



OCAPIA Agenda
Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 9:30 AM - 12 PM
Oregon State Bar, Sandy Room
16037 SW Upper Boone's Ferry Road, Tigard, OR 97224

Chair: Stephen Ying/Mari Watanabe
Vice Chair: Mari Watanabe/David Tam
Commissioners: Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, David Yuen Tam (phone)
Absent: Senator Dembrow, Representative Whisnant
Guests: Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO; Robert Otero, DAS CFO's Office; Kathy Wai, APANO; Hussein Al-Baiaty (phone)
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Call to Order and Welcome New Commissioners – Chair Ying called the meeting to order at 9:35am. Ty Schwoeffermann introduced himself. He is the new Operations & Policy Analyst for OACO. Hussein Al-Baiaty introduced himself. His term as an OCAPIA Commissioner begins on Friday, November 20. He looks forward to serving on the Commission and effecting positive change.

II. Roll Call – Nancy called the roll. A quorum was established at 10:45am.

III. A. Approval of September 2015 OCAPIA Minutes

MOTION (Watanabe/Sinlapasai-Okamura): To approve the minutes from September 2015. CARRIED.

B. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved by common consent.

IV. New Business

A. Elections of Officers

The Commission voted for Mari Watanabe as nominated for Chair. The vote passed unanimously.

The Commission voted for David Tam as nominated for Vice Chair. The vote passed unanimously.

The new Chair and Vice Chair assumed their duties immediately. The Commission thanked Commissioner Ying for his service as OCAPIA Chair. Stephen congratulated the new Officers and looks forward to further active service on OCAPIA as a Commissioner.

B. Review and update committee work

1. Civic Engagement Committee

a. WHIAAPI (White House Initiative on Asian and Pacific Islanders) Roundtable in Eugene

OCAPIA partnered with WHIAAPI earlier this year to hold Oregon's first Roundtable in July. The purpose was to build relationships between federal agencies and the API community, so the community is aware of the services the agencies offer, and the agencies better understand the needs of the community. About 100 people were expected but more than 150 people attended. For the next meeting in Eugene, that will need to be taken into account for extra chairs and food. The community was vocal at the Roundtable about needing a US Citizenship and Immigration Services outreach person and a new USCIS Community Relations Officer has been hired and is based in Seattle.

OCAPIA is partnering with WHIAAPI to hold a 2nd Roundtable, this time in Eugene. Vice Chair David Tam is the point person and is securing a location for Thursday, March 3rd, 2016. The Holt Center is under consideration but it may not have enough breakout rooms. About 100 participants are expected, with the same number of breakout rooms needed as the Portland meeting. A goal for the Eugene WHIAAPI Roundtable is to have a true dialogue between the community and the federal agency staff, possibly with the aid of a framework to improve the caliber of the discussions. Another idea is to have a list of questions from the community prepared in advance and shared with the federal agency staff, so they are better prepared. This feedback will be passed on to the OCAPIA's WHIAAPI contact, so it can be incorporated into the planning.

b. Eugene-based Civic Engagement subcommittee

Vice Chair Tam proposed forming an OCAPIA Civic Engagement subcommittee in Eugene, so as to better serve as a voice for the local API community, and to raise awareness about OCAPIA and its mission. Discussion followed and a new idea was proposed: at OCAPIA meetings each Commissioner would serve as a liaison to certain populations of the API community. The Commissioners are already attending local meetings in their ethnic communities and would actively represent OCAPIA at these meetings. This would also improve and strengthen communication to the Governor's Office. This topic was tabled until the January OCAPIA meeting for further discussion.

c. OCAPIA Bylaws – Chair Watanabe reviewed the OCAPIA Bylaws and proposed several potential changes that would add a formal officer nomination and elections process and also give the Commission more options in structuring its meeting agendas. The specific wording will be discussed at the January 2016 OCAPIA meeting, with a vote on the changes to be held at the March meeting. Nancy will send the Chair the OCBA Bylaws, as they already contain specific wording on nominations and elections that may serve as a template.

d. Upcoming United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS) Meeting – The API community would like to meet Christine Pool, the new USCIS Community Relations Officer based in Seattle, and Mari has extended an invitation to her. IRCO is willing to host, and the invitation will come from all 4 OAC's. The meeting will be from 10am – 11:30 as Christine will be driving to Portland for the day, sometime in January. Mari will invite the Governor's newly appointed Director of Equity and Community Engagement, Serena Stoudamire, to attend.

