



Executive Director's Report

November 20, 2014

I. Administrative

- A. Website: Nothing has changed since the last time I reported. We expect that we will not have a revamped website sometime before the end of 2015.
- B. Annual Report: We submitted the Report to the Governor's Office and the Legislative Reference Library on November 14, 2014. All Board Members should receive as part of their Board meeting package today a print copy of the 2014 report.
- C. Financial Report: To determine how we are doing financially, see November's Financial Report, **Attachment A**. For the Board's convenience, we've also attached an "Explanation of Expenditure Terms" cheat-sheet.

II. Staff

- A. Staff: We are auditing our legislative liaison's position description this month. At this time, our staff roster is as follows:
 - Sia Her – Executive Director
 - Angelina Nguyen – Capacity Director
 - Tenzin Dolkar – Legislative Liaison/Public Affairs
 - Karina Vang – Officer Manager
- B. Intern: Our intern has completed her internship with us.

III. Projects/Programs

- A. Early Childhood Education Report: We are in the data analysis and writing phase of the report. Angelina presented preliminary findings at the SEA Diaspora conference at the University of Minnesota on October 3. We will look to hire a graphic designer to help with putting together the final report.
- B. Domestic Violence Bills: Staff drafted two bills on this issue in August. The Government Relations Committee reviewed these two bills at the end August. In my October report, I shared that our legislative liaison and I have been meeting with key stakeholders we believe will influence the chances of these two bills. We continued to meet with this group of stakeholders.
 - We hosted a meeting with **thirteen domestic violence advocates** from across the state and represented seven organizations serving victims of domestic violence, including those from our community. All advocates appreciate the bills we are exploring introducing; they will confirm their organizations' support in the coming weeks.
 - Met with **Senator Alice Johnson** to review these bills and see if she will still author the research bill this year. The Senator has agreed to carry this bill again this year.
 - Met with **Maplewood Police Dept., Chief Schnell** and **Mayor's Office**; both offices support of these bills.
 - **Minneapolis School Superintendent** Office. The Superintendent's Office supports these bills; will share them with the Minneapolis Board of Directors at their next meeting and get back to us.
 - Met with **Rep. Karen Clark** to review these bills and see if she will still author the research bill. The Rep. has agreed to carry the bill again this year.

- **Commissioner Dohman** of the Dept. of Public Safety. We met with her to introduce our Council and learn how we might be helpful to the Dept. as well as ask for its support of our two bills.
- **Duluth Police Department, Chief Ramsay**. Chief Ramsay is also the President of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association. We met with Chief Ramsay to ask for his Dept. as well as the Association’s support of our two bills. The Duluth Police Dept. will support our bills; the Chief will speak with the Association and get back to us with a response.

C. 2015 Legislative Issues Community Survey: To ensure that our priorities during the legislative session reflect our communities’ voices, staff disseminated a survey online and in person. The online survey closed on October 31st. We received well over 200 responses and have analyzed the data. Our draft of the 2015 legislative agenda reflects the survey findings (see **Attachment B**).

IV. **Community Relations**

Since our last Board meeting, the staff have been busy working on the annual report, community survey, and Early Childhood Education Report. Nonetheless, we continue to be where communities. On November 5th, Board Member Shanti Shaw presented to the India Association of Minnesota. The audience was 35 or so strong, mostly young, and eager to learn more about the role of this Council and how IAM and this Council could work together.

V. **Government Relations**

- A. Governor’s Office: On October 23rd, I met with the Governor’s Office to discuss the Councils’ request for an additional \$250,000.0 in biennium 2016/2017 and the two bills we’ve drafted.
- B. Legislators: Visits with legislators have been rare, especially in light of election activities. In the last week, we met with:
 - Rep. Carolyn Laine
 - Senator Alice Johnson
 - Rep. Rena Moran
 - Rep. Karen Clark
 - Senator Hoffman

In anticipation of our 2015 legislative agenda, we have started scheduling meetings with all the commissioners of the state departments and legislators on our appropriations committee.

