

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ASIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday – April 25, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

Jim Thorpe Building – Conference Room G-91
2101 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Advance written notice of regular scheduled meetings was filed with the Secretary of State on December 11, 2006. The agenda for this meeting was posted at the State Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This meeting was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, Section 301 through 314 of Title 25.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hung Le, Chair
Tinny Chang
Dr. Kyung-Whan Min
Dr. Evelina Morales
Vasithy Sengdara
Nick Wu

MEMBERS ABSENT

Thuy Pham
Dr. Rita Raman
Dr. Yoshi Sasaki

OPM STAFF PRESENT

Brenda C. Thornton
Linda Williamson

VISITORS PRESENT

Dr. Michael H. Smith – Executive Director
Warren Thompson – Coordinator and Counselor, Oklahoma Employee Assistance Program
Dick Greenly – President, Solar Streams of Water
Mark Schlachtenhaufen – Staff Writer, Capitol Network News
Judy Gibbs Robinson – Reporter, The Oklahoman

A. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Hung Le called the meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs to order at 2:05 p.m.

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF, AND GUESTS.

Chair Le welcomed and thanked each one for attending. Guests, council members, and staff were then asked to provide self-introductions.

C. PRESENTATIONS.

Gambling Additions – Brenda Thornton formally introduced the guest speakers: Dr. Michael Smith, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association for Problem and Compulsive Gambling; and Warren Thompson, coordinator and counselor for the State of Oklahoma Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Mr. Thompson led the presentation by providing an overview of the EAP program, stating that his role is to assist state employees with any issue that affects their ability to perform their job. In providing his clients with the assistance they need, he often works with or refers them to professionals such as Dr. Smith, who, in 2005, founded the non-profit

Oklahoma Association for Problem and Compulsive Gambling. Its mission is to increase public awareness of compulsive gambling and its problems, enhance the availability of services and quality of treatment for problem gamblers and their families, and insure the quality of education and prevention programs for all citizens of Oklahoma. His organization also partners with the State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. One council member commented that it is harder for Asian Americans to get help because (Asian-Americans) do not believe in counseling. Dr. Smith stated that it would be helpful to have Asian-American counselors. By having counselors from their own community, it would hopefully help validate counseling as well as bridge cultural differences for those community members. He asked council members to assist him in encouraging their community members to train in this field. He expressed to the council that he would assist them or their communities anywhere or anytime to provide outreach, knowledge, and education in the hopes that it will help minimize gambling's impact on individuals, families, and our entire state. Dr. Smith left members with brochures and his contact information.

Solar Streams of Water – Ms. Thornton formally introduced Dick Greenly, President of Solar Streams of Water, as well as President and owner of Pumps of Oklahoma. Mr. Greenly gave a presentation on the humanitarian contributions made by the not-for-profit organization, Solar Streams of Water, Inc., which was founded by him and a group of professional and business leaders. Their goal is to provide technology and support for sustainable water supplies by using renewable energy in areas throughout the world that are in desperate need of abundant water. His presentation included slides of their first installation and very first project that being the first solar-powered water pump system in China. This system was for a school of 230 children that served 17 surrounding villages. They have since installed a total of three systems in China and have six more requests that they are currently reviewing. Their goal is to be just the catalyst and then train and educate the community members to sustain the system. Once this is attained, they hope to move toward a second phase: to assist them in having abundant *clean* water. Their third and final phase is assisting with the development of a sanitation system. The council commended him on this magnificent contribution to humanity. He commented that he felt it was an honor and joy to have this opportunity to give back to those who are so less fortunate.

D. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 23, 2006, AND OCTOBER 25, 2006, MEETINGS.

The minutes from the August 23, 2006, and October 25, 2006, meetings were approved as presented on a motion by Dr. Kyung-Whan Min; seconded by Dr. Evelina Morales. Motion carried unanimously.

E. REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS CREATING COUNCIL.

Governor Henry issued Executive Order 2007-12, which ordered that Executive Order 95-10, issued by the Honorable Frank Keating, be in full force and effect; thereby, continuing the council. Since there were no changes in the language, it was suggested that the council review this document to determine if they are satisfying the mission and expectations set forth by the Governor. Dr. Min made a motion that council members be given an opportunity to review the content of Executive Order 95-10, as well as the past activities of the council, and, at the next meeting, discuss and develop a proposal that would outline ways in which they could carry out its mission more effectively in the future. Tinny Chang seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

There were no items to report at this time for any of the following committees:

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / HUMAN RESOURCES
- JUVENILE CRISIS / SAFETY and SECURITY
- HEALTH CARE / SOCIAL SERVICES
- ARTS / CULTURAL
- EDUCATION

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Ms. Chang announced that the Asian Festival would be on May 19, 2007, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Oklahoma History Center. There will be booths inside the History Center while the food tent and other exhibits will be outside. In keeping with the state's centennial celebration, for the first time there will be a Miss Asian processional of all past Asian pageant winners.

Dr. Min, as a member of the Korean community living in this country, expressed his sincere regrets concerning the recent Virginia Tech tragedy and extended his sincere condolences to all of those who had an unfortunate outcome as a result of this incident. He also expressed his hope that this would be thought of as a unique incident and not lead to a negative impression of all Koreans living in this country.

Dr. Min announced the commencement ceremony for the Korean Cultural and Language School to be held on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the First Korean Presbyterian Church located at Northwest 66th and Western.

Chair Le informed the council that he had tried to meet with Governor Henry during the recent Lunar New Year but, unfortunately, Governor Henry was in Iraq. Chair Le reported that he will continue to make requests in the future for meetings with Governor Henry.

Chair Le also made the announcement that today was Administrative Professionals Day. On behalf of the council, he thanked Linda Williamson for all the work that she has done to support them. The council further expressed their appreciation and gratitude by presenting Ms. Williamson with flowers, cards, and gifts. Ms. Williamson expressed her thanks for the opportunity and privilege of serving the council and for their flowers, cards, and gifts.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There were no items presented at this time.

I. NEW BUSINESS.

There was no business at this time.

J. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.

There were no comments.

K. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.