about 10 miles from the internment camps. There are a lot of Japanese residents there, but they were encouraged not to speak Japanese, not to celebrate their culture too much, so my mom and her four siblings didn't learn Japanese. I think that probably contributed to me growing up as well, so I want to advocate for Asian-Americans that might have lost their history in some way.

**Cmmr. Kosai**: During this period, Cmmr. Kosai traveled to DC twice to meet with WHIAANHPI staff as well as other state commissioners. He also attended the 60th anniversary of the March in Washington, which is a non- commemoration but a continuation. It was a great opportunity to learn to be physically there to represent the ANHPI community in a space that we definitely need to be in.

There are a couple of different issues that are happening in our community that are of some concern. OCA Greater Seattle has been actively working on safety issues in Beacon Hill and South Seattle where there have been a number of elderly Asian individuals that have been attacked or robbed. There was a narrative pitting one race against another. This is a public safety issue for a lot of Asian Americans and we want to make sure that we are working together in solidarity to solve these issues.

In terms of the legislative side, in 2023, there was something called the Non-Profit Security Grant Program that was established for Washington State. There's a federal program, but Washington State didn't have a state law program until this year. The program provides funding for non-profits in the state of Washington to enhance their security measures for their own safety. Many in the Jewish community used that program for securing their synagogue, which are, unfortunately, susceptible to attacks.

This is a program that's open to everyone, like cultural centers, places of worship, etc., and it will be launching in the next couple of months. It’s a great opportunity to help provide safety to communities as it will pay for things like security cameras and stronger doors, etc.

CAPAA supported piece of legislation to establish the hate and bias incident hotline. When an act of hate occurs against an individual, it doesn't necessarily rise to a level of crime. For instance, if someone shouts at you on the street, it’s considered low level and law enforcement won’t take those reports. Modeling what we use in Oregon, which is a bias incident hotline, you're able to connect with an advocate who will connect your with services and resources to help you navigate that process. We're hoping to pass the legislation in 2024, and we're already having conversations with organizations that are interested in supporting that piece as well.

The Asian Jewish Initiative, which is continuing to hold events and programming here in the Greater Puget Sound area, is having an event around Rosh Hashana for the Asian and Jewish communities. It will be a time to break bread and learn about each other’s communities. Extended an invitation for all to attend on October 5th at the Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle.

**Cmmr. Uppala**: Thanked staff for an excellent small business listening session in June. We also have been collaborating with APIC statewide to start getting a lot of candidate forums in place. Many of our candidate forums, in East King County particularly, are focused on housing affordability now, because if we don't talk about it now, we'll never get that conversation going.

Additionally, the Youth Eastside Services, Crisis Connections, and NAMI WA put together a youth mental health first aid program to develop critical youth mental health courses for states, that includes a culturally nuanced approach.

Has been involved with the Kent Police Department to make small businesses and strip malls safer, well-lit and patrolled, so that that vandalism can be addressed for our small business community, which is still struggling.

A third initiative involves the East King County Police Department. There's been a lot of concern in our community about police coming in and booking parents after having altercations with their teen youth. When neighbors complain, it typically happens on a Friday, the parents gets booked, and court doesn’t happen until Monday. This causes a huge impact on mental health and anxiety for the family, as well as negatively impacting that family's immigrant success.

Lastly, this is election season. The VSHSL, Senior Services Levy in King County, recently passed.

**Cmmr. Cho**: This summer marked the 70th anniversary of the ROK-US Alliance. To commemorate it, there was concert at Benaroya Hall featuring Sumi Jo, a world-renowned opera singer.

Attended the APEC Summit which occurred in Seattle for about three and a half weeks this past month. It was an opportunity for us to welcome other members from the Asia Pacific regional economy.

Attended an API leadership summit in Sacramento. This was the first of its kind with API leaders from across the country, mostly in the public policy realm. It was very well attended, with some local representatives outside of myself, including Sen. Joe Nguyen.

The ACRS 50th Anniversary Gala is being held on October 7th.

Controversy within the Olympus Spa, which is a Korean spa and for women, where a transgender woman came in to use the spa and was turned away because she had not transitioned yet. She still had male genitalia, and this individual decided to file a complaint against the spa with the State Human Rights Commission, who ended up ruling against the spa. This led to legal action and an ongoing dispute between the parties and within communities. Dialogue around both understanding these distinctions, as well as how agencies like the Human Rights Commission could take cultural sensitivity into account when having this discussion, should be something that should happen.

