



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

“Advocating Equality and Diversity”

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OCAPIA MINUTES
Wednesday, May 21, 2014
9:30 AM - 12 PM
Oregon State Bar, Sandy Room
16037 SW Upper Boone's Ferry Road
Tigard, OR 97224

ATTENDANCE

Chair: Stephen Ying
Vice Chair: Mari Watanabe
Commissioners: Ping Khaw-Sutherland, Joseph Santos-Lyons, Michelle Vlach-Ing, Senator Michael Dembrow (phone)
Absent: Jennifer Kleskie, Mahendra Shah, Rep. Whisnant
Guests: Gary Sims, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Oregon Department of Corrections; Erious Johnson Director of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Unit; Chanpone Sinlapasai, US Attorney's Human Trafficking Task Force.
Staff: Lucy Baker

I. Call to Order

Chair Ying called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. A quorum was established later in the meeting at 10:30 am when votes and other actions which had been postponed were entertained.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners introduced themselves to their guests with the results reflected above in those absent and those present.

III. Approval of March 2014 OCAPIA Minutes and current Agenda

At 10:30 am, with a quorum present, the agenda and minutes were reviewed and approved.

MOTION (Santos-Lyons/Watanabe): To approve the March minutes as written. CARRIED.

MOTION (Vlach-Ing/Khaw-Sutherland): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

IV. Old Business

A. Commissioner Recruitment

Lucy updated the Commission on the status of Kathleen Jonathon, her Senate hearing and confirmation which are scheduled for Wednesday, May 28th. Shortly after the hearing, Lucy will schedule a new commissioner orientation with Kathleen. Other Commissioners are welcome to attend the orientation.

B. Education Committee and Civic Engagement Committee

In the area of Education, the Commission is interested to know if the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) will be pursuing continued funding for the Oregon Studies Project, which would allow more time and outreach to occur for the diverse API communities to contribute their histories in Oregon to the project. After discussion the Commission asked Lucy to inquire of ODE whether they will be including a Policy Option Package (POP) in their 2015-17 budget for the project to continue.

The work sessions were postponed to the next regular meeting.

V. New Business

A. Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Unit, Erious Johnson, Director

The Commission welcomed Mr. Johnson who discussed his new position as the Director of Civil Rights within DOJ and his focus on awareness, education, and outreach to communities of color, women and others. He is visiting communities statewide to hear the issues of diverse communities including LGBT, communities of color and others. He will help provide links and education on the purpose of DOJ. An early issue that he is exploring is notarial fraud in the Latino Community in immigration petitions, as well as fair housing, and other issues for all communities. DOJ has a formal role in regulation and unfair trade issues, as well as internet security, and litigation on fair housing, notarial fraud, and other areas. Senator Dembrow asked how Erious partners with the Bureau of Labor & Industries (BOLI) on issues such as wage theft. Erious clarified that BOLI does handles wage theft, and DOJ deals with Unfair Trade Practices. He will refer to BOLI issues that are in their purview and focus on DOJ's work. The Commission thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and looks forward to working with him on policy issues.

B. Human Trafficking, Chanpone Sinlapasai, US Attorney's Human Trafficking Task Force.

Commissioner Vlach-Ing introduced Chanpone Sinlapasai who is an immigration attorney who also focuses on labor trafficking and serves on the US Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Task Force. Chanpone thanked the Commission for inviting her to speak. She reported on the work of the foreign born trafficking task force that is convened by the US Attorney in Portland. Its focus is two-fold: 1) assuring that the law protects all individuals independent of where they were born. 2) to improve the enforcement of trafficking laws for foreign born individuals. It is clear to the task force that there needs to be more advocacy and education in this area.

The US Attorney's Task Force (TF) is chaired by Hannah Horsley, and includes the FBI, Portland Police liaisons, Multnomah County Sheriff and other partners. There is also a larger discussion group of 50 agencies which meets quarterly with the US Attorney and includes District Attorneys, social service agencies, enforcement and others and is open to the public. This group covers both sex trafficking of children and labor trafficking. She has learned that foreign born trafficking involves the elderly, kids, family members, and laborers. They are currently revamping the TF around a situation that occurred a month ago. The work they do includes mental health professionals and others.

