



**Commission on
Asian & Pacific Islander
American Affairs**

**California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs
Public Hearing - anti-Asian Hate and COVID-19 health impacts**

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 **Time:** 5:15 -7:00PM

MINUTES

I. 5:15 - 5:30PM - Welcome / Opening

A. Chair Karthick Ramakrishnan Call meeting to order @ 5:17PM

B. Secretary Christopher Punongbayan calls roll -

1. Present

- a) Karthick Ramakrishnan
- b) Helen Lee
- c) Christopher Punongbayan
- d) Raymond Buenaventura
- e) Rajan Gill
- f) Polly Low
- g) Catherine Ofa Mann
- h) Janani Ramachandran
- i) Kirin Macapugay
- j) Lance Toma
- k) Cirian Villavicencio
- l) Simon Pang

2. Absent

C. Chair Karthick Ramakrishnan - [Approval of January 13, 2021 Minutes](#)

1. *Tabled*

D. Chair Karthick Ramakrishnan makes welcoming remarks

1. Rise in hate and intolerance is a national problem, particularly during COVID.

E. Comments from Chair of API Legislative Caucus, Dr. Richard Pan

1. New legislation for the Caucus tackling hate and intolerance. Dr. Pan is authoring SB 17 calling on the state to take specific actions to establish an office of racial equity, which could do assessment of new and current policies in the budget and impact on racial equity.
2. Listening tour
3. Educational equity from the Gates Foundation
4. March 1, new Chief Consultant, Stephanie Tom



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II. 5:30 - 6:50PM - Testimonials

A. 5:30-5:45pm *Anti-Asian violence with Stop AAPI Hate*

1. Manjusha Kulkarni -Executive Director, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (AP3CON)
 - a) Launched Stop AAPI Hate on March 19, 2020. 6 incidents were presented that exemplified trends in hate violence.
 - b) 47 states and DC. Where there are more Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders there are more incidents. 56% are CA and NY. Those who are more vulnerable are more likely to be impacted, including women and elderly.
 - c) Verbal harassment is 60%, shunning and avoidance, physical assault, spat on, online, discrimination, banned from establishment
 - d) Highest ethnicities impacted: Chinese, Korean, Asian (in multiracial), Filipino, Vietnamese, Japanese, Taiwanese
2. Cynthia Choi - Co-Executive Director, Chinese for Affirmative Action
 - a) 155% increase in depression, AAPIs have second highest rate of unemployment and small business closures
 - b) Historical precedent
 - c) Strategy is to track incidents, raise public awareness, provide community resources, lead community based public safety initiatives, advocate for solutions
3. Commission Q&A (5 minutes)
 - a) How should we talk about this issue: Orgs in the Bay Area are working together to condemn the violence, highlight demands on local government on intervention and prevention, and promote unity; refuse to get pit against each other and instead focus on the underlying conditions that cause these incidents in the first place

B. 5:45-6:00pm *COVID-19 health impacts in Pacific Islander communities*

1. Kawen Young
 - a) Lead of the SoCal Pacific Islander COVID Response Team
 - (1) Overview of indigenous people of Oceania: Polynesian, Micronesian, Melanesia and in memoriam for past leaders in the community
 - (2) So-Cal COVID 19 Response Team, part of 6 teams nationally, NHPI cases have tripled and deaths have quadrupled since December in LA and OC
2. Taunu'u Ve'e
 - a) Pronounced Taw-nu Vee-ee
 - b) Co-chair and co-founder, Norcal Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce
 - (1) Alameda, Sonoma, SF, Santa Clara, San Mateo
 - (2) Increase visibility, data equity because isolated,



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underserved, and invisible

- (3) Task force meets every Monday and look at the data and make recommendations on policy
- (4) Priorities are Housing, Behavioral and Mental Health, Data, Population Health, Maternal/Child/Infant Health,
- (5) Want to partner with Commission to move the data disaggregation forward

