

**Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

June 14, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.

At International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit  
111 E. Kirby, Detroit, MI 48201

**Attendance**

**Present:** Asim Alavi, Nasim Ansari, Mumtaz Haque, Roland Hwang, Anand Kumar, Guozhen Lu, Toshiki Masaki, Henry Tanaka, Ehsan Taqbeem, Ramesh Verma, Sook Wilkinson, Tsu-Yin Wu

**Excused Absence:** Mamatha Chamarthi, Connie Dang, Willie Dechavez, Hannah Feikema, Jaime Hsu, Tack-Young Kim, Ernista DeLos Santos-Mac, Jeffery Vang, Peter Wong

**Staff:** Mitch Diep

**Guests:** Jaquetta Hinton, Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Andrew Kim, Paul Neumeier, Linda Torp, Sheryl Weir

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting of Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:05 a.m. on June 14, 2013.

**2. Welcome and Introduction**

- a. Approval of Agenda
  - i. Motion for approval of meeting agenda by Guozhen Lu and seconded by Nasim Ansari Motion to approve agenda passed.
- b. Approval of March 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes
  - i. Motion for approval by Henry Tanaka and seconded by Guozhen Lu. Motion to approve March 8, 2013 meeting minutes passed.

**3. Affordable Care Act Presentation - Presented by Sheryl Weir, MPH and Jaquetta Hinton of the Michigan Department of Community Health**

- a. Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health - To provide a persistent and continuing focus on eliminating health disparities in Michigan's population of color.
- b. Asian Americans comprise of 2.7% of Michigan's population.
  - i. One in six Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are uninsured.
- c. Affordable Care Act - Passed and signed into law on March 23, 2010. Primary goal is to provide Americans with access to affordable health care through 3 methods:
  - i. Changing insurance company practices that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions or for those who get sick while insured

- ii. Providing subsidies and expanding Medicaid so everyone can afford insurance
- iii. Encouraging people to either pay for insurance or pay a tax - Individual Mandate
- d. For more information, please refer to the PowerPoint document

#### **4. Strategic Initiative Groups (SIGs) Discussion and Report**

- a. SIG I presented by Commissioner Alavi - Bullying and Cultural Insensitivity
  - i. Commissioner Alavi spoke to John Golaszewski of MDCR regarding their anti-bullying efforts with three public school districts - Allendale Public Schools, Vandercook Lake Public Schools and Detroit Public Schools.
  - ii. His group is planning an anti-bullying conference. He is waiting to hear back from the Ann Arbor School District as a potential partner.
  - iii. SIG I will work with the REI to combine efforts and share resources and information.
  - iv. Commissioner Tsu-Yin Wu suggested a collaboration with SIG I and the HAAP project she is working with on anti-bullying.
    - 1. Her project will cover a broader community, where the REI emphasizes the South Asian American community.
  - v. Projected Outcome from the conference :
    - 1) To educate the parents and students about the impacts of bullying and how to react to bullying,
    - 2) To educate the teachers and staff members of each school district.
    - 3) To invite other school districts to partner with the state-wide initiative on bullying
- b. SIG II presented by Commissioner Tsu-Yin Wu - Helping APA community and Advocacy
  - i. Empower APA communities through collaboration and community building and to connect the community with resources, health and well-being, immigration and education.
    - 1. Education includes ESL, prejudice reduction and networking/educational opportunities
  - ii. Affordable Care Act (ACA): SIG II facilitated two events including the Ann Arbor ACA event On April 26, 2013 and the June 14, 2013 MAPAAC meeting.
  - iii. Other efforts to empower the APA community:

1. To educate government and school systems about APA cultures and the issues APAs face.
  2. Connect APA based organizations in Michigan through the creation of collaborative meetings.
- c. SIG III presented by Commissioner Henry Tanaka - Equal Access
- i. Continuation of data collection regarding college entrance/admissions within major Michigan universities and their acceptance/capping of Asian American students for each year.
    1. Roland Hwang is to send an email that will ask commissioners that represent universities/colleges to help obtain information on college acceptance rates of Asian American students.
    2. Develop a database for information gathered, such as Google Docs or Drop Box.
  - ii. Housing and employment issues - needs further action and collection of data
  - iii. Henry Tanaka is working on disparity between APA subgroups and college access. Henry is developing a local college access network to create a leveled representation of Asian American college graduates from different ethnic groups.
    1. Identify and analyze state regions with high populations of Asian Americans with low graduation rates (Hmong, Laotian, etc.)
  - iv. Michigan College Access Network - National initiative is to boost college success to 60% by 2025, where it is now at 45%.
- d. Chair Wilkinson asked each SIG is to send a written report illustrating the progress of each group including any budget proposals. The reports are to be sent to Mitch.