2. Education Committee

- a. Oregon Department of Education. The Commission discussed the progress within ODE on providing more inclusive history instruction in Oregon schools which was implemented with the passage of SB 739 in 2013. This was Sen. Winters' bill that required ODE to collaborate with the Oregon Advocacy Commissions for resources and input on expanding the scope of K12 history education to include the diverse populations' historic contributions to the state. OCAPIA and the other Advocacy Commissions each met with and contributed to ODE's effort. To follow up on this, Mari is requesting a meeting with the ODE Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor. She will also invite Ty Schwoeffermann to help report back to the OAC's and provide further connection between ODE and the Advocacy Commissions if helpful. SB 739 requires the Oregon Department of Education to teach curriculum that covers all of Oregon's history. A relatively small amount of funding was attached to the bill and progress on the curriculum has been slow.

The Chinese American Citizen Alliance (C.A.C.A.) recently spoke with Sen. Roblan, Chair of Education Committee, for an update on this bill. C.A.C.A. has asked Chair Watanabe to speak with the new Education Deputy Superintendent, Salam Noor, for a status report on the new curriculum. She has arranged a meeting with him and will also represent all 4 OACs. Ty will attend the meeting. Senator Winters will be invited as well. OCAPIA Rep. Whisnant and OCBA Sen. Monroe also sit on the Education Committee. It is generally agreed that more funds are needed to create a worthwhile curriculum.

- b. [Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Educators Improve Learning handout](#)

Hilda Rosselli of the Chief Education Office shared this handout at the joint meeting of the OACs in October. This handout is being circulated statewide to school administrators and teachers. OCAPIA Commissioner Kathleen Jonathan and OCHA Commissioner Diego Hernandez participated in developing this handout. Kathleen is concerned that school administrators actively support the recommendations on page 2 of the handout and also about teachers being observed to ensure the recommendations are integrated in the classroom. She is no longer working directly with students and is concerned that Marshallese students in particular continue to be misclassified as Special Ed when what they really need is culturally-specific support.

Hilda attended the first meeting of the OAC's Joint Education Committee and would like to attend future meetings of the Education Committee.

C. OCAPIA Fundraising update – The fundraising event will be held after February 2016 session.

D. Recruitment of OCAPIA members – All

Kathy Wai of APANO has submitted her application to be an OCAPIA Commissioner which will fill the currently available Governor appointees to the Commission.

V. New Business

A. 2016 Legislative session – All

1. Joint OACs Interest and Collaborative Action Areas - brainstorm list from OACs meeting on 10/29 (appended to the end of these minutes)

Chair Watanabe briefly explained the brainstorming session and reviewed the list with the group. She will bring the Commissioners feedback to the joint Chairs at the OAC Leadership mtg. The two major issues that emerged were healthcare and education. This discussion was tabled until the strategic planning session later in the meeting.

2. Kathy Wai, APANO's Legislative Priorities

APANO, in partnership with the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) is focusing on healthcare issues during the February 2016 Legislative session and is seeking support from OCAPIA on two issues:

- a. COFA (Compact of Free Association, covers citizens of Palau, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia) Health Coverage, which will cover more than 1000 adults previously excluded from healthcare coverage;
- b. Basic Health Plan for Oregon, which will cover over 87,000 Oregonians currently excluded because they are low-income or immigrants with a 5-year waiting period. Funding of approximately \$1.5 million will be requested in 2016, and there will be a request for continued funding in the 2017 Legislative session. Rep. Olson and Rep. Rayfield are supporting this legislation. A report, [Mend the Gap](#), was recently released, focusing on these issues.

Lucy will send an e-vote to Commissioners about supporting these issues and also APANO's Legislative Lobby Day on February 15th.

Ty will develop an update of the legislation discussed and present it to OCAPIA before legislative session begins.

B. Strategic Planning Session – All

Chair Watanabe led the OCAPIA's Strategic Planning session. She reviewed OCAPIA's current 2-committee structure: Civic Engagement and Education. Mari is the Civic Engagement Chair and Kathleen the Education Chair. The Commissioners engaged in lively discussion and agreed to add a Healthcare Committee, divide the Civic Engagement committee into Civic Engagement and Legislative Policy Committee, and create an Arts committee. There will be a chair for each committee.

Chanpone spoke about the upcoming Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (CAATA) Conference that will be held in Ashland, in conjunction with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in October 1 – 8, 2016 and the importance of supporting API performers. This is the first time this conference will be in Oregon and she will host a planning meeting in December. She has spoken with 2 OSF staff about joining the OACs.

