

Kate Brown
Governor



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OCAPIA Minutes
Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 9:30 AM - 12 PM
Oregon State Bar, Sandy Room
16037 SW Upper Boone's Ferry Road, Tigard, OR 97224

ATTENDANCE

Chair: Absent
Vice Chair: David Yuen Tam (phone)
Commissioners: Hussein Al-Baiaty, Ping Khaw, Bennie Moses-Mesubed (phone),
Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Stephen Ying
Absent: Mari Watanabe, Kathleen Jonathan, Senator Dembrow, Representative
Whisnant
Guests: Lorena Garcia, Executive Assistant and Katharine Dumitru, Amellani
Escalera, interns, Oregon Department of Corrections; Naomi Sacks,
Department of Human Services; Helen Ying, Chinese American Citizens
Alliance National Vice President
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Call to Order - Vice Chair Tam chaired the meeting in Chair Watanabe's absence and called the meeting to order at 9:34am.

II. Roll Call - Roll was taken. A quorum was established.

III. A. Approval of May 2016 OCAPIA Minutes

MOTION (Ying /Sinlapasai-Okamura): To approve the May 2016 minutes as written.
CARRIED.

B. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Ying/Sinlapasai-Okamura): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

V. Old Business

A. Committee work

1. Civic Engagement Committee

a. Promoting and increasing naturalization of U.S. citizens – Quinn Andrus, USCIS. Ms. Andrus was unable to attend the meeting due to illness and will reschedule.

b. Victims of Crime Act update

Chanpone briefly outlined the federal Victims of Crime Act: if a victim of a crime, such as trafficking or sexual abuse, comes forward, identifies as a victim and assists law enforcement in arresting the perpetrator, the victim is given certain rights by the federal government that include important protections and benefits. Because many victims are

refugees and immigrants they are often fearful of making themselves known as victims to law enforcement for fear of deportation. Most are unaware that as victims they have rights. The law covers everyone who is not a U.S. Citizen and there are 28 crimes to which this applies.

Although it is a federal law, many states do not enforce it. There is pushback from law enforcement, including District Attorneys and often in rural areas. California is the first state to pass a law to enforce VOCA. New York recently passed a similar law and used California's as a template. The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has been meeting and talking nationally. The Oregon Chapter would like to develop a similar law, using California's as a template. Unlike the Notario Fraud law, which had the support of the Oregon State Bar, bipartisan support, and support from DA's and other partners, VOCA success in Oregon requires strong advocates which are not yet in place. AILA is looking to community organizations to carry the banner for this law. Chanpone has already presented this idea to OCBA and will also present to the women's commission and OCHA. She is seeking OCAPIA's support to draft a bill for the 2018 session.

MOTION (Sinlapasai/Ying): For OCAPIA to support and move forward legislation. Moves for OCAPIA to support VOCA legislation. CARRIED.

- c. Public Policy Research project on integrating immigrant credentials and degrees into Oregon's workforce
OCAPIA now has selected an intern, Ennada Lagouit, an OSU Masters Public Policy and Fulbright scholar from Morocco. The Commission is fortunate to also have Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens from Portland State University, who has been the principal investigator for other reports regarding equity for communities of color, who is willing to serve as a mentor in this project as well. She and Ennada will meet about this research along with Sen. Dembrow and Lucy in September. OCBA will likely be interested in supporting this project as it is a major issue for African immigrants with professional credentials. Ennada and Sen. Dembrow will connect with the OCBA in October about jointly supporting this research project with OCAPIA.

2. Education Committee

a. AANAPISI certification

Paolo Esteban from APANO has invited OCAPIA to do a presentation about Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions at APANO's first API Statewide Summit in late September. The Commission is willing to help connect him with knowledgeable individuals and is waiting to hear back from Paolo on the details.

b. Legislative Concept related to Inclusive Curriculum (SB 739) – Helen Ying, Chinese American Citizens Alliance National Vice President.

Helen Ying introduced herself to the Commissioners. She is a former educator and school principal. Her grandfather was affected by the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 and she didn't learn that until 2009. She cares deeply about the history of all Oregonians being taught in Oregon's public schools. There is a law that was passed 13 years ago that U.S. History curriculum taught in Oregon grade schools include history of all Oregonians, but little forward progress was made. In 2013 Helen and other supporters met with Senator

Mark Hass, Chair on Senate Committee on Education. The group presented their concerns and solutions to the Committee and the Committee was supportive. SB 739, Oregon Department of Education consultation on Oregon history with the Advocacy Commissions, passed, but was allocated a budget too small to plan, or implement the needed curricula.

Earlier in 2016 a summit was held with a focus on recruiting, retaining and advancing teachers who are of color, and in May she and Mari Watanabe met with Salam Noor, Deputy Superintendent of Oregon Schools. He fully supports efforts to teach a much more inclusive Oregon history curriculum. Later in July is a Social Sciences Summit hosted by ODE to discuss the underlying policies and resources available to support implementation and curriculum development. ODE has invited all of the Advocacy Commissions to attend and there will be representation from OCAPIA, OCHA and OCBA as well as Lucy and Ty. Helen and members of her coalition will also attend.

As Helen works with ODE and other partners to draft legislation, she asked OCAPIA to support 2017 legislation that would fund the next phase of inclusive history implementation. She would appreciate immediate help from OCAPIA, Lucy and Ty to discuss developing a legislative concept to fund professional development and curriculum development.

The Commission thanked Helen for her presentation and expressed their interest in helping with the legislative concept and being supportive partners in the effort. Helen will soon set a meeting with Ty and Lucy to discuss drafting the legislative concept and will keep the OCAPIA up to date as she moves forward in consultation with ODE.

3. Health Committee

a. Update on COFA Compact

OCAPIA supported HB 4071, financial assistance to health care for COFA residents. Oregon is a leader in the U.S. for providing this assistance. A policy committee was created within DCBS and Commissioners Jonathan and Moses-Mesubed are on the committee. There has been one meeting so far. Legislators used an equity lens when developing this bill and reached out to the community for their input. An RFP went out for this work and OCAPIA may invite the awardee to a regular meeting to present, so Commissioners can share the information with their networks.

b. Schedule time for Health Committee meeting

Ty will provide staff support to launch this committee. Healthcare and health policy are areas in which he is experienced. The Committee will convene by early September. Hussein will chair and Bennie and Kathleen will also be on the committee. Ty will reach out to the other OACs about this committee and who will represent each OAC.

One topic of discussion will be the need for refugees to receive medical examinations as part of their adjustment process. Some clinics offer the exam for free, and others do not. A list of the clinics offering free exams would be invaluable to the refugee community.

B. OCAPIA Fundraiser update

The fundraiser will be Tuesday, August 23rd, at the NW Natural building, 4th floor, in Portland. NW Natural will provide the event space and the catering for the event which will

have room for 75 attendees. The cost of individual tickets is \$30, and sponsorships are available for amounts between \$100 and \$500+.

Vice Chair Tam has contacted Reggie Lee to provide the keynote address. August 23rd is a Grimm filming day, and Mr. Lee cannot confirm until the week before the event. He is doing what he can to make sure he can attend. Honoree Peggy Nagae cannot attend and will send a representative. Honoree Jaime Lim will be there to share his story.

Lucy will send the draft program, a draft sponsorship letter to nonprofit partners and a separate letter to businesses and the mailing list. Lucy thanked Nancy for her work on the website adapting the “donate” page to become a “purchase tickets” page.

The Commissioners thanked Ping and the Fundraising Committee for their efforts.

