



2012 Asian American & Pacific Islander Southeast Regional Action Summit

In Partnership with

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012, 9 am - 4 pm
EMORY UNIVERSITY

Summary Report, featuring:

- Keynote Speaker Christopher P. Lu, Cabinet Secretary & Special Assistant to the President
- Four Breakout Sessions on Immigration & Civil Rights, Health Care/Mental Health issues, Housing & Foreclosures, and Small Business & Economic Issues for Entrepreneurs
- A Town Hall Meeting/Listening Session



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Emory University



Prepared by:
The Atlanta Host Committee for the Summit

Acknowledgements

The Atlanta Host Committee (AHC) would like to thank the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) for hosting the 2012 Southeast Regional Action Summit at Emory University. We want to specially thank key members of the Initiative for their planning assistance and participation: Keynote Speaker Christopher P. Lu (WHIAAPI Co-Chair, Cabinet Secretary & Special Assistant to the President); Kiran Ahuja (Executive Director); Hines Ward (WHIAAPI Commissioner); Tuyet Duong (Advisor on Civil Rights & Immigration); Miya Saika Chen (Advisor on Community Engagement); Toby Chaudhuri (Strategic Communications Consultant for White House Initiatives); and Shelly Coles (Assistant to the Executive Director and Deputy Director).

Partnering AAPI Organizations (executed Memoranda of Understanding with WHIAAPI):

- Asian American Legal Advocacy Center of Georgia, Inc. (AALAC)
- Asian American Resource Center (AARC)
- Boat People SOS Georgia—Atlanta, GA Chapter (BPSOS)
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. (CPACS)
- National Association of Chinese Americans, Georgia Chapter (NACA)
- OCA-Georgia

Contributing Sponsors:

Emory University: Office of Multicultural Programs & Services, and Office of Community & Diversity; Sodexo; Comcast; UPS; and Georgia Institute of Technology: Office of the Vice President for Institute Diversity.

Atlanta Host Committee Members & Local Participating Organizations:

Bonnie Youn, Youn Law Group (Steering Committee Chair); Farooq Mughal, MS Global Partners, LLC, (Reception Chair, Media Coordinator, Speaker Handler); Donna Wong, Emory Univ. Director of Office of Multicultural Programs and Services, (Venue Chair); Ozzie Harris, Emory Univ. Sr. Vice Provost for Community and Diversity; Josephine K. Tan, Chair, Asian-American Commission for a New Georgia (Welcoming Remarks); Alex Wan, Atlanta City Councilmember (Luncheon Remarks); Kerry Lee, Atlanta Chinese Dance Company (Volunteer Coordinator); Lillie Madali, Delta Phi Lambda Sorority (Volunteer Coordinator); AARC: Connie Jee, Julie Lee (Program Lead), David Sutton (SE Outreach and Program Lead); AALAC: Helen Kim Ho (Program Lead); CPACS: Chaiwon Kim, Marianne Chung (Budget Reimbursements and Program Lead), Judy Yi (Local Transportation, LEP Liaison, and Program Lead), Brandon Kwong (SE Outreach); OCA-Georgia: Tricia Sung (Program Lead), Minh Nguyen (Budget Coordinator), Natasha Patel (Speaker Handling), WooiYi Yin (Town Hall microphone coordinator), Alfred Yin (Town Hall microphone coordinator), Suraj Sequeira (Transcriber); NACA: Lani Wong; Georgia Undocumented Youth Alliance (GUYA): Keish Kim (Program Lead), Adam Kuranishi, Lulu Martinez; Delta Phi Lambda Sorority and Xi Kappa Fraternity, Emory University; Jane Li, Home Depot; APA Historical Society: Claire McLeveighn, Guo-Hua Wang; Asian Christian Counseling & Educational Seminar Services (ACCESS): Rebekah Wang; Japanese American Citizens League, SE Chapter (JACL): David Furukawa; Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA); South Asian Bar Association (SABA).