There was discussion about an open slot on the Oregon Supreme Court and OCAPIA will write a letter of support to Governor Brown for Judge Lynn Nakamoto. This would be the first time a member of the API community sat on the bench at this level. OAPABA (Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association) nominated her for the Supreme Court, because of her professional experience and her personal background and asked OCAPIA for a letter. Chanpone will draft the letter and work with Ty to finalize it and send it to Commissioners.

VI. Report of the Administrator – Lucy

- A. Introduction of new .5 Policy Analyst for OACO – Lucy introduced Ty Schwoeffermann as the OACO's first new staff position in 10 years. Soon it will be time to prepare the

budget for 2017-19 biennium, and to review the OAC's staffing plan which included a full-time Policy Analyst, a full-time Public Affairs position and a full-time Office Assistant to support the growing committee work of the 4 OACs.

B. Classification of OACO Administrator Position

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is reviewing all managers and how they are compensated for the first time in 20 years. DAS believes OACO Administrator does no type of policy work or legislation, and only supervises para-professionals. The Joint Chairs wrote a letter to DAS objecting to this classification. DAS created a new class regarding equity, which is a positive step, but placed the OACO's Administrator in the lowest manager category which has no responsibility in working with policy or legislation and is described as supervising paraprofessionals. The level 2 manager has a position description most suitable to the work of the OACO Administrator. The Chairs and Vice Chairs would like to meet with the decision-makers at DAS to discuss this, as there is concern about the level of experience that will be required of future candidates.

C. Joint OAC meeting and Commissioner training – Chair Watanabe provided a brief recap of the training and joint meeting on 10/29. There was a quorum for the meeting and excellent panelists in the morning speaking about equity issues in upcoming legislation and a wonderful presentation on diversity in educators. A request was made to begin planning the next joint meeting 6 months in advance due to active Commissioners' schedules.

D. Recent appointment by the Governor of Director of Equity and Community Engagement Serena Stoudamire was recently appointed to this role. The Governor's Equity team is now complete and includes Mary Moller as the Director of Executive Appointments; Robin Johnson as Director of Affirmative Action; and Janet Soto as the Director of Economic and Business Equity.

E. Commissioner travel reimbursement forms – Nancy will find out if Commissioners' electronic signatures can be used to sign reimbursement forms.

F. Continue to meet at Oregon State Bar? Yes.

G. Budget update - Lucy discussed the \$30,000 shortfall that was identified in the OACO budget one month into the new biennium, when looking at projections for the 2015-17 biennium. The portion that under Personnel is expected to be addressed in February 2016 with a scheduled infusion of General Fund. The shortfall in IT services is due to a miscalculation by IT for their technical support to the OACO. Savings to make up the difference was found by delaying the hiring of the new Policy Analyst position, and a request to delay the start of the lease on the OACO's office space.

VII. Items from Commission Members – Minoru Yasui, the first API lawyer in Oregon, will posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his ground-breaking work in civil rights, in an awards ceremony on 11/24. The Chair acknowledged the large group of people who contributed their efforts to this cause.

VIII. Public Comment – there was no public comment.

IX. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 11:39am.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 20th, 2015, 9:30am – 12pm

OS Bar, Sandy Mtg Room, 16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Tigard 97224

Joint OACs Interest and Collaborative Action Areas (from 10/29/15 Joint mtg)

OCAPIA (Kathleen, Mari):

1. Healthcare – undocumented children
2. Education
 - a. Support of childcare
 - b. Civics classes to teach accurate history

OCBA (James Manning, Gwen):

1. Measure 88, driver card. Signed into law, but overturned. Safety issue
2. Education opportunities – support free childcare for students
3. How we understand mental health issues within criminal justice.

OCHA (Andrea, Diego):

1. Education - Who is setting the price of higher education? Increase revenue for education.
2. Women's reproductive health
3. Special needs children
4. Mental health issues and justice milieu

OCFW (Doris, Barbara):

1. Issue of achievement gap with pre-Kindergarten children and kids of color. Invest in early childhood education.
2. Oregon has highest childcare costs in the country.
3. Mend the Gap
4. 21st Century Universal Women's Healthcare bill. Consider long-term and short-term goals for women's health.
5. Profiling

Healthcare and education are top issues for all OACs. Currently each Commission has an education champion, and are interested in identifying a champion for health issues.