



Governor Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
San Wong, Director

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### COMMISSION OF ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS (CAPI)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Location:** Lucas State Office Building – Eleanor Room

**Conference Call** – Public Access Provided

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Ben Jung, Chair – *West Des Moines (by phone)*

James Suong – *Des Moines (by phone)*

Karlai Thornburg – *Ames (by phone)*

Michelle Yoshimura-Smith – *Des Moines (by phone)*

Peggy La – *Sioux City (by phone)*

Ritu Gurung – *Davenport (by phone)*

**Absent:** Suresh Basnet – Cedar Rapids

#### **DHR/CAS/API Staff:**

Monica Stone, CAS Division Director/DHR Deputy Director

Tina Shaw, Executive Officer for Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs/CAS

**Public Attendance:** None

**Guests:** Mr. Vinh Nguyen – ELL Programs, Des Moines Public Schools; Mr. Brad Spielman – Associate Provost, Des Moines Area Community College – Urban Campus

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM. Six commissioners in attendance. Due to technical difficulties, Basnet was unable to join the call. Quorum present.

#### **II. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the 2/28/19 meeting were deferred until the next meeting to provide more time, opportunity for review.

To accommodate guests' schedules, EducAsian Program Update listed under **IV-B. Announcements & Miscellaneous: DHR & API Office** was moved to the top of the agenda.

Nguyen who came before the Commission in 2018 to ask that CAPI re-engage on youth education initiatives, as it had done in years past, was present to thank the Commission for helping to create EducAsian 2019 – a six-Saturday format targeting at-risk youth in the Des Moines Public School system and surrounding areas. The kick-off event on April 13 was well-received by the 44 youth who attended seeking out college and career information and skills needed on either pathway. Nguyen hopes the Commission will expand the program’s reach to other school districts in Central Iowa.

Nguyen cited a challenge for most youth participants - transportation. Shaw noted DMACC Urban Campus is on a DART bus line but future programming should consider volunteer-led options to provide shuttles from specific apartment complexes.

Spielman was encouraged by the youth turnout and articulated the reasons for DMACC’s partnership and financial sponsorship toward EducAsian Program scholarships. In years past, DMACC’s API Family Night event fell short of the desired attendance, and it risked being eliminated due to lack of participation. By way of this partnership, DMACC was able to reach high school students from this population who are not aware of the merits of community college regardless of matriculation to a four-year university or a technical education in the skilled trades.

Spielman hopes API parent engagement improves as he would like to see more of them accompany their child to educational programs and events such as EducAsian. He also impressed upon the Commission the importance of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and offered to host a clinic to benefit the youth in EducAsian. Shaw indicated the youth are being surveyed at the end of each Saturday to measure utility of the program content presented and will include a question on Day 3 to gauge if youth care to have an onsite FAFSA clinic. Spielman offered to provide this service, if interest existed. DMACC-Urban offers FAFSA Fridays to the public.

Commissioners Yoshimura-Smith and Suong attended the kick-off orientation and relayed their favorable impressions of the event. Yoshimura-Smith offered to assist with promotional efforts by way of Facebook. Shaw will coordinate with Nguyen to transition the existing page to a business page for open, public engagement.

Thornburg is helping to plan the Iowa State University campus tour along with Lee Chhen Stewart for EducAsian youth participants and provided an update on the May 4th programming and financial assistance by ISU and volunteerism of API faculty, staff and campus affinity organizations.

Research for potential funding for year-two and additional supports to grow EducAsian to other parts of Iowa is now underway. Metrics obtained in year-one is critical to securing financing and sponsorships in subsequent years. Shaw thanked DMACC and DMPS for being “all in” partners in year-one and CAPI for exhibiting the trust needed to make EducAsian a meaningful project for targeted, at-risk youth.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. COFA Research – Letter of Support**

Shaw conveyed a request by Neil MacNaughton, PhD, RN seeking a letter of support from CAPI for his research proposal entitled: *“A Comparison of Micronesians in Iowa to those in Micronesia using the WHO STEPwise non-communicable disease risk factor surveillance questionnaire.”*

Jung asked to see the initial request. Shaw will send to the entire Commission following this meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding a letter-approval process. Shaw stated the deadline for submission to the grant-making authority, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, is May 1.

**Motion by Thornburg, seconded by Yoshimura-Smith** to authorize the Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs to draft a letter of support for Neil MacNaughton to pursue grant-funded research for the betterment of healthcare access for COFA migrants residing in Iowa. **Unanimous consent. Motion carried.**

Shaw will draft a letter of support and schedule a call for CAPI consideration prior to the May 1 grant submission deadline.

### **V. Next CAPI Meeting**

Shaw will circulate a link to an electronic poll to determine the next meeting date and time.

### **VI. Adjournment**

**Motion by Suong, seconded by Jung** to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 PM. **Unanimous consent. Motion carried.**