Special Thanks to the Asian American & Pacific Islander national partners and Federal Administrators who participated as Speakers in our Breakout Sessions:

AAPI Small Businesses: Contracting Opportunities, Accessing Capital, & Supporting Entrepreneurship

Shyam Reddy, Regional Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Reg. 4; **Cassius Butts**, Regional Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Reg. 4; **Abraham Xiong**, President, Government Contractors Association; **Moderator: Helen Kim Ho**, Executive Director, AALAC; **WHIAAPI Advisor: Miya Saika Chen**.

Immigrant Rights in the South

Andrew Strait, Public Advocate, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS); **Seema Nanda**, Deputy Special Counsel, The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ); **Jane Yoo**, Deputy Director, National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC); **Tricia Sung**, President, OCA-Georgia Chapter; **Keish Kim**, Student, Freedom University; **Moderator: Neera Bahl, Esq.**, Neera Bahl & Associates; **WHIAAPI Advisor: Tuyet Duong**.

Modern Homelessness & Foreclosures in the AAPI Community

John Trasviña, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); **Gayle Knowlson**, Director of the Program Support Division, HUD Atlanta Homeownership Center; **Lisa Hasegawa**, Executive Director National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD); **David Sutton**, Case Manager, AARC; **Tony Chung**, Housing Director, CPACS; **Moderator: Judy Yi**, Program Director, CPACS; **WHIAAPI Advisor: Audrey Buehring**.

Finding Solutions: AAPI Health & Mental Health in the Southeast

Natalia Cales, Regional Outreach Specialist, Office of the Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Reg. 4; **Chaiwon Kim**, CEO/President of CPACS & Member, Georgia Minority Health Advisory Council; **Myron Dean Quon, Esq.**, National Director, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA); **Trish Quema**, Programs Assistant, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF); **Moderator: Marianne Chung**, Associate Director, CPACS; **WHIAAPI Advisor: Karen Chavez**.

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Video/Livestreaming: Steve Callaway, Campus AV Services, Emory University

Report Design and Layout: Brandon Kwong, Development & Marketing Coordinator, CPACS

The Southeast Regional Action Summit facilitated valuable exchanges and made strides in amplifying the AAPI voices in the areas of civil rights and immigration, small business and entrepreneurship, housing and health. It is the fervent hope of the Atlanta Host Committee and Summit delegates that our discussions and this written report will assist present and future White House Administrations to increase AAPI participation in federal initiative programs; raise awareness of the availability of these programs among AAPI populations; and inform implementation of new AAPI policies. **We seek concrete next steps utilizing collaboration between the federal government, national partners, and Summit delegates to implement real change for the fastest growing regional AAPI population in the nation.**

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Executive Summary & Summit Agenda

On March 16, 2012, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) held its first Southeast Regional Action Summit in Atlanta, GA in over a decade.¹ Hosted at Emory University, over 500 community leaders and delegates met with federal agencies and national AAPI organizations to discuss emerging and critical issues for AAPIs in the American Southeast. The Summit's purpose was to raise awareness and increase AAPI access to and participation in federal programs, where they remain severely underserved.

The Summit focused attention on issues impacting the daily lives of the rapidly growing AAPI communities in the Southeast, with particular emphasis on small business and entrepreneurs, civil rights and immigration, housing and foreclosures, and health and mental health resources. The Summit's stated goals included:

- Establishing a space where community leaders could meaningfully engage and interact with key Administrative decision-makers, who direct and influence policies that impact AAPIs in the Southeast;
- Identifying and developing opportunities for AAPI leaders and stakeholders to

collaborate with the Administration and other regional leaders;

- Identifying policy and programming areas of concern, receiving and responding to constructive criticism and feedback; and
- Highlighting challenges, local success stories, and practices in policy areas that benefit local AAPI communities.

Opening ceremonies included a warm welcome from Emory University's administration, and remarks from Josephine Tan, Chair of the Asian-American Commission for a New Georgia. Kiran Ahuja, WHIAAPI Executive Director, addressed the overflowing crowd and introduced Hines Ward, a member of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs.

