COUNCIL ON
ASIAN PACIFIC
MINNESOTANS
A STATE AGENCY SINCE 1985

Executive Director's Report

October 16, 2014

I. Administrative

A. Website: We have heard from MN.IT. It appears that we should not expect to have a new website up and running by the time session 2015 starts. MN.IT tells us that they may not be able to start on our site until early spring.

B. Biennial Budget Work: We have completed the work on our budget narrative and base budget for FY15/16. I will be submitting a request for an increase to our base budget in the next biennium. This request is called a "change item request" and is due to MMB by October 13th (see "Change Item Request", **attachment 3A**, for more details; **this will be provided to the Board at the meeting**).

C. Annual Report: We have contracted with an independent consultant to help with our annual report. We will have a finished draft sent to the full Board by the end of October; the Board will have a week to provide feedback. The report is due November 15, 2014.

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: We have an intern from Metro State University this semester – Allison Le. Allison is with us on Mondays. Currently, she is assisting Angelina and Dolkar.

III. Projects/Programs

A. CAPM Strategic Plan: We've completed a solid draft of the 2014/2015 CAPM strategic plan (**see attachment 3B**). The Ex-Committee recommended that this document be sent to the Board as part of the October meeting materials, and that time be allocated for the purpose of an in-depth review of this document at the tentatively scheduled November Board retreat.

B. CAPM Policies and Procedures: We've completed a solid draft (**see attachment 3C**). This, too, is on the agenda for the tentative November Board meeting. The Ex-Committee has asked that the Board be provided ample time to review this document together then.

C. 2014 Gubernatorial and U.S. Senate Forums: In July, our staff team decided that we would like to host candidate forums for our community, tentatively scheduled for the second week of October. After much contemplation, and in light of one of the findings from the OLA, we decided that we would invite the other two councils of color to join us in this endeavor. On behalf of the other councils of color, our Council invited the gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidates to participate (**see attachment 3D**, one of the two letters sent). The Governor and Senator Dayton's campaigns declined our invitation; thus, we are unable to host the community forums we had hoped for in Election Year 2014.

D. Early Childhood Education Report: We have a total of 321 completed survey responses. Wilder is cleaning up the dataset. We are also done with our focus groups even though we fell short of our goal for our Cambodian parents (if our Board members know of any Cambodian parents with a child under 5, please introduce them to Angelina). Data analysis and writing will happen in October and November. Angelina presented preliminary findings at the SEA Diaspora conference at the

University of Minnesota on October 3. We have also started conversations with local governments and school districts about the possibility of CAPM presenting to them once the report is completed.

E. Domestic Violence Bills: Staff drafted two bills on this issue in August. The Government Relations Committee met to review these two bills at the end of August and provide input. Since then, our legislative liaison and I have been meeting with key stakeholders we believe have influence on the legislative process. The following documents provide more details on these bills, the stakeholders we've met with, and where these stakeholders stand:
   - Study Group on DV Bill Draft (**see attachment 3E**)
   - Transitional Housing Pilot Voucher Program Draft (**see attachment 3F**)
   - Stakeholder Meetings List (**see attachment 3G**)

F. 2015 Legislative Session Community Survey: To ensure that our priorities during the legislative session reflect our communities' voices, staff designed and disseminated a survey online and in person. During the August Government Relations Committee meeting, we shared with the members the survey draft. We also then met with three out of our four legislative board members to get their input.

   Our goal is to have a response rate of 300 (200 online responses and 100 in person).

   Thus far, we have the following to share:
   - 100 in person surveys completed.
   - 84 online surveys completed.
   - 8 listening sessions with executive directors of API-led nonprofits, communities in greater Minnesota and here in the metro area.

   We have asked Board members to encourage their communities to participate in this survey by forwarding the link. Thus far, two Board members have responded to share that they are actively helping to get the survey out to members of the community she represents on the Board.