Commissioner Joseph Santos Lyons asked if there are specific policy areas the Commission should be watching in order to support the work of the Task Force. He noted that the E. 82nd area of Portland has long had such issues. Chanpone feels that the Commission can help with education within the API Community having to do with awareness of both sex and labor trafficking, what to do when they see it or are suspicious, how to report it, and to whom. Providing advocacy for more victim centered responses and helping dispel the notion about trafficking that it is usually either for sex or for labor when actually it often includes both. Because of the work of the Task Force and an increasing toughness in enforcement, Oregon is considered to be a model nationally. Joseph asked if the TF will be putting forward policy recommendations. The Advocacy Commissions would be supportive. Chanpone believes the TF may have policy recommendations from time to time and will keep the advocates informed including the Commissions. He also invited Chanpone to meet with APANO's community organizers which she promised to do.

Vice Chair Watanabe asked which populations are most taken advantage of in human trafficking. Chanpone answered that the most frequent victims of trafficking in our area are SE Asians who are brought into the US by family members for trafficking purposes, Indigenous Mexicans who are lured to the US for legitimate work but are forced into the drug trade or sex trade, and Slavic individuals lured here by offers of legitimate work.

The Commissioners thanked Chanpone for her presentation and look forward to working with her on human trafficking policy in the future.

C. Center for Asian and Pacific American Women (CAPAW) – Vice Chair Watanabe

Vice Chair Watanabe reported on the work of this international organization that provides leadership conferences. This year, CAPAW will be hosting a leadership conference in Portland and is looking for sponsors. There will be 2 noted keynote speakers as well as breakout sessions and intensive leadership training. The focus of the conference is Asian women and helping them move into leadership positions. They are interested in a sponsorship from OCAPIA. Historically, OCAPIA has provided a \$300 sponsorship, which is focused on registration for 6 Asian women youth at \$50 each.

MOTION (Santos Lyons/Khaw-Sutherland): To provide a \$300 sponsorship from OCAPIA Other Funds to the Center for Asian and Pacific American Women for 6 youth leadership scholarships. CARRIED.

D. White House Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Round Table (WHIAAPI) – Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Ying and Vice Chair Watanabe reported on their attendance of the WHIAAPI national conference on May 6th in Washington, DC. Mari's attendance was covered by WHIAAPI and Stephen's attendance was supported with OCAPIA Other Funds.

The first day of the conference included the Department of the Interior presentation thanking the WHIAAPI Commissioners. Bill Imada, a longtime friend of Mari's who has served on

the Board of the WHIAAPI, was honored. Kiran Ahuja, the Executive Director of the WHIAPPI, spoke. Congresswoman Judy Chu spoke briefly and introduced Vice President Joe Biden. VP Biden spoke on the status of immigration reform and discussed the contribution of the Chinese railroad workers; it was a very interesting presentation. This was followed by the U.S. Department of Labor's induction of the Chinese railroad workers into the Labor Hall of Honor two days later. VP Biden also spoke on Asian Heritage Month. There was a panel in the afternoon on the contributions and the future of the API community. They provided a report on building the American Mosaic which projects that 1 in 10 individuals in the US will be of Asian descent by 2050. Mari shared the link to the report on line at www.whitehouse.gov/AAPI

The conferees went to the Department of Education for a round table discussion of issues in the API community in the afternoon. It was great to hear from the 120 API commissions and boards which were represented. Some are city or county commissions. Texas has none though they have a large API community. Governor Schwarzenegger's administration defunded California's API Commission, despite California having the highest API population in the US. It is hoping to restart the API Commission. The state of Washington has a Commission with 15 community members.

The WHIAAPI has recently broken the nation into 10 regional groups in order to help with connection. The Pacific NW group has a staff person in the US Environmental Protection Agency who is based in Seattle. He wants to meet with OCAPIA members in Portland when he is in town. Mari will help set that up. The Seattle API group goal is to have regional meeting in 2014 in Seattle and Stephen and Mari have requested that 2015 have a regional meeting in Portland. In the evening the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies held a gala for the participants in the evening. The institute is dedicated to civic engagement and involvement of API members in civic and elected service. George Takei spoke on the importance of engaging youth in voting.

Mari and Stephen felt it was an excellent forum and they look forward to connecting OCAPIA with the regional WHIAPPI liaison, Ed Chu, who works in the Federal EPA. He wants to get to know OCAPIA and its issues better, and will meet with Commissioners in Portland when his work brings him here.

