

Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Day One: Wednesday, May 13, 2015

I. Welcome to New Commissioners

Prior to the meeting, Maulik Pancholy introduced Judge Amit Mehta, who swore in three new Commissioners: Paul Watanabe, Massachusetts; Sanjita Pradhan, Iowa; and Jacob James Fitisemanu Jr., Utah. The new Commissioners were appointed on May 12, 2015.

Dr. Tung Thanh Nguyen, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 12:30 PM on May 13, 2015 at the U.S. Department of Education, 550th St SW, Washington D.C. 20202.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Tung Thanh Nguyen
Nina Ahmad
Michael Byun
Lian Cheun
Billy Dec
Jake Fitisemanu Jr.
Bill Imada
Kathy Ko Chin
Daphne Kwok
Dee Jay Mailer
Diane Narasaki
Shekar Narasimhan
Maulik Pancholy
Linda Phan
Sanjita Pradhan
Lorna May Ho Randlett
Paul Watanabe

Lt. Col. Ravi Chaudhary arrived at a later time.

III. Agenda Review, Thanks, and Appreciation

Overview of Agenda:

- a) Wednesday: Debrief on the White House Summit on AAPIs, the Leader's Forum, and Regional activities.
- b) Thursday: Discussion of the future goals until the Commission's next meeting in September 2015, and subsequently in May 2016, and the Commission Report.
- c) Commissioners welcome to bring up any topics of interest.

Thanks to WHIAAPI staff and interns. Thanks to Kiran for her leadership. Congratulations to Jason, the new Deputy Director.

Thanks to all for last 6 months of energy, commitment, and great, effective work.

IV. Debrief on White House Summit on AAPIs

- a) *Summit Overview*: Jason Tengco, Deputy Director, provided a recap on the genesis of the Summit and the work put into planning the event over the past year and a half.
- b) *General Feedback*: Commissioners debriefed on White House Summit on AAPIs and discussed key takeaways. "The most fun government meeting ever" where the collective power of AAPIs was realized. The event was a declaration of what WHIAAPI is and does, with a wide array of attendees, showing great geographical outreach. The flow of the sessions was great, and performers and the MC were entertaining. The videos and media were great; the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) video in particular was "moving" and will play an important role in regions where discussions on related topics are currently happening.
- c) *Plenary*: Concerns with entertainment plenary, but panelists were quick on their feet and reigned in the conversation.
Recommendation: Have Maulik more involved in planning and execution as someone who is in the entertainment world.
- d) *Fireside Chat*: Articulation of agency outcomes during the Fireside Chat was considered incomplete. There was a delicate balance between highlighting specific agency policies that supported the AAPI community with lighter topics to engage the diverse Summit audience. 45 minutes was not a very long time to cover all issues and programs. The fact-sheet with federal agency highlights was meant to complement the conversation.
Recommendation: Q&A session where participants ask secretaries questions. Have a panel with Commissioners and WHIAAPI staff where participants can learn more about WHIAAPI. Visual representation of agency accomplishments for livestream. Highlight AAPI appointees. Connect secretaries to individuals stories related to accomplishments. Make explicit the policy "ask" of secretaries. Emphasize the achievement of getting six secretaries together at once.

Fact Sheet: Emphasis to the public of the longevity of some of the projects, and the implication and impact of the accomplishments for the AAPI community. For example: some of these accomplishments were 10 years in the making, like HUD's work on data disaggregation.

- e) *Brown Bag Workshops and Breakouts:* These sessions were intended to be an informal interview-style discussion rather than a presentation. Altogether, 1,400 participants packed the brown bag workshops and breakout sessions. The largest workshop, Small Business and Economic Development had 420 participants and the smallest session had 220 participants, well over capacity.

Recommendations: Ensure agency representation in brown bags (this was achieved in almost all sessions). Longer times for both brown bags and breakouts. Q&A session for breakouts. Livestream. Chance for follow up and networking.

- f) *Communications:* The majority of media coverage and social media chatter has been extremely positive. #AAPISummit was a trending topic for most of the day in DC, and nationally at one point during the day. #AAPISummit received 4 million impressions. There were almost 900 retweets and 700 mentions regarding the Summit. Nearly 40 media outlets were present. The Summit was covered on MSNBC by Phil Yu and an E3! Ambassador.

Recommendations: Provide an answer to the question, "What can I do next?" for social media, livestream viewers, and participants. Create a report or video as an institutional memory and for the next Commission. Highlight what has changed because of the work done by WHIAAPI and the Commission. Thank you letters and letter to the Administration.

- g) *Additional Feedback:* Facilitators suggested a streamlined networking opportunity session where they can interact with participants. Increase involvement of PI community to partnership level. Increase youth attendees. Support outreach in far-flung places. Coordination and communication for other APAHM events in DC.