Participants then moved into four concurrent Breakout Plenary Sessions. These focused on crosscutting regional issues of health, housing, immigration and small business. We include a detailed summary of these Sessions in our Report.

As the delegates re-grouped for lunch, Alex Wan, Atlanta City Council Member, presented Kiran Ahuja with a City Proclamation for the Initiative. Ms. Ahuja roused the crowd with her stories of growing up in Savannah, GA, and helping her parents treat medically underserved minority populations. She introduced Keynote Speaker Chris Lu, WHIAAPI Co-Chair,

¹ The first WHIAAPI Summit in Atlanta took place in 2002 at UPS Headquarters in Atlanta, GA—*Baoky Vu, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, 2001 – 2004.*

Special Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary. Mr. Lu inspired the audience with his speech: “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and an America Built to Last.”

Following a brief press conference, nine leaders from various federal agencies and national AAPI organizations led a town hall meeting to share how their work supports AAPI initiatives and priorities. The Summit participants engaged in open dialogue to share their experiences. Stretching around the room, a long line of community leaders waited patiently for their turn at the microphones to make their “asks.” Their compelling stories highlighted unique challenges. Many elicited ideas how the town hall leaders could improve their response to the community’s needs.

The Summit concluded with a rousing performance by a multicultural Korean percussion troupe, AJA! (Americans Joining in Action). These “drum majors for justice”

provided a clamorous and unifying act. Their energy mobilized the crowd, exhorting us to continue our collective call to action for equal access and greater opportunity for AAPIs in the Southeast.

“The Southeast Regional Action Summit highlighted both the tremendous unmet needs in the AAPI communities in the American South as well as the dynamic community assets that can be leveraged to meet many of those needs.”

The Summit captured a tremendous moment: an electrifying conversation to draw attention to the enormous growth and unique challenges facing AAPIs in this region.



AAPIs in the Southeast

The U.S. Census revealed that in the decade between 2000-2010, the AAPI population grew faster than any other minority group. In particular, the booming AAPI population in the Southeast shows the most rapid growth, now exceeding 2.1 million. We are the fastest of the fastest growing AAPI populations in the country. Spurred by immigration patterns and a growing American-born population, we encompass a truly thrilling diversity, ranging from schoolchildren to the elderly, Bhutanese refugees, Korean beauty supply owners, South Asian hoteliers, and Vietnamese fishermen in the Gulf Coast. As we grow, we are making significant contributions to the region’s economic growth. Yet, there are many AAPI communities that remain invisible and mired in poverty, facing significant language and cultural barriers. Our voices need to be heard.



Southeast Regional Action Summit

Friday, March 16, 2012

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Registration

9:00

Welcome

- **Hines Ward**, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- With an introduction by **Kiran Ahuja**, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- Remarks by **Bonnie Youn**, Atlanta Summit Host Committee and **Donna Wong**, Emory University

10:00

Breakout Plenaries

Modern Homelessness and Foreclosures in the AAPI Community

Join a discussion on weathering the foreclosure crisis and learn how to avoid foreclosure, prevent loan modification fraud, manage landlord foreclosure, as well as about homelessness resources.

Speakers:

John Trasviña, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Gayle Knowlson, Director of the Program Support Division, HUD Atlanta Homeownership Center
Lisa Hasegawa, Executive Director, National Coalition for APA Community Development Organizations
Tony Chung, Center for Pan Asian Community Services
David Sutton, Asian American Resource Center

10:30-12:00
(concurrently)

AAPI Small Businesses: Contracting Opportunities, Accessing Capital, and Supporting Entrepreneurship

Engage with senior federal officials about how to grow your business by contracting with the U.S. government, exporting, and finding new sources of capital.

Speakers:
Shyam Reddy, Regional Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration (Reg. 4)
Cassius Butts, Regional Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration (Reg. 4)
Abraham Xiong, President, Government Contractors Association
Helen Kim Ho, Executive Director, Asian American Legal Advocacy Center, Inc. of Georgia

Mental Health Resources for the AAPI Community

Learn about the cross sections of health and mental health resources in the Southeast Region for AAPI communities and provide input on how these can be improved for the AAPI community.

