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Governor



Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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OCAPIA Minutes
Wednesday, Sept 17, 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: Kathleen Jonathan (phone), Ping Khaw Sutherland, Michelle Vlach-Ing
Absent: Joseph Santos-Lyons, Rep. Whisnant, Sen. Dembrow
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Kathy Wai, Legislative Director, APANO; David Bautista, Asst. Superintendent, Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Office of Equity; Ann McQueen, Department of Human Services (DHS), Senior and Disability Services.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37am

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

III. A. Approval of July 2014 OCAPIA Minutes

MOTION (Vlach-Ing /Watanabe): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

B. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Watanabe/Vlach-Ing): To approve the agenda as amended with Anne McQueen from DHS added under New Business. CARRIED.

IV. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

V. New Business

A. Ann McQueen, DHS, spoke about their work implementing SB 21 which was passed in 2013. The goal of Senate Bill 21 is to ensure that the needs of seniors and people with disabilities can continue to be met by developing strategies to meet the changing needs of Oregonians across the state. The Advocacy and Development Unit within the Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities will be hosting a number of community forums across the state to hear the needs and priorities of Oregonians who are aging, are people with disabilities, or who are involved with or work with these populations in diverse communities including API.

Discussion followed. A number of Commissioners have connections and experience with the elders of their communities and they shared ideas on community needs and further contacts for Ms. McQueen including language and culturally appropriate foods in long term care settings, and family commitment to keep elders at home with or without supports. Lucy offered to set up a conference call or additional meeting if requested to further discuss this subject with Commissioners. The Commission thanked Ms. McQueen for her presentation.

B. Review of OCAPIA Bylaws regarding voting for legislators appointed to the Commission.

Lucy suggested tabling this discussion until she has the opportunity to discuss it with the legislative members of the OCAPIA. The Commission agreed and will discuss it at a later time.

C. Discussion of predatory lending aimed toward immigrant communities, non-English speakers and implications for tightening usury laws.

Commissioner Vlach-Ing reported on her interest in learning more about and building coalition around predatory lending. As part of her work as a mediator, she has been surprised with the seriousness of certain lending practices on the lives of immigrants and other inexperienced consumers, who appear to be targeted by the industry using loopholes in the truth in lending requirements. The scheme involves selling buyers cars at very high costs with little or no money down, but usuriously high credit rates if a payment is missed. 30% is not uncommon. This sets in motion a situation where if a payment is missed, it is impossible for the buyers to return the vehicle and repay their loan to escape the crushing debt that ensues. The combination of the very high initial purchase price of the car, the depreciation associated with a new car once it leaves the lot, and the costs of the debt once a payment is missed make it impossible for most buyers to repay. Consequently, those lured into this arrangement can easily end up with no car and a debt that is growing with every passing month at a 30% rate. She discovered this through her work with an Hispanic couple who took out a loan for a car and was charged \$1,000 to "establish credit" and ended up with a debt based on 35% interest on loan with little recourse. There is very little or no truth in lending information available to those who need to establish credit and need to buy a car. They are brought in by advertisements that focus on "no credit, no problem" and are often recent immigrants or inexperienced single parents. It seems that the selling of cars is secondary to this lucrative debt collection practice that uses the needed auto and credit rating as the bait for their actual business of loan sharking.

Commissioner Vlach-Ing has spoken about this with the specialists in the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) devoted to lending and auto fraud, Eva Novick and Andrew Shull. They are both interested in a discussion with the Advocacy Commissions on tightening wording in usury laws that would provide added protections against this type of targeted lending practice. The victims include low income individuals, recent immigrants, and others desperate for building credit and getting to work. This also affects elders who may unknowingly co-sign for one of these dangerous loans and risk losing their savings.

Discussion followed. The Commission is interested in two lines of addressing this issue: 1) Assuring that good information is available to those pursuing these loans or co-signing them, and 2) building coalition with the OCFW and other OAC's along with DOJ and the

OSB debtor/creditor division to review and craft legislation for the 2016 session. Michelle will work with Stephen and Mari to approach to the other Commissions.

Kathy Wai from APANO noted that they hear of this problem as well. The Commission also agreed that [DOJ's Scam Alert service](#) is valuable to every network.

Along with this problem, Ping mentioned that property owners in restaurant businesses offer leases at outrageous rates - very common. She is interested in working with Michelle to explore this issue as well.

MOTION (Watanabe/Khaw-Sutherland): To identify predatory lending as an issue of concern and to further explore it through joint commission work, reaching out to DOJ and community partners. CARRIED.

D. Consideration of OCAPIA participation in research internship with OEIB/OCHA/Governor's Office developing briefing sheets on 7 equity issues.

