

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ASIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday – July 27, 2005 – 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 November 3, 2004. 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
Dr. Evelina Morales
Dr. Rita Raman
Dr. Yoshi Sasaki
Vasithy Sengdara
Nick Wu

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tinny Chang
Dr. Kyung-Whan Min
Thuy Pham

OPM STAFF PRESENT

Brenda C. Thornton
Linda Williamson

VISITORS PRESENT

Belen Burkhalter, Statewide Employment Manager, Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services Divisions, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
Hee Jin Kim, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, DRS
Anwar Chowdhury, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, DRS
Yukiko Yokono, Tulsa Global Alliance, and Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia
Kyle Wang, President, Asian Society of Oklahoma

A. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Hung Le called the meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs to order at 2:15 p.m.

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS.

Chair Le welcomed and thanked each one for attending. He asked special guests and others in attendance to provide self-introductions.

C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 27, 2005, MEETING.

The motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2005, as amended was made by Dr. Evelina Morales; seconded by Dr. Yoshi Sasaki. The minutes of April 27, 2005, were approved with the following correction:

Page 2, Paragraph F.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. Yoshi Sasaki reported that the Shaklee Company of Norman has been purchased by **Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Company of Japan, which is now called Astellas Pharma Technologies Incorporated.** During Governor Henry and Secretary Taylor's recent trip to Japan, Dr. Sasaki organized a meeting with the new company officials in hopes that they would retain their corporate center in Norman, Oklahoma.

D. PRESENTATIONS.

1.) Brenda Thornton introduced Belen Burkhalter, Statewide Employment Manager, Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services Divisions, with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) in Tulsa. Ms. Burkhalter introduced members of her staff and noted that they represented the countries of Korea, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, and Japan. Among her many duties at DRS, she is responsible for the implementation of a grant to conduct a statewide outreach to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) with disabilities. She provided each in attendance with a folder containing her personal contact information and outlining the services available, how to apply for these services, and recruitment information to encourage interest in the vocational rehabilitation field.

2.) Dr. Evelina Morales, a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs as well as an Epidemiologist for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), gave a very interesting and comprehensive PowerPoint presentation outlining the mission of DEQ. Dr. Morales provided the council with important contact information and copies of DEQ's 2004 Annual Report.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. Sasaki reported that the Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce, Kathryn Taylor, and a delegation from Oklahoma had accepted his invitation to include a visit to Japan during their trip to Taiwan and Vietnam in June 2005. Dr. Sasaki felt it was a very productive visit but, due to the confidential nature of the information, was unable to share more details.

Dr. Sasaki also mentioned that the governor of our sister state in Japan had planned a trip to Oklahoma later this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of a cultural and educational agreement by both governors. There are plans to sign a sister city agreement between Seika and Norman during this trip with a good potential for very prosperous future economic development for not only Norman but also the entire state of Oklahoma.

JUVENILE CRISIS/SAFETY & SECURITY

No items to report at this time.

HEALTH CARE/SOCIAL SERVICES

No items to report at this time.

ARTS/CULTURAL

Vasithy Sengdara reported that the Language and Cultural Services Department of the Oklahoma City Public Schools organized a very successful cultural exchange event that was held nightly from July 12-21, 2005, with presentations from nine different cultures and more than 100 different cultures represented. They plan to host this event again next year to give the parents and citizens an opportunity to combine culture and education.

Ms. Sengdara also made the following announcements:

- July 4th – Asian Society participated in the July 4th parade.
- August 6th – Taste of Asia event would be held at the Trinity Baptist Church located at Northwest 23rd and Classen.

Mr. Kyle Wang, President of the Asian Society of Oklahoma, extended a personal invitation to everyone to attend the Taste of Asia and join the celebration of the Asian culture by enjoying 10 different cuisines.

EDUCATION

Ms. Sengdara reported that the teachers, principles, and other administrative staff of the Oklahoma City Public Schools would begin their 2005-06 school year on August 1st. The first day of school for the students in the Oklahoma City Public Schools District would be August 18th.

F. OLD BUSINESS.

Chair Le again brought to the table for discussion the recommendation that the council make a quarterly report to the governor and attach the approved minutes. Following discussion, the council voted to submit a quarterly report to the governor on a motion by Dr. Morales; seconded by Mr. Nick Wu.

Dr. Morales suggested and recommended that council members bring concerns and problems from the Asian community and present them to the council for discussion or further investigation, and then, most importantly, inform the governor. As an example of concerns and problems, she mentioned gangs, drugs, teenage pregnancy, poverty, and lack of social services.

G. NEW BUSINESS.

Chair Le commented that he felt it was very important that the council be informed on all current and upcoming legislation at both the state and federal levels that impacts the Asian community. To do this he recommended:

- The council create a legislative subcommittee;
- The newly created legislative subcommittee be combined with the Education Committee, which will then be renamed the Education and Legislative Committee;
- The current members of the Education Committee would continue to serve on the Education and Legislative Committee;
- One person would be in charge of the legislative subcommittee;
- Chair Le recommended that Dr. Morales be appointed to serve in this capacity; and

- The person in charge would make a report at each meeting.

After discussion, it was decided to table this item for further consideration at the next meeting.

H. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.

Kyle Wang thanked Chair Le for his leadership and the council for their contribution to the Oklahoma Asian communities. He feels that the council serves such a vital role in fusing the Asian community into a greater Oklahoma community that allows everyone to make positive contributions.

Chair Le, on behalf of the council, thanked President Wang for his support and allowing them to work together to accomplish common goals.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.