Speakers:

Dr. Arlene M. Lester, Captain, U.S. Public Health Service, Regional Minority Health Consultant, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Deric Gilliard, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, HHS (Reg. 4)
Romero M. Stokes, MPA Program Manager, Office of Health Equity Georgia Dept. of Public Health
Myron Dean Quon, Director National APA Families Against Substance Abuse
Trish Quema, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Immigrant Rights in the South

Leaders from national immigrant rights organizations and federal officials will provide information about their efforts to reach immigrant and refugee communities in the Southeast.

Speakers:

Andrew Strait, Public Advocate, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
Seema Nanda, Deputy Special Counsel, The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice
Jane Yoo, National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
Tricia Sung, OCA Georgia Chapter
Keish Kim, Student, Freedom University

Lunch	<p>Introductory Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alex Wan, Councilmember, City of Atlanta ▪ Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
1:00	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and An America Built to Last</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christopher Lu, Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary, Co-Chair, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
2:00	<p>Town Hall and Listening Session with President Obama’s Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderated by Bonnie Youn, Atlanta Summit Host Committee, and Tuyet Duong, Policy Advisor, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders <p><i>Participants should prepare a two-minute testimony on critical issues they are facing with recommendations on how to address them.</i></p>
3:00	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asian Drum Presentation

With support from:

Emory University: Office of Multicultural Programs and Services & Office of Community and Diversity, Comcast, Georgia Tech Office of the Vice President for Inclusive Diversity, Sodexo, UPS

Special thanks to:

Bonnie Youn, Youn Law Group, Steering Committee Chair, Farooq Mughal, MS Global Partners, LLC, Reception Chair, Kerry Lee, Atlanta Chinese Dance Company, Volunteer Coordinator, Lillie Madali, Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Volunteer Coordinator, Asian American Resource Center (Connie Jee, Julie Lee, David Sutton), Asian American Legal Advocacy Center of Georgia (Helen Kim Ho), Boat People S.O.S. Atlanta, Center for Pan Asian Community Service (Chaiwon Kim, Marianne Chung, Judy Yi, Brandon Kwong), OCA-Georgia (Georgia: Tricia Sung, Minh Nguyen, Natasha Patel (also South Asian Bar Association), WooYi Yin, Alfred Yin, Louis Tsang, Suraj Sequeira), National Association of Chinese-Americans (Lani Wong), Atlanta Chapter, Emory University Delegation (Ozzie Harris, Senior Vice Provost for Community and Diversity, Donna Wong, Director of Emory Univ. Office of Multicultural Programs and Services, Steve Callaway, Campus AV Services, Emory Chapters of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority and Xi Kappa Fraternity), APA Historical Society (Claire McLeveighn, Guo-Hua Wang), Good Shepherd Services (Sister Christine Truong, Xuan Nguyen), Home Depot (Jane Li), Japanese American Citizens League, SE Chapter (David Furukawa)

Key Regional Issues

The Southeast Regional Action Summit facilitated valuable exchanges and made strides in amplifying AAPI voices in areas of civil rights, small business, housing and health. In the morning, delegates participated in four concurrent breakout sessions focusing on crosscutting regional issues of health, housing, immigration and small business. Federal administration officials, national and local AAPI organizations discussed their work on critically important policy areas affecting the community.