- C. Discussion on adding Environmental Equity as a 7th Strategic Priority area
This past legislative session there were 2 environmental justice bills that the OACs supported: the eliminating coal bill, which passed, and the Cap & Invest bill, which did not pass. This is the second legislative session that the OACs supported Environmental Justice/Equity bills. Commissioners discussed adding a new strategic priority area, Environmental Justice to their areas of interest.

MOTION (Sinlapasai/Khaw): To add Environmental Justice as a 7th strategic priority area for the OACs. CARRIED.

- D. Vote on proposed changes to OCAPIA Bylaws
In Chair Watanabe’s absence, Lucy reviewed the proposed bylaw changes.

MOTION (Ying/Moses-Mesubed): To accept the changes to the Bylaws. CARRIED.

An updated version of the Bylaws will be available on the OCAPIA website on the Meetings & Minutes page. In the future OCAPIA may consider adding a succession plan if officers can no longer serve.

- E. CAATA Conference (Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists) update
Chanpone shared details about the conference: The theme this year is Seismic Shift - Leading Change in Theater. The conference runs from October 1st - 9th in Ashland. Chanpone will attend from October 5th through the 9th. Discounts will be available August 1st. The conference will bring API theater professionals from around the world.

- F. Update on the letter to Washington County District Attorney’s Office and Oregon State Bar
The Oregon State Bar has not found sufficient evidence that Deputy District Attorney Zoe Smith committed professional misconduct. The Muslim Education Trust and the Washington County Sheriff have already met with Washington County DA about the verdict, with which they disagree. There is a feeling that the verdict indicates a systemic problem of implicit bias that needs to be addressed at different levels.

Commissioners discussed methods to bring about change through policy and agreed to make this a future agenda item. The FBI’s successful Leadership Academy was cited as a model for bringing together disparate groups.

VI. New Business

A. Ratify APANO Student Summit sponsorship request by e-vote

MOTION (Sinlapasai/Moses-Mesubed): To ratify the e-vote for \$500 sponsorship to APANO for the first annual API Statewide Student Summit. CARRIED.

B. Commissioner recruitment – This item was tabled for future discussion.

C. Legislative Discussion – This item was covered earlier in the meeting.

D. 2017-19 Agency Request Budget (ARB) for review

Lucy reviewed the new staffing and other budget requests approved by the OAC's that are part of the OACO budget.

- POP 1 – Increase the Policy Analyst position to full time (.5 FTE). \$125,000 for the biennium.
- POP 2 – Adds a .3 FTE Office Specialist to take on processing the growing number of Commissioner stipends and travel reimbursements. This will allow Nancy to Project Manage Policy Research in collaboration with the Policy Analyst. \$35,500 for the biennium.
- POP 3 – Increase Commissioner Travel funding by \$4,000 for the biennium. Ten more trips a biennium to Salem or bring in outlying Commissioners to meetings. The additional budget request (POP's) for added staffing and travel is under 20% increase in total budget.

MOTION (Sinlapasai/Moses-Mesubed): To approve the 3 proposed Policy Option Packages for the OACO's 2017-2019 budget. CARRIED.

VII. Report of the Administrator – Lucy

See the ARB review above.

VIII. Items from Commission Members

Chanpone is organizing the annual Refugee Adjustment Day, July 30, 2016, at Catholic Charities in SE Portland. Volunteers are needed. Last year more than 400 refugee families received assistance with completing paperwork to apply for a Green Card.

David discussed a Vietnamese family business in Eugene that has had the store window broken multiple times by vandals. There has been a string of other attacks on the API business community. The community banded together and started a crowd funding site with a goal of \$4,000 to pay for a surveillance camera system. The site has raised more than \$10,000 so far. David met with the Police Chief, Mayor and City Manager to raise awareness. The perpetrator was caught and the Police Department categorized it as a bias crime. The Eugene PD has been supportive.

IX. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

X. Adjourn – Vice Chair Tam adjourned the meeting at 11:58am by common consent.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 2015, 9:30am – 12pm, Oregon State Bar