V. Regional Engagement Priorities

- a) *Regional Network Re-Branding:* Coinciding with its second year anniversary in May, the Regional Network, formally the Regional Interagency Working Group (RIWG) underwent a rebranding to better convey its mission and work with the AAPI community.
- b) *Goals and Accomplishments:* The Regional Network began with only 40 members representing 14 agencies, and has since grown to over 220 members representing 38 agencies, from Guam to Kansas City to Boston. Since May 2013, the Regional Network has convened approximately 60 roundtables, technical assistance trainings, and grant writing workshops in all ten federal regions. These activities

have included workshops focused on the Affordable Care Act, business contracting, workers' rights, and bullying prevention listening sessions across the country.

c) *Plans and Priorities:*

1. Continue TA and grant writing trainings across the federal regions.
2. Continue convening community roundtables and follow-up workshops. Future roundtables are scheduled for Portland, Tacoma, Phoenix, and Austin, to name a few.
3. Identify opportunities to institutionalize the work of the Regional Network so that it becomes a permanent program within the federal government.

Feedback: Commissioners reflected on regional issues and priorities.

Success stories: Listening sessions on vulnerable AAPI workers were customized for specific communities, especially those suspicious of federal entities. Interactive activities and scheduling that respects and understands a community's needs. Announcement of the Summit at a recent roundtable in Salt Lake City created such a buzz and excitement over the possibility for federal change that participants found community funding to attend.

d) *Recommendations:* More opportunities for CBOs to get feedback for grant applications, and networking opportunities with federal officials post-roundtable or outside of business hours. Translate federal lingo to plain language to help recruit potential CBOs within region as workshop co-presenters.

e) *Needs:* Case studies and tool kit materials to understand/explain grant writing to LEP communities. Find foundations and other partnerships to provide resources necessary to host effective TA workshops. More effective follow-up, and encourage Regional Network to engage at key community events.

VI. Debrief of AAPI Leader's Forum

- a) *Overview:* The Leader's Forum was intended to gather 50-75 AAPI leaders from across the country to have a real conversation about community issues, especially those that are being left behind. The intent was to inspire leaders to take action after the meeting.
- b) *Participation:* The 81 attendees, in addition to two Cabinet Secretaries (Duncan and Foxx), ambassadors, Commissioners, former CTO, CIO, the Surgeon General, Senator Hirono, and Representative Chu, were very interactive in their sessions.
- c) *Agenda:* There were three issue areas of focus: education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and economic outcomes. Many of the leaders left with a realization that they are part of larger movement, as they had not previously engaged with the community and their needs. These leaders have the opportunity

to drive the community and serve the same purpose from many angles. By the end of the event, these leaders were already asking for next steps, proving they have right fuel that WHIAAPI needs to ignite opportunities.

- d) *Recommendations*: Technology was a recurring topic. Request for a language access mobile app to translate federal forms into native languages. CBO representation.
- e) *Next Steps*: Sending Thank You letters, arranging a potential next meeting, sending a follow up survey, delivering a facilitator's report, and coordinating an outside working group to help facilitate other pieces of discussion.

VII. Discussion & Closing:

- a) Commission Priority: Trauma and Mental Health issues. Diane Narasaki asked for support on the trauma and mental health issues both immediate, like those triggered by Nepal earthquake, and long term (language access, cultural competence) in order to deliver effective mental health to communities.

VIII. Adjournment: Next Steps & Preview of Next Day's Meeting

Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director, gave closing remarks. Dr. Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

The next Commission meeting is potentially set for September 22-25, 2015 in Hawaii. The Commissioner's Report will be discussed tomorrow (Thursday).

Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Day Two: Thursday, May 14, 2015

I. Welcome: Review of Agenda

Dr. Tung Thanh Nguyen, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission, called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 8:00 AM on May 14, 2015 at U.S. Department of Education, 550 12th St SW, Washington D.C. 20202.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Tung Thanh Nguyen
Nina Ahmad

Michael Byun
Ravi Chaudhary
Lian Cheun
Billy Dec
Bill Imada
Kathy Ko Chin
Dee Jay Mailer
Diane Narasaki
Shekar Narasimhan
Linda Phan
Sanjita Pradhan
Lorna May Ho Randlett
Paul Watanabe

III. Refresher – Strategic Plans and North Star Goals

As a follow-up to the Commission Meeting in December 2014 in Seattle, Commissioners discussed strategic planning and North Star Goals for each issue area for the next 1 ½ years.

Health

A meeting was held with Commissioners and HHS Secretary Burwell in December 2014 and a follow up meeting with HHS was held on February 2015. An AAPI Community Roundtable with HHS leadership will be held in May 2015. The lead Commissioners are: Tung Nguyen, Kathy Ko Chin, Diane Narasaki, Michael Byun, and Lian Cheun.