AAPI Population in Southeast States

State	2000		2010		% of Growth 2000 to 2010
	AAPI Population	% of Total	AAPI Population	% of Total	
Florida	333,013	2.0%	573,083	3.0%	72%
Virginia	304,559	4.0%	522,199	7.0%	71%
Georgia	199,812	2.0%	365,497	4.0%	83%
North Carolina	136,212	2.0%	252,585	3.0%	85%
Tennessee	68,918	1.0%	113,398	2.0%	65%
Louisiana	64,350	1.0%	84,335	1.9%	31%
South Carolina	44,931	1.1%	75,674	1.6%	68%
Alabama	39,458	0.9%	67,036	1.4%	70%
Kentucky	37,062	0.9%	62,029	1.4%	67%
Mississippi	23,281	0.8%	32,560	1.1%	40%
Total Population	1,251,596	-	2,164,861	-	-

Figure 1²

² 2010 US Census Bureau

AAPI Small Businesses: Contracting Opportunities, Accessing Capital, & Supporting Entrepreneurship



Speakers & Moderator

Abraham Xiong, AALAC Chair & President, Government Contractors Association

Shyam Reddy, Regional Director, U.S. General Services Administration

Cassius Butts, Regional Director, U.S. Small Business Administration

Moderator: Helen Ho, Asian American Legal Advocacy Center of Georgia, Inc.

WHIAAPI Advisor: Miya Saika Chen

Summary of Session

This panel discussed the disproportionately low number of small businesses—and the even lower number of AAPI-owned enterprises—that effectively win government contracts. The panelists delved into the reasons behind these dismal statistics, and raised similar concerns about the difficulties of AAPIs applying for and obtaining SBA loans. Participants aggressively voiced their frustrations. Speakers identified some potential solutions to provide greater access for AAPI businesses in need of resources and assistance.

Recommendations

1. Require the GSA and SBA to hire more linguistically and culturally competent AAPI staff. AAPIs speak a multitude of different

languages. Effective LEP assistance from staff that can communicate and connect with AAPIS would be key to breaking down barriers to accessing resources.

2. Hire former small business owners rather than just keeping entrenched government workers. Applicants seeking GSA/SBA assistance will be far more inclined to connect and speak to employees who have personally experienced the challenges facing a small business owner. There is a strong and justified perception that GSA and SBA administrators are government “life-timers” who have never experienced real-world problems of the small business owner.

3. Establish a “first time contractor” program. This would not only include mentoring, but also setting aside a significant percentage of government

contracts to be awarded exclusively to first time contractor applicants. It is so difficult to break into the “good old boy” world of government contractors. Most contracts apparently go to repeat vendors—which makes it especially difficult for AAPI businesses that don’t have built-in networks or relationships.

4. Proactively reach out to the AAPI community. The current GSA/SBA model is very passive. They expect applicants to find out what they do and then go to where they are. This poses particular challenges for AAPIs. Several delegates complained that there is no actual outreach targeting AAPIs. The GSA and SBA representatives

acknowledged that they did not realize how compelling the needs were for AAPIs. African Americans are currently identified as the minority needing the most assistance. There needs to be more awareness and training that AAPIs are an underserved minority. AAPIs should be given appropriate prioritization when GSA/SBA decides how to allocate resources in terms of outreach and service.

5. Delegates specifically asked that GSA/SBA conduct a follow-up outreach program for AAPIs in Gwinnett County, GA, the county with the largest AAPI population. They agreed and promised to do so.



Immigrant Rights in the South



Speakers & Moderator

Andrew Strait, Public Advocate, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

Seema Nanda, Deputy Special Counsel, The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice

Jane Yoo, Deputy Director, National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

Tricia Sung, President, OCA Georgia Chapter

Keish Kim, Student, Freedom University

Moderator: Neera Bahl, Esq., Neera Bahl & Associates

WHIAAPI Advisor: Tuyet Duong

Summary of Session

Leaders from national immigrant rights organizations and federal advocates from DHS and DOJ shared their perspectives and information about their efforts to reach immigrant and refugee communities in the Southeast.

Delegates vocally expressed their frustrations and concerns about the mounting tide of anti-immigrant State legislation, and the growing climate of fear and persecution of immigrants in the Southeast. The deep polarization and politicization of immigration is especially felt in the South.

The Administration's hopeful promise of prosecutorial discretion has been tempered by the sober reality that deportation numbers are now at the highest they have ever been. Many participants questioned the effectiveness and implementation of

prosecutorial discretion. They did not hesitate to share their stories of evidence and data which reveal the failure of the current Administration in addressing pressing immigration issues among AAPI communities. Prosecutorial discretion was criticized as failing to address the larger issue of immigration reform. It does not provide a permanent solution, only placing many in a state of limbo.