The OCAPIA thanked Stephen and Mari for their presentation and for taking time from their schedules to attend the Washington, DC, forum. The Commissioners look forward to following up with some of the national connections they made.

- E. Stronger Communities Stronger Families event 5/17 – Commissioner Santos-Lyons Joseph reported on the event which was hosted by APANO and OHSU to further discussion around health and health access issues in the API community. There were 110 community leaders and practitioners attending and there was great discussion on cultural competency and basic health plan options. There are many recent immigrants who are excluded from coverage due to waiting periods.

Lucy Baker was able to attend the Stronger Communities forum and considered it excellent. Chair Ying was disappointed not to attend it, but he represented OCAPIA at the inauguration of the Chinese Garden in Astoria.

VI. Report of the Administrator

A. OACO new staffing prioritization

Lucy briefly discussed the process the Commissions are following to consider, prioritize and build additional OACO staffing into the 2015-17 budget in support of the Commissions' mission driven work. The survey to Commissioners to prioritize the potential new staff positions has been e-mailed to all. Please take a few moments to complete and return the survey.

B. Upcoming training

In June, Lucy will organize a training for interested Commissioners by phone on the state budgeting process. It will last an hour and include the OACO's budget analyst from either the CFO's Office or the LFO Office. Details will be coming soon.

VII. Items from Commission Members

A. Discussion of process for allocation of OCAPIA Other Funds (OF)

Commissioner Santos-Lyons led a discussion on OCAPIA priorities for awarding or using Other Funds which are those funds that OCAPIA raises via fund raising activities or donations. He is interested in OCAPIA developing a process for setting the OF budget, and developing a fundraising plan. The Commission discussed these issues and others which included:

- **Encouraging OF applications to be considered at Commission meetings vs use of e-mail for Commission voting** on requests for Other Funds (sponsorships, scholarship, etc.) Joseph does not feel comfortable using e-mail for such votes, though other Commissioners consider e-voting as a way to expedite requests or issues that require a quick response.
- **Creating a process for requesting Other Funds** by partner organizations or community groups. Commissioners felt this is a positive step, and several noted that having a fairly simple, straight forward process would be best. After some discussion the Commissioners want to draft a form for the request process that can be on the OCAPIA website for those wishing to apply. Lucy will draft a form and circulate it to Commissioners for editing. Commissioner Khaw Sutherland, offered to test the draft form with a request for a sponsorship to OCAPIA. Joseph noted that the request form should have a strong preference for advance notice so that, to the extent possible, the requests come soon enough to be considered at a regular OCAPIA meeting.
- **Financial reporting and tracking of expenditures of Other Funds.** The Commission agreed that regular reporting and tracking of Other Fund expenditures and remaining balance should be easily available to Commissioners. Lucy will post

an OCAPIA Other Fund financial report at its website bi-monthly, and include the information in her Commission reports. She will also request the state accounting office to prepare an overview of OF expenditures over the past several years and get it to Commissioners.

- **Testing the draft form for requesting OF.** Ping Khaw-Sutherland offered to use the draft request form to apply to OCAPIA for a sponsorship for a business awareness training on API issues being hosted in June by APACC and Partners in Diversity. She will use it as soon as the draft form has been reviewed by Commissioners.

VIII. Public comment:

Gary Sims introduced himself. He is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Oregon Department of Corrections for which Collette Peters is the Director. He is visiting each of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions to explore ways to engage the Commission around issues relating to corrections and communities of color and women. Joseph noted that the API community does not have a culturally specific liaison internally within Corrections and asked if there is interest in Corrections to explore that or plan for it. Mr. Sims wants to build a discussion with their Director that will include this subject and thanks Commissioner Santos-Lyons for his question. The Commission is also interested in discussing culturally appropriate reentry services for those leaving a Corrections facility and is willing to be part of that conversation. Gary thanked the Commission for its questions. Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland also noted that some Laotian youth incarcerated at the McLaren facility had their green cards expire during their incarceration, and they were sent to Laos with no available counselling. It was very upsetting to the community and their families.

Lucy will solicit further questions from the OCAPIA to share with Mr. Sims and get them to him.

IX. Commissioner Announcements

Michelle Vlach-Ing announced the Salem Multicultural Fair on June 28-9. This year's focus is on Germany.

Ping asked that the fundraising group get together to plan a fundraiser. Ping wants to plan an event.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

- Next meeting: Wednesday, July 16, 2014, 9:30am – 12pm