**Cmmr. Faitalia**: We need to build a think tank around it together. CAPAA should have conversations with our communities first, before we bring that out in public.

Thanked CAPAA for holding space on the [WAVE](https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/) Board, which is specifically an award that was established by the Legislature in 1984, discontinued in 2010 due to the budget, but then picked back up. It awards students of color that are in high school looking to attend technical school or college. For

2022-2023, we had several Southeast Indians, AA and NHPI awarded, specifically around STEM, but also in other sciences.

Ongoing work on behalf of CAPAA on the [Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities](https://healthequity.wa.gov/). Currently, they are redesigning the statute. Chair Huie, and Cmmrs. McKenna and Uppala, we will need your voices to help inform this work as we transition to really make this statute equitable, but also inclusive of all of the communities.

Hats off to CAPAA for fighting for the disaggregation of data as there were some feedback from the council regarding the challenge of obtaining data, but CAPAA stood our ground. We will always side with our communities and what they want.

My hat is also off to Chair Sisavatdy for kicking us off with ED Hasegawa on the EOGOAC studies. We received the funding to update the studies from 2008 and we have recently had the honor of interviewing a lot of our brilliant scholars, that will be helping with that work.

Congratulations to Sili Savusa who has been appointed the new Executive Director WA PICA.

Congratulations also to Auntie Patsy and Auntie Lua, who did a groundbreaking ceremony for APCC.

Hasn’t been up to date with the poverty reduction bill since I am returning from maternity leave.

**Cmmr. Abbott**: Has been raising issues with the Korean Grocer’s Association regarding health disparities here. There are about 1500 employees being employed by 600 Korean grocers. These are small businesses, your mom-and-pop stores, but they can’t afford health insurance because it is too expensive. Currently, it's about $1350 per person.

If you are less than 65, unless you are in Medicare or meet the poverty guidelines, they don’t qualify for healthcare that is at least affordable. These people are working hard. Koreans don't want any free handouts. They want to pay, but they can't afford to pay $2,700 a month. That's a house payment for some individuals. So, unless you are working for large companies that provide health insurance, they can't afford to pay that amount.

If you have to pay $2,700 for a husband and wife, and then add your children, this is going to tip over $3,000 per month. Can you imagine paying that much money every month, not just one time? Consider deductibles on top of that.

We really need to push this through and revisit this issue. In Pierce County, we continue to have problems with theft and vandalism by many in the homeless population.

On the flip side of that, KWA has a wonderful Executive Director Cheryl Lee, and she's doing a great job.

We were able to award seven scholarships for college students and we celebrated.

**Cmmr. Sisavatdy**: Education Committee has been busy the last couple of months preparing for the Disparity Studies coming up. A huge thank you to Vice Chair, Faitalia, ED Hasegawa for interviewing the research team. It's meaningful; it's going to be impactful. The studies started in 2008-2009, continued on in 2013, and now we have the opportunity to update it.

Back in 2013, when we talked about underserved communities, the average number of baccalaureates in Washington was 32.1%. I was looking at the numbers where Laotians stood, and we were at 9.2%. The Samoans was at 7.1 or 7.2, so there are huge gaps, and a lot of work that still needs to be done. When we talk about this model-minority concept, it does not speak to us.

We're 48 federally recognized ethnic groups with many, many different distinctions. This is one of those studies that needs to continue.

We've been very busy with the Make Us Visible team as well, to bring curriculum that includes Native Hawaiians and Native Americans to the K-12 system. This has included several meetings and tabling.

The goal is to make sure we have visibility, and that we have our narratives in the school systems.

Held a one-on-one mentor session with our new commissioner David Phongsa. The community got together and decided to give him a nice, warm welcome in Federal Way. One of the members of the Lao community invited some of the Khmu, the Hmong, and the Lao leaders, and Cmmr Sisavatdy got to share some of his own experiences as well.

Today the Lao, Khmu, Mien, and Hmong community will be in Whidbey Island for a leadership and board training. It started yesterday and will go through today and Sunday.