Delegates highlighted the problematic systems of Secure Communities (SCOMM) and 287(g).³ These policies, which were implemented to deport serious criminals, still sweep up those with minor or no criminal history. DHS/ICE have done nothing to stop mass detention and arrests by local state police. Regardless of how "pretty" or "urban" the new civil detention

³ 287(g) is a program that deputizes local state police officers to act as immigration agents.

centers are, the fact is that their purpose is to detain and inevitably deport immigrants.

Participants also shared the negative experience many immigrants have dealing with CIS. Officers and staff are not adequately trained to understand cultural and language nuances. Instead, Officers should be trained to be even more courteous and patient, because a large majority of those seeking assistance are already scared and nervous. Administrative reluctance to understand and accommodate different Asian cultures only causes more alienation.

There is an urgent need to create conversations about immigration within the AAPI communities, especially about the undocumented. Awareness should be raised to highlight and correct myths, and clarify the extensive impact it has on AAPIs, not just the Latino population.

The attendees also shared a heartening story of victory. The Georgia Undocumented Youth Alliance (GUYA) and allies successfully lobbied against the passage of Georgia anti-immigration bills (SB 458 & HB59) that would have banned undocumented students from attending post-secondary public education. This victory was hard won through collective community phone calls and mass emails to state representatives.

Recommendations

1. Identify and highlight cases that fit prosecutorial discretion by increasing regional connections and networking between grassroots organizers and ICE advocates. This will help reduce the statistics that non-criminals comprise 45% of deportations.

2. Stop promoting or describing new, privately run immigration detention centers

as “more humane.” This sends the wrong message to our community. High-speed internet or better visitation does not erase the fact that immigrants are detained and separated from their families.

3. Defund Secure Communities and the 287(g) program.⁴ This does not solve or address the larger need for true immigration reform. By criminalizing and targeting immigrants, it creates a climate of fear and racial profiling.

4. Institute cultural sensitivity training for CIS officers, equipping them with resources to better address the different AAPI communities. Raising awareness about specific cultures and mannerisms will help ease an already tense environment, and create a more welcoming atmosphere for newly arriving immigrants.



⁴ On Feb. 14, 2012, the Obama Administration announced that for the new fiscal year, it would not sign new contracts for 287(g) officers working in the field and would terminate the “least productive” of those agreements.

Modern Foreclosure & Homelessness in the Asian American Community



Speakers & Moderator

John Trasviña, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing, US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Gayle Knowlson, Director of Program Support Division, HUD Atlanta Homeownership Center

Lisa Hasegawa, Executive Director, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)

David Sutton, Case Manager, AARC

Tony Chung, Housing Director, CPACS

Moderator: Judy Yi, Program Director, CPACS

WHIAAPI Advisor: Audrey Buehring

Summary of Session

This session highlighted key issues and concerns of housing for AAPIs in the Southeast as well as working models to address these issues. Discussion topics included: (1) how do we make foreclosure information available to the diverse AAPI communities; (2) how do we prevent AAPI homeowners from becoming victims of loan modification fraud; (3) how do we educate AAPI renters whose landlords might be foreclosing on their rented homes; and (4) homelessness in AAPI communities.

HUD wants fair housing for everybody, regardless of ethnicity, race, or immigration status. This mandate is enabled by the Fair Housing Act. There are \$55 million in grant funds being announced for housing counseling. Grant allocation from HUD is

channeled through regional multi-state organizations, national organizations, and at the state level. Organizations cannot receive grants for the same program through two different HUD sources.

National CAPACD has a goal of bringing the local voice to the federal policy making process. National CAPACD has developed a focus on homeownership due to the alarming amount of foreclosures and loss of wealth. National CAPACD also has made the objective to elevate the housing crisis on the federal government's agenda.

