COUNCIL ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
MINNESOTANS
A STATE AGENCY SINCE 1985

Executive Director's Report

July 17, 2014

I. Administrative

A. Website: We've updated information on our website. MNIT has provided us with a quote on the cost of revamping our website after our move to Tridion. There is a possibility that our new website will go live by the time the 2015 legislative session convenes.

B. Hiring for Legislative Liaison Position: Hiring process completed; new staff started on July 16.

C. Orientation of new Council Member: Vice Chair Nhon and I sat down with Mr. Maeda for 1.5 hours. The purpose of this meeting was for us to provide Mr. Maeda with an orientation to CAPM and answer any questions he may have for us about CAPM and his role and responsibilities as a Council Member.

D. Financial Report: FY14 ended June 30th; FY15 started July 1st. See **Attachments A** and **B**, *Manager's Financial Reports*. The board will need to approve the recommended FY15 Budget (Attachment A) at today's meeting.

II. Staff

A. Legislative Liaison: Started July 16th.

B. Interns: Yang Zhang, a junior from Macalester College. He is working on a project focused on the relationship between homelessness and health amongst API youth.

III. Projects/Programs

A. CAPM Strategic Plan: I am working with Legends Consulting Firm on the strategic plan; we are still intent on completing this plan by September 2014.

B. CAPM Policies and Procedures[1]: Work continues. Expected completion date is September 2014.

C. CAPM 101Presentaion: Staff completed this PP presentation several months ago. Board members have been asked to volunteer to present on the Council to organizations working for, in, and with our API community. The first training for board members was July 15th, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

D. CAPM Brochure: Staff has been working on a CAPM brochure that can be used while CAPM is out and about in the community. Expected completion date is August 2014, in time for the visits to greater Minnesota.

E. Early Childhood Education Report: Staff continues with the focus groups; upcoming focus groups involve the Cambodian and Vietnamese parents. We are two weeks into deploying the survey and will continue to do so through August.

F. API Votes Advisory Committee: The last few months have been busy, but we expect that these meetings will be resumed soon.

G. 2014 Heritage Dinner: Final numbers are available.

- **410** people attended the dinner
- After all expenses are accounted for, we will have a balance of **$1,344.34**

IV. Government Relations

A. MN Department of Health (MDH):
   - Quarterly meetings between councils of color and Commissioner Ehlinger re health disparities. In May, Government Relations Chair and staff with met with Assistant Commissioner Ayers to talk about how we might work together to prepare for the next legislative session.
   - Vice Chair Nhon, Capacity Director, and Executive Director met with Assistant Commissioner Jean Ayers to discuss how the two agencies can better support one another. We shared with A/C Ayers about two of our priorities we would like to start engaging with MDH about: our Early Childhood Education report and domestic violence as a legislative priority. The A/C identified some people within MDH for us to connect with as it relates to these issues.

B. Office of Multicultural and Minority Health (OMMH) Advisory Committee: The last meeting was April 4th, which I was not able to attend.

C. Cultural and Ethnic Leadership Council (CELC/DHS): CAPM is mandated to participate on this council. This council meets once a month for 4+ hours each time. The most recent developments include the establishment of subcommittees to work on specific issues and eventually make policy recommendations; CAPM is on the Cultural and Linguistic Competency Subcommittee.

D. Senior Leadership Team (to the Interagency Council on Ending Homelessness): Meets at the call of the State Director (MHFA). From the last meeting of the Commissioners, on May 26th: covered some highlights of some of the work to date, the latest research from the U of M on homeless families, the most recent point-in-time data, and touched on some of the parts of the plan that will require some attention in the budget process and 2015 legislative session.

E. USDA: I will meet with the State Executive Director Deb Crusoe this month talk about how USDA (FSA) can better assist API farmers.

F. MDHR: Our office communicates frequently with the Commissioner of Human Rights to ensure that we are appropriately assisting the Commissioner as his office begins to engage stakeholders in the conversation about the future structure of the councils of color.

G. MN State Arts Board: The Arts Board is planning an artist's needs survey; thus, we met to talk about how our office can connect the Board with our API artists. One of their key goals in this project is to get input from artists who are not currently connected to the Arts Board, and with creative individuals who may not even think of themselves as artists. The Board is particularly interesting in getting input about the needs of artists from diverse communities.

H. MDE Office of Early Learning: Staff and board members (Madam Chair Batica and Ms. Shanti Shah) attended a meeting on how Minnesota's early childhood investments can most effectively achieve the goal of ensuring that every child in Minnesota gets the great start they need to succeed in school and beyond.

I. Legislators: Mr. Tran, Chair of Government Relations Committee, and I continue to meet with key legislators to talk about this Council and how we might better work within the government to serve the APM community. Representatives are busy on the campaign

trail; strategically, we have focused on getting to the Senators. Since our last board meeting, we have met with the following senators and/or their staff:

- Senator Tomassoni's Office
- Senator Pappas
- Senator Chamberlain
- Senator Hawj

J. Ramsey County: At the request of Karen community leaders, we initiated contact with the Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. At this time, we've had two meetings with members of the County Board and staff from Ramsey County DHS and MDH to talk about some of the issues the Karen community is facing. Our office will coordinate a meeting of Karen community leaders and the commissioner next so that county government can hear directly from Karen community members.

K. City of Minneapolis: I have met with both the Southeast Asian Access and Outreach Specialist and Mayor Hodges' policy staff. The conversations were focused on the city of Minneapolis' efforts to engage the Minneapolis Asian American community.

L. City of Saint Paul: Our office has started talking with and will be meeting with St. Paul Councilmember Dai Thao in July to talk about how CAPM and the St. Paul City Council can better work together.

VI. Community Partnerships

A. Equity for All Minnesotans: With our other councils of color and community partners, we participated in efforts (press conference and meetings with legislators) to get a legislative hearing on the MDH's Health Equity Report. This group was critical to getting the legislative hearing that was held on May 16th, which I attended; no public comments were taken at this time.

B. HOME Equity Collaborative: Consists of entities that supported and actively advocated for the HOME bill during the 2014 legislative session; includes the state ethnic councils, community based organizations, the African American Leadership Forum, and other mainstream organizations. This collaborative has already met once since the session to talk about lessons learned from the session, strategies for the interim period, and objectives for the 2015 session.

VII. Community Outreach

A. Attended the Hmong Freedom Celebration (June 4 and 5th)
B. Attended Lao Minnesota Leaders Dinner (June 27th)
C. Attended Little Mekong Night Market (July 5th)
D. Attended Dragon Boat Festival (July 12th)

[i] The colored text items under the "Projects and Programs" section are items from the resolution Mr. Thakur proposed and the Board adopted in response to the OLA Report on the Councils of Color in 2014.