- a) *Accomplishments:* January AAPI Enrollment Week of Action (WOA) was successful in increasing participation in the ACA through online and community events. Online events included collaboration with CMS on videos in several languages, webinars discussing AAPI coverage, a Stakeholder call with the Surgeon General and Tina Chen, and the #AAPIhealth Twitter storm with George Takei, Maulik Pancholy and Billy Dec. Also, 5 AAPI ACA success stories were shared and 23 education and enrollment events held in 6 states educated thousands of people in multiple languages.
- b) *Recommendations:* Self-reported enrollment data indicates 7.9% enrollees were AAPI, but data not useable. Need to better collect data on AAPI enrollment.
- c) *Next Steps:* Shift in focus to integrated care and funding for behavioral health providers. Work with White House to bring multicultural, broad perspective to strategic meetings on behavioral and mental health. Evaluate support needed for next ACA enrollment period. Focus on updating criteria to define medically

underserved areas. Prioritize including language as part of the criteria for medically underserved areas. Proposed upcoming activities:

- i. June 2015: Behavioral Health providers meeting in CA
 - ii. Summer 2015: ACA education with FSM embassies
 1. Health care event with COFA in Hawaii
 - iii. August 2015: AAPI Community Health Leader meeting with Secretary Burwell
- d) *Commissioner Support*: Identify health IT issue strategy/policy goals. Engage in behavioral health. Health webinars/ RIWG health events/Public speaking/author op-eds or blogs.

Immigration (White House DPC)

The President's executive actions around DACA/DAPA are currently held up by litigation in Texas. Two presidential memorandums were created: the interagency New Americans Task Force, focusing on language/skills for new immigrants to succeed, just released its strategic plan; and a report is being drafted for Visa Modernization, meant to engage stakeholders and educate on making the process more accessible. The report mostly provided IT solutions; a single interface across agencies is being worked on.

- a) *On hold*: Creation of DAPA (for parents of citizens and green card holders, grants 3 years of deferred action plus work authorization). Expansion of DACA (proposed removal of upper age cap and expansion of timeline from 2 to 3 years).
- b) *Fixes*: Changes to enforcement priorities: national security, border security, public security, and recent border convictions. Creating a rule for portable employment authorization for those in green card backlog and in undesirable employment situations. Expansion of: the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, provisional wavers, H4 regulations regarding spouses, which has huge implications for AAPIs and women.

Priorities: DACA 2012 in effect but the number of AAPI applicants are low, needing further outreach and resources. Adjusting the humanitarian system: evaluating options for victims of the Nepal earthquake. A backlog of timely and accurate DACA processing is affecting documentation received by USCIS. Having conversations with DHS and DPC regarding deportation and detention. In the process of developing PEP with local jurisdiction and local law enforcement (no set timeline).

- c) *Next Steps*: A conference call with Commissioners with DPC, DHS. Keep sending advocacy letters: they matter. The issue ultimately requires a congressional fix.

Business

- a) *Updates:* WHIAAPI is engaging with a variety of agencies: Commerce, MBDA, ITA, EDA, Export-Import Bank, SBA and organizations (National ACE); leading business round tables, community engagement events, listening sessions; and leveraging those that are doing business in Asia by supporting efforts of community members attempting government contracts and exporting.
- b) *Impact:* These community events and support efforts are creating a platform for agencies to engage with communities. Mentoring and support have been key for the growth of entrepreneurship.
- c) *Future Events:* Austin, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Dallas, Chicago, San Francisco
 - i. *Recommendations:* Push for additional certified trade missions. Future events helping AAPIs with disability gain employment
- d) *Additional Efforts:* Securing Gulf recovery funds for AAPI community. The Corporate ERG conference provided AAPIs enhancement through training and workshops in soft skills. Increasing the understanding of local community centers on key concerns and serving the community.
- e) *Recommendation:* There is a need for systemic changes in SBA in classification of small business.

Education

AANAPISIs, iCount, and Native Hawaiian education.

- a) AANAPISIs: Efforts are being made to expand MSI (Minority Serving Institutions) funding to include AANAPISIs. The calculated funding to AANAPISIs is \$600 million across all the agencies. ED is working on plans to allocate funding to data disaggregation.
 - i. *Grants:* There are several key grants, such as “First in the World”
 - *Recommendations:* Push out more technical assistance and getting info out to schools. Find ways to work with new applicants through webinars, trainings, etc. Time constraints caused by the Continuing Resolution give grant applicants less time to write grants, especially novice grant applicants.
 - ii. *New Efforts:* Automatic eligibility of MSIs to streamline process for institutions.
 - Many institutions don't know that they have to apply and be officially certified.
 - *Recommendation:* Focus on building relationships with agencies to expand outreach and encourage institutions to apply.
- b) Native Hawaiian Education funding