People have become exhausted and numb to foreclosure issues facing communities. Agencies need to bring awareness once again to the community. Georgia has the 4th highest rate of foreclosures in the nation. There are many scams targeted at the AAPI

community. HUD needs agencies and housing counselors who are geared toward the AAPI community. Awareness is key to completing this objective.

Loan modification scams are also prevalent in the AAPI community. AAPI tenants are not aware of their legal rights in regards to housing. Extensive outreach is necessary to bring about awareness of HUD and free housing counseling services as well as laws designed to protect tenants. There are laws in place to protect tenants; it is just a matter of enforcing them. The “Know it. Avoid it. Report it” hotline is a great tool for homeowners to report potential scams.

Emergency shelters need more translation services for LEPs. There is racial tension due to cultural differences in many of the shelters. This tension escalates to violence in some situations. The AAPI homeless population faces different challenges than the mainstream. Transitional housing has been a useful tool for the AAPI community to combat homelessness, although due to lack of funding, only a very small percentage of residents can benefit.

Recommendations

Increase foreclosure information availability from HUD: Continue and improve in-language educational materials for HUD services; Ensure a dissemination plan to educate underserved communities; Fund working models and implement on a bigger scale; Create grant cycles that focus on supporting AAPI LEP communities.

1. Prevent and criminalize loan modification fraud. Implement or improve legislation to standardize business practices of loan modification companies.

2. Stop landlords from foreclosing on renter homes. Increase awareness and educate AAPI renters on their rights and resources.

3. Recognize that Homelessness is a serious issue in AAPI communities. Create or increase more culturally and linguistically appropriate homeless and transitional shelters. Raise public awareness of the complexities of homelessness in AAPI communities, and the distinctions from mainstream homeless populations.

4. Increase Housing Counselor Models in AAPI communities.

5. Support development of innovative technology models such as Skype or videotaped internet classes for outreach to isolated AAPI communities.

6. Do not cut funding for the Housing Counselor Program. Maintain or increase funding.

7. Hire diverse or AAPI-sensitive HUD staff that can advocate for AAPI communities who need culturally and linguistically appropriate services.



Finding Solutions: AAPI Health & Mental Health in the SE



Speakers & Moderator

Natalia Cales, Regional Outreach Specialist, Office of the Regional Director, US Department of Health and Human Services (Region 4)

Chaiwon Kim, CEO/ President, CPACS; Member, Georgia Minority Health Advisory Council

Myron Dean Quon, Esq., National Director, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)

Trish Quema, Programs Assistant, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Moderator: Marianne Chung, Associate Director, CPACS

WHIAAPI Advisor: Karen Chavez

Summary of Session

This session highlighted key health and mental health concerns within AAPI communities, and development of working models to address these issues in the Southeast. Discussion topics included cross-cutting issues that impact both health and mental health:

- How can we expand access to health and mental health care through the Affordable Care Act?
- How do we improve quality of health and mental health care through cultural competency, language access and diverse workforce?

- How can we increase data collection from AAPI communities on health and mental health in the Southeast?

The issue of health and mental health access is timely and critical as the Southeast becomes a national hub for the diverse AAPI communities to live, work, play and prosper. The session allowed the community to reflect on the progress that has begun to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in the Region. The common challenges shared included:

Access to Health and Mental Health: AAPIs have a hard time accessing health services because they are uninsured and low-income. Furthermore, there are issues of

limited English proficiency, cultural competency, and lack of health education that also limit access to health and mental health services.

Lack of Data: AAPIs are often categorized as “other” on medical surveys. This does not capture or accurately reflect pertinent etymology of diseases or specific health concerns within the AAPI communities. While we are the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in the U.S., health and mental health data on the diverse populations are critically lacking, especially in the Southeast.

Diversity in Workforce: Workforce diversity is critical for cultural and linguistic competence and ensuring access to healthcare. Unfortunately, in the Southeast many AAPI communities are underrepresented in the health and mental health workforce.