3. Commission Q&A (5 minutes)

C. 6:00-6:15pm COVID-19 AA&PI youth & incarcerated community members

1. Hakteka Rich Han

- a) Goes by “Teck-kah Rich Han”
- b) Youth Leader with Educated Men with Meaningful Messages (EM3)
- c) Long Beach, California
- d) A partner of the AA&PI statewide youth coalition, CHARGE
 - (1) Shared personal struggles and experience in the lockdown, including lack of motivation and other physical issues; educational situation is really challenging

2. Nathaniel Tan

- a) Co-director, Asian Prisoner Support Committee
 - (1) COVID rate in prison have exploded; 388 deaths, Cambodian, Laos, Filipino are highest incarcerated API communities; released, transferred to ICE with COVID
 - (2) ICE transfers have led to COVID proliferation
 - (3) Members have COVID upon release, bring COVID into re-entry home, and contract in the community

3. Commission Q&A (5 minutes)

D. 6:15-6:50pm COVID-19 health impacts in Asian American communities

1. Sacramento - Bobby Roy

- a) Site Coordinator with Tetteh (pronounced Tet-tuh) Pediatrics Test Site & Sacramento API Regional Network
 - (1) 95823, highest number of COVID cases in Sacramento County
 - (2) Racism, economic inequality, health insecurity and are “pre-existing conditions” that render community members vulnerable
 - (3) Tettuh started in 2020 to provide a local resource; 8000+ tests, no vaccination sites set up
 - (4) Specific Asian and PI ethnicities have much higher



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positivity rates than state average

- (5) Recommendations: Outreach, consistency in disaggregated data, distribution

2. *Fresno* -

- a) Pao Yang
- b) CEO, The Fresno Center, COVID survivor
 - (1) Serving 100K APIs inc 60K SEA inc 40K Hmong since 1991; 3000 clients served per month
 - (2) Huge increase in depression; Vang Vu was attacked in Fresno on Jan 19
 - (3) Leaders need to come together to help the community to address spread of COVID

3. *Oakland* - Thu Quach

- a) Chief Deputy of Administration, Asian Health Services
 - (1) Community health center serving 50K in 14 different Asian languages, based in Oakland Chinatown
 - (2) Most of public health response has lacked cultural and linguistic competency
 - (3) Blue Shield will create the portal for signing up for the vaccine, poor translation in Vietnamese
 - (4) CA Healthy Place Index leaves out language access and other important factors related to API index
 - (5) Community is blamed for virus and overlooked for services

4. *Orange County* - Vattana Peong

- a) Executive Director, The Cambodian Family
- b) A partner of the Orange County API Taskforce and Cambodian Advocacy Coalition
 - (1) Khmer is not one of the languages that materials were made available by public health officials
 - (2) COVID 19 positivity is increasing; 30 clients have passed away; 35 year old client having suicidal ideation
 - (3) People cannot socially distance: Food services jobs like donut shops and crowded housing
 - (4) Universal language access through high-quality translations; increase funding for outreach and education; intersectional analysis of housing, immigration, legal status, and COVID; fund community partnerships with FQHC and community orgs to increase vaccination

5. *San Diego* - JoAnn Fields

- a) Government and Public Relations Director, API Initiative



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- (1) 345K APIs, nearly half are Filipino
- (2) Very little access to healthcare information in-language
- (3) Need disaggregated data on vaccines, and who is accessing support for rental assistance/utilities and small business
- (4) Need information more readily available about vaccine, can't get appointments

6. Commission Q&A (5 minutes)

III. 6:50PM - Public Comments

- A. Peejay Ai: lots of challenges for returning citizens with COVID
- B. Jason Jong: APIs Rise Fund, giving circle in Sacramento Region, anti-Asian hate in the area; 2021 grantees are working on these issues; www.apisrise.org
- C. Ana Meni: Raised issue related to Project Roomkey and outreach through church groups in Carson

IV. Comments from Chair and Commissioners

- A. Commissioners Ramachandran, Villivicencio, Ramkrishnan, Macapugay, Mann, Low, Toma reflected on testimony offered today including thanks to all the speakers and apologies for cutting time for speakers; possible NHPI specific hearing
- B. Another hearing in March on the COVID-19 economic and education loss.

V. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Low and Seconded by Commissioner Mann Mann; Motion carried