   We will close down the survey at the end of October and have our finalized 2015 legislative agenda by end of November. *A press release re our 2015 legislative agenda will go out the 1st week of December.*

IV. Community Relations

A. Meetings with greater MN communities: Staff drove out to Marshall, Tracey, and Walnut Grove on the weekend of September 15th and 16th. We held two meetings with communities in this area, each lasting about 2.5 hours. Both meetings were enlightening and demonstrated the need for our Council to be more present in our communities, especially those in greater Minnesota where our communities are sizeable but not large enough to establish places that provide culturally and linguistically accessible support/resources.
   a. Hmong community – We met with a group of eleven community members, including our host who is a Hmong American councilmember at the city of Marshall. See **attachment 3H** for details.
   b. Karen community in Marshall – We met with a group of eight community members. Our Karen Board member, George ThawMoo, met up with us during this community conversation. See **attachment 3H** for details.

V. Government Relations

A. Governor's Office: Our office assisted the Governor's Office with an issue related to Lao-Hmong veterans. Representatives of the Hmong Veterans reached out to office for assistance with what they perceived to be an inaccurate statement in a proclamation the Governor signed off on. After several conversations with the veterans' representatives and the Governor's staff, we were able to resolve this issue in a manner that both the veterans and the Governor's office agreed to.

B. Legislators: Visits with legislators have been infrequent this summer due to the fact that most legislators are out of town or preoccupied with election activities. Nonetheless, I did meet with the following senators:

- Senator Pappas re the councils of color.
- Senator Hall re our Council.

C. MN Department of Health (MDH)

- Quarterly meetings between councils of color and Commissioner Ehlinger re health disparities. Our most recent meeting with Commissioner Ehlinger was on August 29th. We walked away from this meeting with a better understanding of the issues MDH will be spearheading in the 2015 legislative session.
- 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. Our next meeting was scheduled for August 21st; however, due to some restructuring and other changes at MHH, this meeting has been deferred till October.

D. MN Department of Human (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. For the last two meetings, Dolkar has been attending on behalf of our Council.

E. 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.
- As shared in my August report, the four advisory councils met with Cathy ten Broeke (Director of to Prevent and End Homelessness) and her Project Manager, Amy Stetzel in September. The purpose of the meeting was to talk through creating communication and engagement strategies for all the different communities we represent related to the goals of the Heading Home Plan. Out of this meeting, our advisory councils and Cathy agreed to have follow-up meetings about how to convene small meetings with the four communities.

F. MDHR: Ongoing meetings, at the Commissioner's request, regarding the councils in the 2015 legislative session.

G. MN History Center: At the History Center's request, I met with them to discuss the Hmong40 exhibit they will host next year, March through November 2015.

H. Ramsey County Board of Commission: 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, one meeting with staff from Ramsey County DHS and DH to talk about some of the issues the Karen community is facing. We then met with a group of Karen community leaders on Sept. 4th to prepare for a meeting with the Ramsey Cty commissioners. On Oct. 9th, we met with both the Karen community leaders and the Cty commissioners for a conversation on the issues the community is facing and the role of Cty government in addressing these with community.

I. City of Minneapolis: Assisting members of the Lao community in N. Minneapolis with setting up a meeting with Mayor Hodge's policy staff to talk about issues pertinent to the Minneapolis Lao community.

VI. Community Partners

A. Blue Cross Blue Shield: Met with Patsy Riley, Sr. Vice President of Government Relations, and Frank Fernandez, VP of Government Relations. This was very much an introductory meeting of our two offices. Our meeting was mostly focused on the importance of building and maintaining relationships with our Asian Pacific Minnesotan communities, how MNsure unfolded in our Asian Pacific communities, and how BCBS might go about institutionalizing knowledge and effective strategies to addressing health disparities with our communities.

B. Homes for All Coalition: We've been exploring whether or not we will partner with the Homes for All Coalition is composed of more than 80 statewide organizations. This Coalition is spearheaded by the Minnesota Housing Partnership and Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. The Coalition advocates for affordable housing for all. We've attended a meeting of the policy committee and met with one of the co-Chairs of this coalition; we've not yet finalized our decision.

C. 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.

D. 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. Little Mekong Day Market – Sept. 21st
B. Karen Organization of MN Gala – Oct. 2nd
C. Economic Health of AAPIs – Oct. 9th
D. Meetings w/Ramsey Cty Commissioners and Karen Community Leaders – Oct.
E. Asian Women United Annual Get Together – Oct. 10th