

**Virginia Asian Advisory Board
Microsoft Building, Suite 170
9020 Stony Point Pkwy
Richmond, Virginia
Friday, September 24, 2010**

Members Present: Chandrashekar Challa, Andrew Ko, Sal Hundal, Michael Liew, Vicki Mirandah, Binh Nguyen, Ray Obispo, Tony Pham, Dilip Sarkar, Suwattana Sugg and Felix Wang.

Members Absent: Angela Chiang, Kim Oanh Cook, Chun Elmejjad, Eric Lin, Margarita Mohta, Joe Montano and Shewling Moy Wong.

Member of the Public: There were two public members: Mr. Toa Do and Mr. Tuyen Duong

- I. Meeting was called to order at 10:30am by the Chair (Binh Nguyen). The two public members were introduced.
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes – The minutes of previous VAAB meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. Subcommittee Assignment

Chair announced the subcommittee assignment as follows:

1. Education Subcommittee members:

Andrew Ko, Felix Wang, Shewling Moy Wong and Ray Obispo.

2. Economic Development/Work Force Development Subcommittee members:

Vicki Mirandah, Sal Hundal, Angela Chiang.

3. International Trade and Investment Subcommittee members:

Chandrashekar Challa, Binh Nguyen and Michael Liew.

4. Immigration Subcommittee members:

Joe Montano, Suwattana Sugg and Kim Oanh Cook.

5. Health/Human Services Subcommittee members:

Tony Pham, Dilip Sarkar and Chun Elmejjad.

- IV. Annual Report

Vicki - Preliminary report due by December 1.

Ask Jimmy Rhee for his advice on how to present and distribute the final report presentation to the Governor.

- V. Subcommittee Discussion

1. Education:

The following comments were reported by the subcommittee members:

Ray – the enrollment of Asian students is increasing but the funding has not changed. The new Asian immigrants face great difficulty in school transition.

Vicki – The professors and staff from Asian communities are not proportionally represented.

Dalip – There may be discrimination for Asian staff salary, work and tenure at the schools.

Andrew - Global education at school lacks broader view of the Asian culture.

Sal – There may be a misconception that Asians are doing very well. But if a comparative study is done in each area or field to compare individuals, Asians may be on the lower side.

Binh – We need data to support the issues that we bring up in the report for its validity. If we don't have the data, we may recommend a study on the issue to collect the data.

2. Economic Development/Work Force Development in VA:

Vicki – We need to get data regarding Asian employment and small businesses. We should find out the priorities of the current administration toward Asians and recommend what actions the Governor can take to make Asian communities contribute more toward Virginia's development.

Binh – How are Asians employed cross-section wide in the government and the public sector?

3. International Trade and Investment in VA:

Virginia is the number one state to do business in but Asian communities are not aware of this. The board members (Dalip, Andrew, Michael, Binh) talked about the value that board members have added to the past governor's overseas trips. They emphasized the importance of the help board members can provide to future trips as well.

Chandrashekar – There is not much activity going on with international trade with India from VA in the area of winery and movie making.

Andrew - To broaden the awareness, having a conference and expo will help to attract the Asian businesses. The awareness of Virginia's ports is another issue for the Asian businesses.

Dalip – What is going on in the Asian business world that can be tapped for Virginia development?

4. Immigration:

Suwattana – Since this is a federal issue, I am not sure what recommendations we can make. We need to look into the gaps between the federal and state level cooperation.

Vicki – While it is a Federal issue, what goes at state and local level might impact the immigrants.

Tony – Virginian state government asked the local and state agencies to take part in program 287G that is allowing the state police and pushing the local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws for criminal activities. The inadequate training of law enforcement may be an issue.

Tony – In the uniform crime report the crimes are reported by ethnic groups but no report for the victims. The victims of violent crime who are undocumented is another issue.

Andrew - What is the Asian community thinking about immigration issues? A survey may be conducted to collect the data.

5. Health/Human Services:

Dalip – Asians have a four times higher risk with heart disease and diabetes. Mental health is a taboo issue. Emergency rooms help with language translation. The nursing home environment is not adequate for ethnic food etc.

Tony – Does anybody know that what are the unintended consequences of President Obama's Health Care Bill on the Asian communities?

Binh – Insufficient vaccination for adults is an issue in the Asian communities.

As a lunch sponsor for the board, Dr. Malik Khan of Asian American Society of Central Virginia addressed the board member for few minutes to introduce himself. The purpose of his organization is to promote civic and cultural events.

6. Sub Committees Breakup Session Report.

All the subcommittees will look at what has been done and what is not done from previous reports. Each subcommittee is to produce a two page preliminary report by December 1, 2010.

EDUCATION

Create a questionnaire for the survey to understand the issues in education for the Asian communities. Subcommittee will meet before thanksgiving.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Working Notes:

- Focus on Asians in workforce development for the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Small Business, Minority and Women Owned Business focus
- Understand taxable revenue data (Eric Jensen's data) that he provided from last meeting
- Lack of Asians in Executive levels and Board ranks in the public, private and governmental sectors
- Be clear on what our recommendations are - what actions we want to take
- Make sure Asians are not lumped or 'hidden' in the collective bucket of the "Minority" or "People of Color" bucket

Outline of our Subcommittee Report

- What are the issues?
- What is the impact to Asians in the Commonwealth of Virginia? (Be clear about the benefits)
- Potential solutions

- Recommendations

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Chandrashekar – Look into creating software technology parks based on Indian patterns. Hold expo-conference for business from Asian countries who want to invest to do business in Virginia.

HEALTH/HUMAN SERVICES

Would like to look at the survey questionnaire and want to add some questions related to the health and human services related to Asian communities.

Look at the crime data

Cultural awareness to law enforcement

Expand the scope of law enforcement training to include cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity training

Look at specific diseases e.g. Heart & diabetes for Asians

Mental health issues are not being reported

VAAB Actions:

1. Motion by Binh and seconded by Andrew: The board unanimously passed a resolution to request a representative from the governor's office on our next meeting.
2. Chair has not received any communication from Jimmy Rhee regarding attending the VAAB meeting. The board requests the governor to designate the ex-officio members of the board so that they can contribute to the board by attending the next board meeting.
3. The board asked Andrew to draft a letter to Jimmy Rhee for his attention to the board.
4. Chandrashekar and Tony is the host committee for Jan'11 meeting with the intention of having a reception, maybe in conjunction with other associations and functions.
5. Vicki asked a question: will VAAB hold a town hall meeting in the Blacksburg and Charlottesville areas?

The consensus is yes, both areas will likely hold an event. Felix (for Charlottesville) and Michael (for Blacksburg) will go back to explore more and will discuss more information in our Jan'11 meeting. The town halls may be scheduled in the spring with the help of telecommunication for members from other areas to attend virtually.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm by the chair, Binh Nguyen.