Commissioner Jonathan and Lucy Baker discussed the research that OCHA is conducting with Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and the Portland State University (PSU) Graduate School of Education to prepare a set of 7 issue briefs on disparity and equity subjects including English Language Learners (ELL), disproportionate discipline, and family engagement. OCHA has invited Kathleen to join the discussion and also invited OCAPIA to become a partner in the research. Kathleen has participated and is happy to be a part of it. She considers it worthy of OCAPIA's involvement and participation in this public policy research internship

MOTION (Jonathan /Vlach-Ing): OCAPIA join OCHA as partners for the public policy research with OEIB and PSU. CARRIED.

E. Review and update committee work and goals of Strategic Plan

Mari reviewed OCAPIA's 2 goals in the areas of education and community engagement. Discussion followed about progress in these areas.

Strategic plan priority: Education

Advocacy:

OCAPIA has worked with APANO and the other Advocacy Commissions on legislative issues and has supported a number of bills with testimony, including invited testimony before the OEIB. They included:

1. HB 3409A: Special Certificate for Natural Hair Care. Passed.
2. SB 739: ODE Consultation on Oregon History. Passed.
3. SB 755: Minority Teachers Act. Passed
4. OEIB invited testimony: Use of an Equity Lens for education policy. 4 OAC's Testimony. Approved.
5. HB 4116A, Community Colleges to Offer 2-Year Scholarships. Passed.
6. Legislative Task Force on the School Funding Formula: Testimony on the Importance of Equity in the School Funding Formula

The Commission has also worked with APANO to support the work of Portland Public Schools (PPS) in further developing its dual language emersion programs in Mandarin

and Vietnamese. The Commission has invited Van Truong to address the Commission and has written letters of support to the PPS School Board on the subject.

Public Policy Research:

Commissioner Jonathan is representing OCAPIA in a research project of the OAC's with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), Governor's Office and PSU on the importance of family engagement and other subjects. An issue brief on family engagement will be published this fall from the project.

Commissioners Jonathan and Vlach-Ing have met with the new Early Learning Hub Executive Director in the Salem area to discuss the efforts the Hub will be undertaking and offering support for their policy work and community engagement.

In light of the work OCAPIA has been doing in its education priority, Mari suggests updating the strategic plan by aligning it with the statutory work of the Commission. This would include two new objectives focused on:

- Legislative advocacy and
- Public policy research

She also noted that the four Advocacy Commissions have been growing their collaborative work in both areas and recommends also adding:

- Working jointly with the Advocacy Commissions in the action steps of the strategic plan

Strategic plan priority: Community Engagement

Mari reviewed the strategic plan section on Community Engagement and recommended keeping the goals as they are and look ahead to civic engagement opportunities for the upcoming biennium.

MOTION (Watanabe/Vlach-Ing): Add three objectives to OCAPIA's Strategic Plan for Education focused on legislative advocacy, public policy research and collaboration with the other Advocacy Commissions. CARRIED.

F. Discussion on decision-making process for legislative matters

Lucy outlined the process she has followed with the Advocacy Commissions for their legislative work. It has several steps:

- 1) Identifying bills of interest with each Commission via legislative updates from partners and searching the legislative database of bills using the 6 key issue areas of the OAC's,
- 2) Working with each Commissions to choose the bills they will follow,
- 3) Providing weekly legislative updates for each Commission for its list of bills,
- 4) Updating Commissions individually when bills they are following are scheduled for hearings,
- 5) Supporting each Commission in approving support for individual bills with e-voting, writing and submitting testimony,
- 6) Coordinating with the Commissions when the opportunity arises to jointly support a bill.

Mari and Lucy also noted that at the Joint meeting of the Advocacy Commissions, there was interest in exploring having joint committees of the Advocacy Commissions on areas of

mutual interest and collaboration. Participating in an OAC Joint Legislative Committee might be a way of helping the process as all the OAC's prepare for the 2015 Legislative Session.

The Commission welcomed Kathy Wai, the Legislative Director for APANO. Kathy reported that APANO is closely tracking ODE English as a Second Language (ESL) funding recommendations to OEIB. They are also supporting specific bills affecting basic health coverage for new US citizens who are barred from health coverage for a number of years after their citizenship, ELL funding, and paid sick days among others. She is looking forward to working with OCAPIA on these key issues. The Commission thanked Ms. Wai for her report and the excellent work APANO is doing in the community to forward an important policy agenda. They are looking forward to more joint advocacy during 2015 session. Lucy will involve Kathy and keep her up to date as the OCAPIA identifies the bills it will follow and support.

Kathy shared the APANO 2015 Policy Priorities which Nancy will scan and send to all of OCAPIA. She led a brief discussion of each area. The Commission thanked her for the report and looks forward to working with Kathy and APANO in joint legislative advocacy in the 2015 session.

MOTION (Watanabe/Khaw-Sutherland): the OACO will continue to provide legislative support on all of OCAPIA's bills of interest, including provide tracking on such bills, weekly or biweekly bill updates during session, and provide e-voting coordination and submitting of testimony. CARRIED.