The Thai Festival is also happening today until 4:00 pm. It's over in St. Matthew's Parrish over northeast Seattle, if you want to make way down there after the meeting.

**Cmmr. McKenna**:

Mentioned that anti-trans rhetoric is dangerous, as trans siblings are some of the most impacted community members in both the Asian community and the NHPI community. Cmmr McKenna urged the group to prioritize a conversation where we are enhancing our learning on this subject together and undergoing intentional training. Part of being anti-racist and proactive in our equity is taking intention and action, so with this, I would just urge us to prioritize this conversation moving forward and urge any community members that are engaging with us that do identify as trans to know that we are listening and are hoping to better serve you and our roles as commissioners.

**VIII. Lunch**

The Commission broke for lunch at 11:59 AM.

**IX. Public Comment**

**Cmmr. Emeritus Rey Pascua:** I'd like to report on three things. The first one that is the most important to me is that The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation voted unanimously to mark the Filipino Community Hall in Wapato as a historic site. The committee is also submitting a nomination to mark it as a national historic site.

Number two, I recently attended a meeting for the Tacoma City Council where they adopted a welcoming resolution for immigrants to the United States. Miss Maricres Castro was responsible for helping the Tacoma Board to come up with a date and I believe it's from September 8th to 17th. They will welcome immigrants to the United States and protect them.

The third thing is that on October 7th in Wapato, we are having the Harvest Dinner to recognize Filipino American History Month. This year's theme is the Treaty of Paris in 1898. This treaty gave the US the opportunity to purchase the Philippines for $20 million, and it became a colony of the United States.We wouldn't have Filipino American history if it wasn't for that treaty, and so we hope that that theme will compel Filipino Americans and others to study the Treaty of Paris of 1898.

I have one other piece. You have heard about the movement to reinstitute a Philippine Consulate Office in Seattle. For many years there was a Philippine Consulate Office in Seattle, and it went away in the early 70s, I believe, but I want to let you know that there is a Washington State Coalition for bringing back a real Philippine Consulate to the city of Seattle. I just returned from the Philippines, and I had a very reliable source convey that a Consulate Office will become a reality for the state of Washington.

Again, Maricres Castro has helped them do the groundwork for that Consulate. I estimate there may be a consulate established here in 2025.

**Hakan Yilmaz**: Project Director at National Asian Pacific Center on Aging.

We have been around for over 40 years serving the AAPI communities. In particular, we serve seniors. My division is the Senior Community Service Employment Program, where we reach out to those who are 55 years of age and over to help get them back into the workforce again.

I'm here today to invite all of you over to the events that we have planned. There are seven planned on the calendar to vaccinate seniors who are alone in the communities. We were fortunate enough to get full grants from the National Council on Aging as well as US Aging. Both sides supported our organization to reach out to our seniors in the communities. CISC will be the location for our first event on October 3.

We anticipate over 100 seniors coming through to be vaccinated for COVID, as well as for the flu. Our second event will be at IDIC, the Filipino Senior & Family Services, that is set for October 6.

Then our third round will take place on October 10th at Nikkei Manor, an assisted living facility for the Japanese community.

If you are on a board of any nonprofits and you know they are interested in hosting a vaccination clinic, we'll be more than happy to come.

We have four pharmacies that we are partnering with to vaccinate over 2,500 seniors, or beyond that. We're fortunate to collaborate with Kroger as well as CVS, along with two small local pharmacies. If you know of any board or organization that is interested, we'll be more than happy to collaborate.

**Ali Lee**: She/her pronouns. I'm with Eco Infinity and we're asking for support on our trip over to Maui.

We're working with the Lahainaluna High School, along with several families. There is a team consisting of the Filipino Community Center, ourselves, and Representative Gregorson that will be going over.

We'll be putting in 100 homes in 100 days as well as helping the high school get up and going with their sterling system. We will also be be taking supplies over, and we are looking for donations to go forward for a lot of the families that are there.

Though the Lahainaluna High School is still intact, both the middle school and elementary school have burnt down. There’s also the Moms and Babies program that we are taking over a container of supplies for, as assistance from the government side is not getting through to them.

We're having struggles trying to get things through Hawaiian Airlines, so if anybody has a connection for them or Alaska Airlines, they said it would have to be an employee that we talk to.

