



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

“Advocating Equality and Diversity”

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MINUTES

Planning Sub-Committees meeting

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Friday, December 14, 2012

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

APANO Conference Room, Leftbank Building Suite 215

240 N. Broadway, Portland OR 97227

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Stephen Ying (phone)

Vice Chair: Mari Watanabe

Commissioners: Ping Khaw-Sutherland, Joseph Santos-Lyons, Mahendra Shah

Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:45pm. A quorum was established.

II. Subcommittee on Education

The Commissioners discussed next steps for OCAPIA to consider in pursuing education issues for APIs, one of its newly identified strategic priority areas. No one was aware of any other API groups that were monitoring education issues. Of particular interest was identifying who at the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) or the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) would be open to building a relationship with OCAPIA.

It was noted that the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), a sister Commission, just began its first joint public policy internship with the OEIB, and the Governor’s office on education gaps. Dr. Doris McEwen, one of Chief Education Officer Crew’s new hires, is on that internship team. There may be an opportunity for a Masters or PhD level intern to work with OCAPIA and OEIB on API education challenges. The Commission will approach the Governor’s Office about it. Lucy will help set the meeting.

Preparing students to learn was discussed as a crucial issue, both for young children entering the school system for the first time and again when students transition from high school to college. ODE is focusing on the entire education spectrum, from preschool to graduate school.

There was interest in the OCAPIA organizing a forum on education for community partners, elders, leaders, service providers and community gatekeepers, so as to hear

from these stakeholders about education disparities as they see them. Resources such as the Communities of Color report and the Cradle to Career Program [now called All Hands Raised] could be shared with participants. This would also be a way to ask the API community to work with OCAPIA to champion this issue and make a difference.

It was noted that the wide diversity of languages spoken amongst the API community would be an issue to address.

Developing a research project for an intern was another idea. It was noted that higher education institutions in Oregon may have an API Student Union, but there is no statewide network of API student associations. There was interest in identifying an intern to examine the lack of a network of API student associations, possibly by partnering with the University of Oregon.

The OEIB is preparing briefs in several areas as part of its joint internship with OCHA including:

- Disproportionate discipline
- English Language Learners (ELL),
- Access to higher education by undocumented students
- Teacher Preparation
- Leadership preparation
- Parent engagement

The issue of ELL was of particular interest to the Commissioners. They are concerned about the entrance and exit policies for ELLs in Oregon schools, and about the plan to alter the ODE's "formula" for determining how much extra money is awarded to schools districts based on the number of ELLs in the district, and how these extra funds are then allocated. The Commissioners want to know what it would take to be a legitimate stakeholder in this conversation. As part of its strategic plan, the OCAPIA will meet with OACO's Senior Policy Advisor, Frank Garcia, to talk about their interest in this issue and consider hosting a statewide listening session for API communities to share their concerns around ELL.

Commissioners brainstormed about key people to meet:

- Governor's staff
- ODE
- Educators themselves, specifically API students and/or ELL, API teachers
- Curriculum experts in the field (someone in Lake Oswego?)

There was discussion about the different terminology used regarding people whose first language is not English. These distinctions were called out:

ESL = English as a Second Language

ELL = English Language Learners

LEP = Limited English Proficiency

Some people do not like the term ELL because they already know other languages and are simply learning English in addition to the others.

ACTION: Create a chart of all the acronyms for English Language Learners

Commissioners discussed the importance of creating a pipeline of emerging leaders, so that faculty will more closely resemble the students they teach and more people of color can advance within education.

It was noted that Portland Public Schools was out of compliance [regarding affirmative action?] for many years and a comprehensive report was written by Richard Tracy to document this:

http://www.pps.k12.or.us/files/board/FINAL_REPORT_English_Language_Learners_WITH_RESPONSE.pdf

ACTION: Nancy to post a link to this report to the OCAPIA website.

Commissioners expressed interest in inviting Mr. Tracy to speak on his report to the OCAPIA.