- C. Office of Higher Education (OHE): Angelina and I met with Commissioner Pogemiller for the purpose of introducing to his office the Council and hear from him how we could support his office. We came away from the meeting with some concrete next steps: our office will advise them on producing more granular data that more accurately depicts how well Asian American students are faring at an ethnic community level. We also said that we could explore how to help the Office of Higher Education better communicate with various ethnic communities.
- A. MN Department of Education (MDE) – Compass Eligibility Stakeholder Committee Meeting: Stakeholders were invited to this meeting to recommend the profile of 11th graders in Minnesota who should be required to take the Compass Test. The Compass Test is intended to be a diagnostic placement test that helps school districts provide targeted support to help students become college-ready.
- B. MN Department of Human Rights (MDHR): We haven’t met with Commissioner Lindsey since our last Board meeting; however, we know that the Commissioner’s office has been engaging with



communities on the topic of the councils of color. The community conversations in Brainerd, Duluth, St. Cloud and Rochester took place in November.

C. MN Department of Health (MDH)

- Quarterly meetings between councils of color and Commissioner Ehlinger re health disparities.
- On October 29th, our legislative liaison and I met with Dr. Melanie Peterson-Hickey and two other staff members of MDH and DHS. MDH, compelled by the two drafted bills we presented to them on domestic violence in the Asian Pacific community, wants to know how MDH could better address health disparities in our community. We are in the process of drafting a project MDH would oversee with our Council as an active advisor.

D. Office of Multicultural and Minority Health (OMMH) Advisory Committee: This committee provides input on the planning, development, and implementation of the work at OMMH and MDH. There is talk about broadening and strengthening the role of this advisory committee and to have it advise the entire Center for Health Equity (CHE) which now encompasses OMMH, Center for Health Statistics (MCHS), and the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI) grant program.

E. MN Department of Human Services (DHS) – Cultural and Ethnic Leadership Council (CELC): CAPM is mandated to participate on this council. This council meets once a month for 3+ hours each time. CAPM is on the Cultural and Linguistic Competency Subcommittee.

F. MN Housing and Finance Agency’s (MHFA) Senior Leadership Team (to the Interagency Council on Ending Homelessness): This group, with Cathy at the helm, provides input to the Interagency Council which consists of all the commissioners of the state departments and Tina Smith, the (former) chief of staff on how the state should go about preventing and ending homelessness.

- This group meets at the call of the director, Cathy tenBroeke.
- Our most recent meeting was November 6th. The bulk of the meeting was allocated to a presentation on their Executive Budget Meeting presentation. During this time, Cathy shared some data and updates on the state of homelessness in Minnesota.

G. U.S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division (WHD): We met with Corey Walton, the Community Outreach & Planning Specialist. Among other things, the WHD is responsible for enforcing federal minimum wage, overtime, and child labor laws as well as the Family Medical Leave Act. Our meeting was focused on: (1) how he could connect with organizations that deal directly with the many diverse employment communities in Minnesota, and (2) how WHD could organize its outreach activities in a way that makes the agency more accessible to workers, so they may become more aware of their employment rights. We agreed to connect him with our list of community members and organizations.

VI. **Community Partners**

- A. Equity for All Minnesotans: Last session, we started participating 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 met several times this summer to talk about next steps re the HOME bill this session.



VII. Community Outreach

- A. Hmong Village – November 4th – Hmong Broadcasting Company interviewed with me about the importance of voting.
- B. The University of Minnesota – At the request of the University, we met with a group of Chinese delegates on Nov. 7th to talk about the role and responsibilities of our Council.
- C. Coalition of Asian American Leaders Conference – Nov. 15th
- D. University of Minnesota – I spoke to a group of about 100 or more ESL teacher candidates who have been learning about strategies to work with English learners.