Thank you so much for your time and all that you do. I can be reached at [eco8cb@gmail.com](mailto:eco8cb@gmail.com). I'm also one of the co-chairs for POCLS, and so you might have seen me over there. Thank you so much for all the work.

 

**X. Elections**

Executive Committee:

* Chair- Cmmr. Faitalia accepted the nomination by Cmmr. Sisavatdy. Cmmr. Uppala seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
* 1st Vice Chair- Cmmr. Uppala nominated herself. Seconded by Cmmr. Sisavatdy. Motion passed unanimously.
* 2nd Vice Chair- Cmmr. Kosai accepted the nomination by Cmmr. Sisavatdy. Motion passed unanimously.

Civil Rights & Immigration Committee:

* Chair- Cmmr. McKenna accepted the nomination by Cmmr. Kosai. Motion passed unanimously
* Committee will be comprised of Cmmrs. Nguyen, McKenna, and Kosai.

Economic Development Committee:

* Chair- Cmmr. Phongsa was nominated by Cmmr. Cho. Motion passed unanimously.
* Committee will be comprised of Cmmrs. Uppala, Cho, Abbott, and Phongsa.

Education Committee:

* Chair- Cmmr. Sisavatdy accepted the nomination by Cmmr. Lehrman. Motion passed unanimously.
* Committee will be comprised of Cmmrs. Ping, Sisavatdy, and Lehrman.

Health & Human Services Committee:

* Chair- Cmmr. Huie accepted the nomination by Cmmr. Abbott. Motion passed unanimously.
* Committee will be comprised of Cmmr. Abbott, Sisavatdy, Uppala, McKenna, and Huie.

Golden Celebration Ad Hoc Committee:

* Committee will be comprised of Cmmrs. Sisavatdy, Faitalia, Nguyen, Lua, and Pascua.

**XI. AA & NHPI Education Disparity Studies Update**

CAPAA has been commissioned to conduct two new studies studying the education disparities of AA & NHPI. Full scope of the study can be accessed below.



**XII. AA & NHPI Small Business Listening Session**

**PM Yodkerepauprai**: As we know, our small businesses were severely affected during their pandemic, so the Economic Development Committee, led by Chair Uppala, really wanted to hear from them.

It was originally going to be a roundtable with the Department Commerce, OMWBE, and just a few small businesses. Once we started to tell the community about this happening, however, a lot of people wanted to share their experiences, so we switched this to a listening session. It ended up being a really great success.

The forum took place virtually on June 26th at 12 p.m. At its peak, 96 attendees were present and we had 140 registrants. This effort was really spearheaded by Chair Uppala and Commissioner Abbott because they were able to get so much of their community to take part. Full overview of the listening session can be accessed below.



**XIII. Good of the Order**

**Cmmr. Sisavatdy** invited the Commission to attend Cmmr. Emeritus Toka Valu’s art exhibit. It is taking place in Kent on September 13th.

**Cmmr. Cho** mentioned that a Kalbi cookoff will take place at Seward Park later this month. It will be hosted by the Korean American Coalition on September 23rd from 11:00-2:00.

**ED Hasegawa**: Reviewed follow-up items, including: sending an email with all of the links to required trainings and orientations, as well upcoming events and copies of all the reports.

CAPAA received inquiry from the Northwest Asian Weekly, which is in the research phase for an article about scams and frauds against senior citizens. Cmmr. Abbott agreed to talk with the media on this item.

It is any commissioner’s prerogative to use their time during their five minutes to share their platform and their community concerns. We'll make sure that we build in more time for the Commission.

It as also completely appropriate for commissioners to be able to ask questions or make comments on anything that other commissioners present in their activities. We will build that into the schedule moving forward - not just five minutes for each person, but about a minute more for you to be able to answer questions.

By Robert's Rules, we do not engage in dialogue or “back and forth”. The Chair will recommend people take their turns asking questions or making comments.

Acknowledged that both Commissioner McKenna and Commissioner Cho mentioned that we need to be able to host a space to have a crucial conversation, which means a very intentional, uncomfortable conversation. Staff can follow up with Commissioners to potentially host a more robust conversation around the intersection of culture, tolerance and inclusion and for people of all walks of life.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.