G. David Bautista, Asst. Superintendent, ODE Office of Learning-Education Equity on equity in education including on early learning

Commissioner Jonathan introduced David Bautista who is the ODE Assistant Superintendent for Equity. They have worked together in past years when David served as a school principal and Kathleen worked for him.

Mr. Bautista discussed the new role within ODE that he now fills and provided an overview of the work he does. Rob Saxton, the Superintendent of Oregon Schools and Director of ODE has created the Equity Unit that David leads to make meaningful connections, and educational plans in support of minority and other cohorts of students who have significant disparities in success. He thanked Commissioner Jonathan for her introduction and discussed her efforts within Salem-Keizer school district to build bridges with the Marshallese community. His Equity Unit exists to find best practices such as this within Oregon School Systems and support their local success as well as build successful outcomes statewide.

The Equity Unit is also oversees the funds appropriated by the legislature for growing dual language immersion. Last session \$1 million was appropriated for these programs and David's unit reviews and approves the competing programs from schools across Oregon vying for funds. In PPS, Vietnamese is the newest dual language immersion program to be added. They work closely with the PSU Confucius Institute to support Asian language programs and create language plans for all students as appropriate. While the primary languages for dual immersion will be Spanish and Chinese, K -12, schools decide which language they will apply to provide based on the needs of their student body.

David noted that each school system has a Cultural Advisory Group which offers advice on what is needed in the community and provide feedback on school initiatives.

The Superintendent of Oregon Schools, Rob Saxton, is working with the Equity Unity to provide the deep analysis needed to varied aspects of closing the achievement gap for students of color. He has requested Equity plans for every school district statewide. He is expecting Principals to look at their student populations and determine how to provide teacher training for Cultural Responsive Pedagogy. One early outcome of this is that PPS is looking at how they respond to Black males, whose expulsion rate is extraordinarily high. For all such plans, Equitable Outcomes are the goal.

In the area of Early Childhood Development/Education - Oregon applied for \$30 million grant to fund understanding the culture and languages of the children and continue to do this as much as possible. Commissioner Jonathan noted that she sees, in the course of her work, that students are regularly being misidentified and sent to Special Education, because staff is having a language issue with the student. These are not students with a learning disability in the traditional sense, they just speak a different language. This situation is similar to exclusionary discipline in that it separates the students from mainstream education. Comprehensive assessment is lacking representation for language acquisition in order to inform the practitioners as to whether what they are observing is a learning disability.

In middle school, the number of English Language Learners has grown to 33% of the entire student body in some schools. A lot of educators are unaware of what the current refugee profile is; majority is Asian including children who grew up in refugee camps and may never have gone to school before. Kathy Wai noted she hopes OCAPIA can look more closely at refugee students here less than 5 years, and specific communities impacted by ESL communities.

Commissioner Jonathan also reported that students who are ELL are sometimes kept in ELL longer than is necessary. Also, some students are taught in English, but speak exclusively Marshallese at home creating for those students no solid foundation in either language.

The Commissioners thanked Dr. Bautista for his presentation. Lucy offered setting a follow-up meeting with David and the education committee members of OCAPIA.

H. Review of the Joint OACs meeting and training

The Commission and Lucy reviewed the survey results from the Joint Meeting of the OAC's in August. The complete results of the survey was sent earlier to all Commissioners. In general, the feedback indicated that it went well with a number of requests to include more time in joint discussion about collaborations between the Commissions. Commissioners appreciated having the Governor and his Chief of Staff attend. The Joint Meeting also showcased the first report of the OAC's public policy research with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) on disparities of graduation rates among Tradespeople of Color and was exciting for a number of Commissioners including Rep. Frederick. He will be using the reports from this research to craft legislation in an upcoming session.

There was specific interest at the Joint Meeting in initiating one or two joint OAC committees along with other collaborative efforts. The potential of having a joint legislative committee was noted. Not all Commissions have a legislative committee and individual Commissions would continue to consider their own legislative slate for support but the group noted that a

joint committee would facilitate bill analysis and sharing legislation of interest in the strategic priority areas. There was also interest in the potential of a joint newsletter or communication plan that provides an overview of the work of the OAC's in advocacy, policy research and other key areas. Staff will help the Commissions establish their first joint committee.

VI. Report of the Administrator

A. Financial Report

Lucy reviewed several areas of the August Financial Report including the expected drawdown of travel funds as the Commissions host out of Portland meetings during the next 6 months. In February she will provide the OAC's with projections of end of the biennium General Fund balances and engage them in discussion for expending such funds in support of their missions.

B. Update on OACO's Agency Request Budget. The Governor will be preparing his budget for submission to the legislature in November and December. We are hopeful that OACO's request for additional staffing will be fully incorporated into the Governor's budget but will not know definitely for several more months.