The Commissioners brainstormed a list of experts in education, particularly focused on disparities for ELLs:

- Ann Ishimaru, a parent engagement expert, at the University of Washington
- Helen Ying, former Vice Principal at Parkrose School
- Contact the special [language immersion?] schools to talk with the teachers about their experiences?

Commissioner Watanabe noted that the EMERGE Leadership group she facilitates will focus on education issues in February and she will pay special attention to any new information she learns regarding ELL issues, and report to OCAPIA. It was noted that the Portland Business Alliance's EMERGE program is about business people being more civically engaged.

The Commissioners drew a distinction between the statewide education disparities and using local school districts as case studies. There is interest in learning which districts have API students, and how the on-time graduation rates differ between Clackamas, Beaverton and Portland public schools. Questions were raised such as:

- How are ELL students faring in math and science?
- How is the money awarded to districts for ESL students being used?

- Is there a correlation between how much or how little is being spent on ESL and how ESL students are doing?
- What are the numbers of API students by school district?

There was interest in asking the current OACO education intern to brief the OCAPIA on current education facts. It was noted that Dr. Pat Burk, of PSU and co-supervising the OACO intern, might have information of interest to the Commissioners. OCAPIA would like to become an expert on API ELL students in Oregon public schools.

Next steps were discussed and reviewed:

Short Term:

- Prepare a draft of Commission's interest in ESL: willingness to learn more, identifying key sources, asking for a seat at the table regarding budget/formula redesign.
- OACO will set up a meeting with Frank Garcia for OCAPIA to brief him on the plan.
- OACO will reach out to OEIB to say that OCAPIA would value being part of the ELL discussion. Lucy will set a meeting with the OEIB policy advisor and interested OCAPIA Commissioners to discuss it. Commissioners will work at increasing their knowledge regarding API ELLs.
- OACO will set up a briefing with Dr. Burk and Johanna Blackford, the joint OCHA/OEIB intern to discuss ELL issues and data. OACO will also ask Dr. Burk for a suggested reading list.
- OACO will set a meeting with Richard Tracy.
- Consider meeting with the other OAC Chairs to see if they are interested in supporting this priority as well.
- Burmese students are having a very difficult time in school in Oregon, but Bhutanese and Burmese in Seattle are doing well in school. Invite their community leaders to speak with OCAPIA about what is working for them.

Consulting with Ann Ishimaru and Helen Ying are longer term prospects.

III. Sub-Committee on Civic engagement

Senator Dingfelder expressed special interest in developing a pipeline of emerging API leaders. Commissioner Watanabe will meet with the Senator on January 2nd and learn about her priorities on civic engagement.

The Portland Business Alliance (PBA) starting community and engagement committee with community leaders to engage more people to run for office. They seek diverse candidates. Commissioner Watanabe will represent OCAPIA on this new committee, which begins discussion at the end of December 2012.

It was agreed that the Commissioners could do more to help identify and/or prepare prospective Commissioners. A local organization called Business for Culture and Arts offers a board training, and OCAPIA will inquire as to whether they might provide a free half-day of training to prospective or incoming Commissioners. It was noted a training on “State and Local Government 101” would be useful to prepare new leaders. There was also interest in asking Director of Executive Appointments Kendall Clawson to brief Commissioners on what specifically she seeks in a board member.

ACTION: OCAPIA will contact the Secretary of State’s office to congratulate them on the success and importance of the New Voter program and encourage them to continue the program.

OCAPIA would like the following people to run a work session on Civic Engagement to help identify gaps that need to be filled in civic engagement and how OCAPIA can help:

- Nancy Hauck – Western States Center
- Helena Wong – Oregon Voice

It was noted that API retention in the work force is an issue in Oregon. APIs are having difficulty finding jobs in Oregon.

IV. Other Business

It was noted that the website needs to be kept more current.

V. Adjourn

The meet was adjourned at 4:40pm.