

# MINUTES

## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ASIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday – October 26, 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  
Tinny Chang  
Dr. Evelina Morales  
Thuy Pham  
Dr. Yoshi Sasaki  
Vasithy Sengdara  
Nick Wu

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Kyung-Whan Min  
Dr. Rita Raman

### **OPM STAFF PRESENT**

Brenda C. Thornton  
Linda Williamson

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### **VISITORS PRESENT**

**Oscar B. Jackson, Jr. – Administrator of the Office of Personnel Management and Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources and Administration**  
**Demetrio Gutierrez, Ed.D. – Chief, Office of Minority Health, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)**  
**Weldon Schieffer – Program Manager, Institute for Issue Management, Oklahoma State University (OSU)**  
**Jorge A. Cure – Translation Coordinator, Guest Services, Oklahoma University Medical Center (OUMC)**  
**David W. Pan, Ph.D., J.D. – Assistant Professor, Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma**  
**Eric Xun Zhang, Access China Trade Services, Tulsa, Oklahoma**  
**Judy Gibbs Robinson – Reporter, The Oklahoman**  
**Marisa New, OTR, MPH - Coordinator of Arthritis Prevention and Education Program, Community Development Service, OSDH**

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### **A. CALL TO ORDER.**

Chair Hung Le called the meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs to order at 2:10 p.m.

## **B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS.**

Chair Le welcomed and thanked each one for attending. He introduced Oscar B. Jackson, Jr., Administrator of the Office of Personnel Management and Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources and Administration. Special guests and others in attendance were asked to provide self-introductions.

## **C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 27, 2005, MEETING.**

The minutes of July 27, 2005, were approved as presented on a motion by Ms. Vasithy Sengdara; seconded by Dr. Evelina Morales.

## **D. PRESENTATIONS.**

Brenda Thornton introduced Dr. Demetrio Gutierrez who was visiting the council to give an overview of the Health Services Interpretation Certification Program. He introduced Mr. Weldon Schieffer and Dr. Jorge Cure, who are working with him on this project. Dr. Gutierrez's main focus included the elimination of health disparities among minority populations and is currently working on the "Healthy People 2010" project. Developing a language assistance program to train interpreters is one area of focus in achieving this goal. To date for the interpreter certification program, they have already developed the training curriculum as well as written and verbal exams, held their first 20-hour training block, and given the first written examinations. The languages included in this first training were Arabic, Korean and Spanish. The Institute for Issue Management at OSU will manage the testing, issue certification, and maintain a registry of certified interpreters. There will be mandatory continuing education requirements in order to maintain certification. When Dr. Gutierrez entertained questions from the council members, the following additional information was provided:

- The cost of the training is \$365. Exam fee is \$125 for both the written and verbal exams.
- Successful completion of training and passing of the exams currently gives the interpreter certification for only Oklahoma. They are working toward reciprocity with other states.
- The legal responsibility of the interpreter is to accurately interpret everything that is said.
- Certified interpreters may volunteer or receive pay for their services.
- There are other groups that can provide certification training but participants cannot receive certification from the state of Oklahoma through them.
- Minimum pre-requisite qualifications include having a high school education, passing an OSBI background investigation, having practiced some interpretation, and possessing appropriate language skills in both English and a foreign language.
- The training will be given in English but the testing will be given in the foreign language.

## **E. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES**

Dr. Yoshi Sasaki reported that he will be leaving Monday to escort Mayor Harold Haralson, Mayor of Norman, on a trip to Japan to meet with the mayor of Seika, Norman's sister city in Japan. They will be meeting with company leaders to further economic development relationships between the two cities. During this visit and his visit in the spring of 2006, Dr. Sasaki will be making follow-up visits with the contacts made by Governor Henry during his trip in 2004 and by Kathryn Taylor, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce, during her trips in 2004 and 2005.

## **JUVENILE CRISIS/SAFETY & SECURITY**

No items to report at this time.

## **HEALTH CARE/SOCIAL SERVICES**

No items to report at this time.

## **ARTS/CULTURAL**

Ms. Sengdara reported the following:

- On October 1st, the Laotian community raised \$2,720 for the Katrina disaster victims.
- In October, the Taiwanese Association raised over \$1,000 for Katrina disaster victims.
- The Asia Society of Oklahoma (ASO) banquet will be November 19, 2005, at the Crown Hilton on Northwest Expressway. Invitations will be forthcoming.
- On November 8th, Ms. Sengdara will be traveling home to Laos for a one-month visit.

Ms. Tinny Chang reported the following:

- The ASO will donate matching funds raised by the Taiwanese Association for Katrina disaster victims.
- On November 2nd, there will be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of sister state relations between the state of Oklahoma and the Gansu Province.
- China will be hosting the Summer Olympics in 2008.
- On September 11th, there was a presentation at OU to celebrate the University's candidacy for starting an Institute of Confucius Language School. The Chinese government's goal is to have 110 Institute of Confucius Language Schools around the world; currently, they have only 36. The decision should be made in April or May of 2006.
- On August 17th, Ms. Chang traveled to China with a delegation of 60 Chinese women leaders who were invited by the government for this first-time event. She was one of only 27 women selected from the United States to attend.

## **EDUCATION**

No items to report at this time.

### **F. ESTABLISH DATES FOR 2006 COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

It was agreed that the 2006 council meetings would be held on the last Wednesday of each quarter beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Office of Personnel Management. The dates will be January 25, April 26, July 26, and October 25.

### **G. OLD BUSINESS.**

Chair Le again brought to the table for discussion his recommendation that the council create a legislative subcommittee. Dr. Morales made a motion that, before the January council meeting, Chair Le and Ms. Thuy Pham, as well as any other member of the advisory council who would like to contribute, will form a work group that would look into the possibility of having/forming either a legislative committee or legislative subcommittee to address the interests of the Asian

community when it comes to any rules or bills and defining the specific objectives of this committee or subcommittee. Ms. Chang seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**H. NEW BUSINESS.**

No items to report at this time.

**I. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.**

Dr. David Pan thanked the council for the opportunity of attending and learning more about the activities of the council, noting that he felt they were covering all aspects of the Asian community.

Ms. Marisa New also thanked the council for the opportunity of attending. Ms. New works for the OSDH and offered to make a presentation at a future meeting about their arthritis prevention and education program.

**J. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.