C. New OAC work study student for community engagement. PSU student, Laura Aguon, will begin her work with the Advocacy Commissions at the end of September. She will be working as a Communications Assistant and helping the Commissions reach out to community with Facebook and other ways. We are VERY excited to have her join our team.

D. Interest in continuing to meet at Oregon State Bar?

Lucy and Nancy asked the Commissioners if they would like to continue meeting at the Oregon State Bar location. The answer is yes. It is more convenient for Michelle and Kathleen and has free parking.

VII. Items from Commission Members

- Mari reported that she will be connecting Megan Koch to interested OCAPIA Commissioners. Megan is part of the City of Beaverton Cultural Advisory Committee. The Partners in Diversity and the Portland Business Alliance is conducting a Workforce Diversity Project - identifying manufacturing and healthcare jobs. Will go out into communities of color to interview for living wage jobs.
- Michelle reported on the upcoming Multicultural Ball in Salem and will send information to the OCAPIA.
- Ping reported on her work with the New Portlanders Council of the City of Portland. They are meeting with Mayor Hales soon to request that their Council become an initiative of the Mayor's Office. All are welcome at that meeting and can contact Ping for meeting information. APACC is participating with Portland Public Schools for a career fair in November and the APACC Mega mixer for small business is next Thursday.
- Stephen reported on his meeting along with Lucy and other Chairs from the OAC's of the Governor's Diversity and Inclusion Kitchen Cabinet. The Cabinet is a coalition of key state agency directors who are champions of diversity. The OAC's received an award for their leadership in becoming a recognized state partner in advocacy and research. The Governor's Chief of Staff attended and was present for OAC's honor.

VIII. Public Comment - there was no public comment.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 9:30am – 12pm at OS Bar

Note: Next Executive Appointments deadline: Applications due October 8th for the December Senate Confirmation hearing

OUTCOMES OF THE ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE OACs ON 8/19/14

Looking Ahead – Joint Action Areas

Joint meeting Chair, Stephanie Vardavas, briefly reviewed the four statutory areas of focus of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and the interests of the OAC's in further building their collaborations with joint actions and efforts. She noted the joint work already going forward in advocacy and public policy research and asked the Commissioners attending the Joint meeting to break into small groups to begin a conversation on additional areas for collaborative work between the OAC's. The conversations begun today at the meeting will be continued within the regular meetings of the Commissions and inform the joint discussions of the Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Breakout discussion groups:

The Commissioners counted off and broke into small groups covering 1) Advocacy, 2) Policy research, 3) Leadership development and 4) Community engagement, partnership and communication.

The discussion groups met for 20 minutes and reported back:

1. Advocacy

- Work with partners to develop materials and joint OAC trainings on legislative and policy advocacy
- Develop overviews and other materials for Commissioners that clarify the advocacy process, along with supporting protocols and parameters.
- Provide capacity building experience for Commissioners in the area of advocacy and take inventory of each Commissioner's issue areas, expertise and wisdom
- Further collaboration and cross referencing of work, info, among commission advocacy oriented committees.
- Develop metrics to measure advocacy achievements and efficacy and create reports.
- Continue to collaborate with Community Partners in support of advocacy efforts.
- Explore a joint committee approach to support legislation and advocacy work of the OAC's.

2. Policy Research

- Collaborate among the OAC's in a policy research study on trafficking for labor.
- Conduct joint public policy research on transparency of school funding for English Language Learners.
- Add a joint policy research project on workforce diversity to take a broader view of underlying causes of gender disparity in several sectors including tech.
- Jointly research job rates of constituent communities including of students that are able to find employment in 6 months after graduating from high school, vocational school or college and possible disparities

3. Leadership development:

- Develop opportunities for cross-Commission work including opportunities to work jointly in committees and/or attend other Commission's meeting and learn more, first hand, about the issues and strategies to address them.
- Invite Commissioners to work with the Joint Chairs/Vice Chairs discussing emerging issues or consider collaborations with the joint leadership of the OAC's and provide more access to these discussions and their notes.

4. Partnership, community engagement, and communication:

- Host OAC meetings in diverse areas across Oregon including urban, rural and frontier counties in partnership with local chambers of commerce.
- Develop a joint OAC communication plan including media, social media and newsletter to share policy and advocacy work of the OACs with diverse audiences.
- Engage community and partners in issue and policy discussions.
- Develop a portal for OAC related news: one place for ALL Commissions to check. Share policy research amongst commissions.

- Develop a LinkedIn group for Commissioners as part of the plan. Commissioner Parker will help develop it and invite everyone.
- Develop joint committees of interest among the Commissions.

Chair Vardavas thanked all the OAC Commissioners for their reports. More discussion will take place in the upcoming regular meetings of the OAC's to further plans for collaborations between the Commissions as discussed today.