Recommendations

As we continue to move forward towards health equity, we recognize that this has truly been a time of unprecedented opportunity AAPIs in the Southeast. The following is a compilation of recommendations from the community:

1. Make AAPI health and mental health disparities a regional priority in agendas, partnerships and funding
2. Reduce disparities in insurance coverage and access to care.
 - Ensure that AAPIs are educated and informed about opportunities under the Affordable Care Act
 - Include AAPI voices in state-level planning for implementation of Affordable Care Act and other initiatives

3. Improve cultural competency and diversity in healthcare workforce.
 - Support regional pipeline programs for recruiting students and bilingual community members from underserved AAPI communities for health and mental health careers
 - Promote health interpreting and translation services and regional standards for interpretation and translation
 - Increase use and funding for community navigators
 - Support efforts at state and regional levels that move the health and mental health workforce towards culturally competent systems of care
4. Increase awareness of AAPI health disparities.
 - Provide opportunities to share AAPI stories in the Southeast
 - Support innovative strategies to build community, state, and regional partnerships to address AAPI health disparities in the Southeast
5. Increase availability and quality of data collected and reported on AAPIs in the Southeast.
 - Conduct and support research to inform disparities reduction initiatives
 - Implement new health data collection and analysis strategy that includes race, ethnicity, primary language as well as the disaggregation of AAPI subgroups
6. Conduct research to inform disparities reduction.
 - Increase the number of research that reflects the impact of culture and language in health and mental health delivery and outcomes
 - Increase partnerships between academic institutions, community

based organizations and state health departments to support community-driven research

Due to the lack of or limited published data on AAPIs and their health and mental health

issues in the Southeast, an accurate picture of the community cannot be drawn. Yet, there is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates the urgent and critical need for more attention to AAPI health and mental health in this region.



Post-Summit Call to Action

The Southeast Regional Action Summit facilitated a valuable exchange to amplify AAPI voices in the areas of Civil rights and Immigration, Small business and Entrepreneurship, Housing and Health—areas where AAPIs remain critically underserved. It is the fervent hope of the Atlanta Host Committee and Summit delegates that our discussions and this written report will assist present and future White House Administrations to increase AAPI participation in federal initiative programs; raise awareness of the availability of these programs among AAPI populations; and inform implementation of new AAPI policies. We also hope our Summit may serve as a model for other AAPI Regional Action Summits to follow around the country.

At the Town Hall/Listening Session, the Summit democratically captured the voices, needs, and interests of the diverse and emerging AAPI communities in the Southeast. This process ensured that AAPI leaders and Administration officials came together to fully explore and discuss the issues most important to the community and to identify next steps for community action.

We seek concrete next steps utilizing collaboration between the federal government, national partners, and Summit delegates to implement real change for the fastest growing regional AAPI population in the nation. The following crosscutting recommendations emerged from the breakout sessions and Town Hall Meeting:

1. Advance research, data collection, analysis and its dissemination specifically for AAPIs in the Southeast.
2. Ensure access, especially linguistic and cultural competence, for AAPIs.
3. Promote long-term wealth building opportunities for AAPIs in the Southeast.
4. Support capacity building and training of local AAPI organizations, leaders, and regional centers. Strongly recruit and build an AAPI pipeline in public service and civic engagement professions.
5. Institute annual AAPI Southeast Regional Action Summits and other regular public platforms to learn and exchange information, resources and experiences about growth, trends, needs, and contributions of AAPIs in our region, and to follow-up on previous “asks.”



Over 500 community leaders and delegates participated in the Southeast AAPI Regional Action Summit, with a stunning array of diverse AAPI representation. Geographically, attendees hailed from **Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, and even from as far away as Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida.** The faces in the crowd reflected the dynamically changing face of the AAPI Southeast: recent Bhutanese refugees, multi-generational Chinese American families, Vietnamese fishing communities in the Gulf Coast, Korean elderly, Filipino Floridians, Japanese American leaders, South Asian entrepreneurs, Hmong farmers, HAPA and biracial college students, and much, much more. **We raised our voices. We will be heard.**



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