## **5. Racial Equity Initiative Update - Ehsan Taqbeem**

- a. The goal is to improve the racial equality of the South Asian community in Michigan. Started in the beginning of the year, broken into the design phase and implementation phase.
- b. 5 collaborative partners - MAPAAC, APIA-Vote MI, South Asian American Voices for Impact, Bangladeshi American Public Affairs Committee and Mai Family Services
  - i. The five entities were chosen by APIAHF
- c. Total project - \$150,000
  - i. \$30,000 in design phase
  - ii. Remainder of budget goes to implementation phase
- d. Focus on cultural insensitivity and bullying
  - i. Food bullying in the city of Troy

- ii. Cultural insensitivity in Hamtramck regarding all ethnic groups
- e. Implementation phase started and will continue until December 2014
- f. Funding provided by Kellogg - Asian Pacific Islander Americans Health Forum in California received the grant from Kellogg
  - i. Focus on South Asian - APIAHF asked MAPAAC and supporting groups to focus on this particular community.
  - ii. Focus on the education aspect of bullying and cultural insensitivity, however, not limited to this area.
  - iii. The five entities received \$2,000 to cover travel expenses and other operational expenses.
- g. Updates will be reinforced through regularly scheduled meetings through the 5 entities.
  - i. Ehsan Taqbeem, Roland Hwang, and Sook Wilkinson will forward periodic updates.
  - ii. MAPAAC Commissioners may get involved by acting as a representative to meetings.

#### **6. Reflection on May 14 - WHIAAPI Briefing, Capitol Celebration and Awards Ceremony**

- a. Chair Wilkinson thanked the Planning Committee for their outstanding work.
- b. Feedback - Time allocated for the morning briefing was adequate and allowed for community feedback with Kiran Ahuja, The venue provided a quiet place setting that allowed for a more professional and effective environment.
- c. The Celebration in the Capitol Rotunda was in an area that had high traffic, with high amount of noise and interruptions. Hard to hear and focus on the presentations and speakers.
- d. Awards Recognition - Professional setting that allowed for discussion and clarity.
- e. Retention and enhanced interaction efforts for state legislators to be considered.
- f. Recommendations for 2014:
  - i. Continue Briefing
  - ii. Consider combining the Celebration and the Awards Recognition in the Senate Hearing Room area, not in the Rotunda

#### **7. MAPAAC Budget Update**

- a. 2012-2013, fiscal year ends at the end of September, 2013. By September, Chair Wilkinson projects that half of the budget will have been allocated.
  - i. Money not spent will be used by MDCR or goes back to the state due to late implementation of programs and operations (in March). In this case, MPAAC will not be penalized.
  - ii. The MAPAAC budget is tracked by Leslee Fritz, MDCR's CFO.

- iii. Suggestions from Leslee Fritz for the remainder of the budget: One-time expense items such as MAPAAC banner(s), table sign and logos, a MAPAAC brochure, and town hall meetings/conferences
- b. Mary McLellan has the revised the expense reimbursement form.
  - i. Forms to be filled out at the end of each meeting and given to Mitch Diep, if Mary is not present. Mitch will then send it to Mary for filing.
  - ii. Business Cards - Form to be filled out and returned to Mary McLellan
  - iii. Budget proposal of SIG groups - Include a description of the event, time and location, the reason for the event, target audience, and expected outcome.
- c. Budget proposals for any MAPAAC work groups for 2013-2014 should be completed and submitted before October 1, 2013 to the Chairperson.

The Strategic Planning in March of each year should be for the following fiscal year.

- d. Ehsan Taqbeem suggested MAPAAC host a conference/meeting that will educate the community of the Affordable Care Act and the impact it will bring. Also, to develop brochures and pamphlets to distribute to the community, along with translated material in multiple Asian languages.
- e. Nasim Ansari moved to develop an updated MAPAAC information document. Nasim Ansari to manage and work with Mitch Diep.

## **8. Old Business**

- a. Chair Wilkinson announced her decision to step down as Chairperson of MAPAAC
  - i. She will continue as a commissioner until her term ends in 2014.
  - ii. A new Chairperson will be appointed by the Governor.
- b. Chairperson Wilkinson was recognized and presented a recognition award from Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood.

## **9. New Business**

- a. January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Fred Korematsu Day recognition. Commissioner Hwang presented a proposal to recognize Fred Korematsu Day in Ann Arbor School District.

## **10. Public Comments**

- a. Paul Neumeier and Linda Torp expressed their opinions with the meeting.

**11. Announcements**

- a. Andrew Kim – announced Immigration Town Hall Event on June 29, 2013 to discuss immigration reform.
  - i. UAW Region 1 Office in Warren, Michigan

**12. Adjournment**

- a. Ramesh Verma moved to adjourn the MAPAAC meeting at 12:25 p.m. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by:

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H. Sook Wilkinson, Chair

Roland Hwang, Secretary