- i. *Recommendation:* Money mostly goes to University of Hawaii. Expand focus on Native Hawaiian charter schools and encourage nonprofits to apply for these funds.
 - ii. *Next Steps:* Create mentoring network and connect the organizations that consistently get funding with those that are newer.
- c) *Recommendations:* The AANAPISI program is too small for the number of eligible institutions, and is disproportionately small compared to other MSIs. Expansion requires outside support and congressional change.
 - i. Tie programs to incentivize ED: create an everlasting gap between AANAPISIs and other MSIs.
 - ii. *Next Steps:* Working with educational funders to help with technical and grant writing workshops for AANAPISIs.
 - iii. *Commissioner Support:* While generally supported, expanding AANAPISI funding requires a champion to work with the Tri-Caucus (CAPAC, CBC, CHC).

Civil Rights and Bullying Prevention

The cross-agency AAPI Bullying Prevention Task Force was launched in November 2014.

- a) *Accomplishments:* The AAPI Task Force holds monthly meetings to focus on substantive issues. At the April meeting, we invited guest speakers from advocacy groups, as well as a parent and student, to discuss how to craft an effective message to convey the importance of reporting bullying. Since February 2015, a dozen listening sessions have been held across the country. In addition, the AAPI Task Force is developing a survey for advocacy and community groups, and also working on a way to analyze feedback from the listening sessions in a uniform manner so that we can use it to inform the work of the AAPI Task Force as well as share it at the local level. We are leveraging community resources and our contact network to host listening sessions. We have been working with DOJ, US Attorney's Offices, WHIAAPI's Regional Network, and advocacy groups to coordinate the listening sessions nationwide. We have also created a website for the AAPI Task Force.
- b) *Commissioner Feedback:*
 - i. *Engagement:* The AAPI Task Force is an important opportunity for youth engagement and to create a space for community dialogue.
 - *Recommendations:* Involvement of E3! Ambassadors in planning listening sessions. Develop an "It Gets Better" inspired campaign, and especially focusing on intersection of AAPI and LGBTQ issues. Reach schools with high and low AAPI populations.
 - ii. *Needs:* Resources (especially technology) to understand the demography of children and experiences in schools.

- *Recommendations:* Means to collect information about bullying hot spots for the federal government that also highlights the need for language access.
- c) *Next Steps:* Review the feedback from the listening sessions and figure out how to share it effectively at the local level, specifically with schools, communities, and local advocacy groups. Potentially create an internal report with recommendations for federal agencies on how to more effectively address bullying of AAPI students. Broaden/translate DOJ's harassment fact sheet to include bullying. Focus on parental outreach, especially LEP. Communications campaign to amplify stories and statements.

NHPI Issues

Stakeholders are Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and stateside Native Hawaiians. Partners include Commissioners, agencies, community organizations, NHEC, and Center for Micronesian Empowerment.

- a) *Accomplishments:* Grants training in Guam. Pacific Islander Task Force (PITF) meetings on capacity building. Successfully leveraged agencies and leadership on DOI Hawaiian Homelands rules. Webinars and events with EPIC on education and leadership where participants readily engaged in discussions that will be used to build on for more conversations.
- b) *Next Steps:* Focus on importance of recognition of Native control. Meetings between community leaders with senior leadership at Ed and other agencies. Recognition of Hawaiian language and cultural immersion.
- c) *Commissioner Roles:* Build relationships and trust with the community. Learn about unique PI needs and stories. Disseminate information/fact sheet/stories (this recommendation applies to all AAPI communities). Give NHPI organizations the platform to speak their truth: understand unique experiences of stateside PIs and PIs in homeland. Proposed upcoming events/activities:
- i. Commission meeting in Hawaii and regional summit in CNMI

IV. Commissioner Report

The Commissioner Report focuses on framing the story. For example, the theme of 2014's "American Mosaic" was cohesive union. Its content will summarize activities and the issue areas to focus on: Federal Agency engagement, the White House Summit on AAPIs, and Recommendations.

- a) *Commissioner Support*: The core group that will review is Nina Ahmad, Ravi Chaudhary, and Paul Watanabe.
- b) *Recommendations*: Need a “so what?” Recognize prior Commissioners as foundation for impact. One pager/resource for basic understanding. Think about target audience: agency, leadership, administration, community organizations.

V. Military

AAPI Military Issues: Incidences of religious and cultural discrimination in the military; issues with those with Hepatitis B; workforce diversity, including at senior levels.

VI. Discussion & Closing

Clarification: Follow up for policy asks and long term plans. WHIAAPI has internal policy tracker. Commissioners should send fact sheet on agency achievements to communities.

VII. Adjournment: Next Steps & Preview of Next Day's Meeting

Kiran gave closing remarks, thanking the Commissioners for their passion and dedication. She also commended them on their ability to work together to implement projects and coordinate during events.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.



6/5/2015

Dr. Tung Nguyen, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs