

A3PCON UP-TO-DATE

ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

September-October 2001

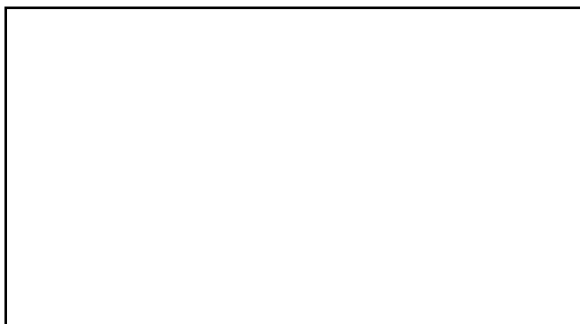
Community • Change • Leadership

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5

A3PCON MEMBER AGENCIES

Asian American Drug Abuse Program
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Asian Pacific Community Fund
Asian Pacific Family Center
Asian Pacific Health Care Venture
Asian & Pacific Islander Council of SF Valley
Asian Rehabilitation Services
Asians & Pacific Islanders for Reproductive Health
Asian Youth Center
Center for the Pacific-Asian Family
Chinatown Public Safety Association
Chinatown Service Center
Chinese American Human Services Association
Economic & Employment Development Center
Families in Good Health
Federation of Filipino American Associations
Filipino American Service Group, Inc.
Gay Asian Pacific Services Network
Guam Communications Network
Japanese American Citizens League
Keiro Services
Korean American Coalition
Korean American Family Service Center
Korean Health Education Information Referral
Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates
Korean Resource Center
Korean Youth & Community Center
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics
Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC)
Little Tokyo Service Center CDC
Mt. Carmel Cambodian Center
Nakatomi & Associates
National Asian Pacific American Families Against
Substance Abuse
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
Pacific Clinics
Pacific Islander Community Council
People's CORE
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans
SEIU Local 660
South Asian Network
Special Service for Groups
Thai Community Development Center
Thai Health & Information Service
UCLA Asian American Studies Center
WRAP Family Services

Community Town Hall Meeting: Calling for Unity and Solidarity Informs the Public and Addresses Fears



Panel Discussion Addressing Hate Crimes Towards the South Asian Community. From L to R: Sgt. Katherine Voyer - LA Sheriff Dept.'s Hate Crime Unit, Neils Frenzen - Law Professor at University of Southern California Law School; JasdeepMann - Sikh community activist

By Hamid Khan, South Asian Network

“To foster broader awareness and address the community’s fears” was the central theme of South Asian Network’s (SAN) call for Unity and Solidarity at the Town Hall Meeting on Oct. 6 at the Artesia Community Center. Law enforcement officials addressed issues ranging from hate crimes to racial profiling as an aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Hosted by SAN in collaboration with LA County Commission on Human Relations and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), a packed hall of more than 250 individuals voiced their concerns over protection of civil rights, racial profiling and racial violence.

Robin Toma, Executive Director of the LA County Commission on Human Relations, who also served as the moderator for the first panel discussion, pointed out that public officials like Supervisors Don Knabe and Yvonne Burke were the first to call upon Americans “not to take out their anger on innocent people simply because of their race, ethnicity or religion”. Toma announced that the Commission is seeking additional funding to bolster organizations such as SAN, “which in many ways are the frontline in this fight against bigotry and intolerance”.

Warren Furutani, consultant to the Speaker of the Assembly Bob Hertzberg, recalled the tragedy of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and called upon Asian Americans to “educate others about our many beautiful communities, our rich cultures and the fact that we have the same dreams”. He also pointed out “the need to turn out and be part of the broader American family”.

Genethia Hayes, member and former President of the LA Unified School District, said that “there is no question it is going to take communities of color to be the ones who come together and drive a different kind of conversation in this nation.” She called upon the parents to help their children “develop character and integrity and a moral and ethical perspective on how they are going to participate in what is a pluralistic, democratic society”.

Lieutenant Randy Olsen, in charge of diversity efforts in the LA County Sheriff’s office, addressed the fears of those concerned about police practice of racial profiling. *(See Community Town Hall Meeting, page 2)*

Teen Program Receives Prestigious Award For Resolving Conflicts

By Shirlie Mae Mamaril,
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

The LA County Commission on Human Rights and the LA County Board of Supervisors awarded the Asian Pacific Dispute Resolution Center's (APADRC) Foshay Peer Mediation Program the John Anson Ford Award for its significant contribution in the area of conflict resolution. The Program's achievements were honored at a Breakfast Award Ceremony on October 16, 2001 at the Music Center Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The Foshay Peer Mediation Program is one of the first school mediation programs in central Los Angeles. Since 1996, the program has taught students on campus that mediation, as a method of dispute resolution, is a viable alternative to violence. It was also recently named Project of the Year by the Board of Supervisors. ★

New Organization: Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights Launches

Southern California's community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexual, queer and questioning (LGBTIQ) Asian-Americans will have a new voice dedicated to their empowerment with the official launch of Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights (APIHR). At a press conference held at the A3PCON Center on October 23, members of APIHR's Board of Directors were joined by community activists and Assemblywoman Judy Chu to announce the formation of this new agency with the goal of providing social services, coming-out support, and a political voice to Asian-Americans who are LGBTIQ, a community whom activists say have been ignored too long by mainstream Asian American and lesbian and gay communities. ★

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING, cont'd from page 1

Lt. Olsen made it clear that "for a deputy to stop someone simply because of race, ethnicity or gender is both a violation of the constitution and a violation of the Department's core values". Scott Millington, Deputy D.A., shared the policy of a prompt response in the prosecution of hate crimes. Sgt. Katherine Voyer, with the Sheriff's Hate Crime Unit, wanted those in the audience to understand that even verbal abuse "is reportable as a hate incident." Neils Frenzen, a law professor at USC, informed the audience of the recent changes in immigration laws, especially for students with non-immigrant status, undocumented residents and other visitors.

The meeting ended with Jasdeep Mann, a community activist of Sikh origin, who called upon all communities to take a stand against hate. SAN plans to hold such community events on a regular basis. The organization has also formed a hate crime unit that will be staffed in the near future. SAN can be reached at 1-800-281-8111. ★

Key Stakeholders Gather to Discuss Health Needs in the Cambodian Community

By Sissy Trinh, Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Long Beach, CA – Mr. Chhoum* works in a small, independently operated doughnut shop in the heart of Long Beach's Cambodian community, known by many as Little Phnom Penh. He works hard, struggling to support his wife and three young children, ages 2, 4 and 7, but because of his low pay, a necessity like health care becomes a luxury.

For the Cambodian community, stories like these are fairly common. Like many other communities, access to health care is among its most pressing concerns. While there are many government-funded programs such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, many families are still having difficulties receiving care. "There are a lot of resources available out there but they aren't using it because it isn't culturally sensitive to their needs," stated Sissy Trinh, Policy Advocate at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC).

Take Mr. Chhoum as an example. "Mr. Chhoum tried to apply for Medi-Cal several times but was repeatedly denied without understanding why," said Chenda Chan, a counselor at the Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles (HCC), a health care advocacy center that assists low-income residents of the County get the care they need. Ms. Chan made several calls to the County on Mr. Chhoum's behalf and found out that it was a matter of paperwork. But because Mr. Chhoum did not know English, and the County did not find an interpreter for him, he was denied. Ms. Chan, who is bilingual in Khmer and English, helped Mr. Chhoum submit all the required paperwork. Now his whole family is enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Ms. Chan, along with many other advocates and community members, are trying to change things. The event marks the first time in the Cambodian community's history that so many organizations came together to discuss health issues specific to this community. The hope of all of those present is to improve the health status of one of Los Angeles County's most underserved communities. Among the topics discussed were mental health, lack of health coverage, the need for more language appropriate and culturally sensitive health care and available client advocacy services.

"We are hoping that this will be the first of many events to help us advocate for increased health access to the Cambodian and Long Beach communities at large," said Edenn Sarino, Director of Communications and Outreach at HCC. ★

*The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the family.

A3PCON Housing and Economic Development Project a Success

By Cooke Sunoo, API Small Business Program

The API Small Business Program (API SBP) held its annual Small Business Expo in partnership with the LA Area Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Business Association and six other ethnic business associations. More than 500 participants gained valuable information at the two-day event held in downtown Los Angeles.

The first day included a policy roundtable where Assemblywoman Carol Liu and Secretary of Trade, Technology and Commerce of the State of California, Lon Hatamiya, applauded the work of the API SBP and the announced policy initiative.

Dollars and Sense: Policies for Growing API Small Businesses, is the policy paper presented at a roundtable attended by more than 100 community, business, political and media leaders. The paper, authored by Dr. Edward Park, was sponsored by the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) and the API SBP. The 20 page paper

outlines a series of steps that the public sector can take to accommodate our small businesses. The paper includes a page of specific recommendations and is available at no charge by contacting the API SBP at (213) 473-1605 or Iburton@fc.ltsc.org.

At the Roundtable, Secretary Hatamiya announced that his office is naming the API SBP a Satellite Small Business Development Center. This is in recognition of the efforts initiated by the A3PCON Housing and Economic Development (HED) Committee three years ago.

The API Small Business Program grew out of the A3PCON Housing and Economic Development Committee in 1999. It is a collaboration of the Chinatown Services Center, Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation, Korean Youth and Community Center, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans and Thai Community Development Center. ★

Census 2000 Data Released

Table 1: Asian Pacific Islander Population in California

<u>Race</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total Population</u>
Asian Pacific Islander, Monoracial	3,814,474	11.3%
Asian Pacific Islander, Multiracial	448,172	01.3%
TOTAL	4,262,646	12.6%

Table 2: Asian Pacific Islander Population in Los Angeles County

<u>Race</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total Population</u>
Asian Pacific Islander, Monoracial	1,164,553	12.2%
Asian Pacific Islander, Multiracial	117,882	01.2%
TOTAL	1,282,435	13.5%

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of API Population</u>
Chinese	329,352	28.3%
Filipino	260,158	22.3%
Korean	186,350	16.0%
Japanese	111,349	09.6%
Vietnamese	78,102	06.7%
Asian Indian	60,268	05.2%
Pacific Islander	27,053	02.3%
Other Asian	111,921	09.6%

Service Network for Asian Pacific Youth Reunites

By Jeanne Shimatsu, AADAP

The Service Network For Asian and Pacific Islander Youth (SNAPY) is looking forward to an exciting year. SNAPY plans activities for AAPI youth in Southern California with the participation of over 25 agencies. It also serves as a support and communication network for various community organizations that work with AAPI youth. Plans for this year include a kick-off picnic in December, a volleyball tournament and youth Olympics in the Spring, along with an on-going youth advocacy campaign. These activities are open to all youth and aims to create a united and empowered AAPI youth voice. For more information about SNAPY events and activities, please call Kim Ta at AADAP, (323) 293-6284. ★



ASIAN PACIFIC

Policy & Planning Council

Established in 1976, A3PCON is a coalition of Asian and Pacific Islander health, human services, educational, cultural and policy nonprofit organizations and individuals who advocate for the rights and services of the API community in Southern California, primarily in Los Angeles County.

2001-2002 Officers:

Ford Kuramoto, *President*
 Kathay Feng, *Vice President of Policy*
 Diane Ujjiye, *Vice President of Planning*
 Hamid Khan, *Vice Pres. of Administration*
 Johng Ho Song, *Secretary*
 Jury Candelario, *Treasurer*

Office Manager

Carolann Y. Calizar

Consultant

My-Nga T. Le

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Upcoming Events

November

3 9 am-3 pm Asian Pacific Islanders Council of the San Fernando Valley 10th Annual API Family Health & Cultural Day @ San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford St., Pacoima. For information, please call (818) 886-9495/6.

15 8 am-4:30 pm Pacific Asian Language Services' "A Tapestry of Health: Strategies to Improve Health Care Access in Culturally Diverse Communities" @ the Center at Sycamore Plaza, 5000 Clark Ave., Lakewood. For information, please call (213) 553-1827.

16 10 am-12 pm A3PCON Mental Health Committee Meeting @ A3PCON Center. For information, please call Gladys Lee at (626) 254-5004.

30 10 am-3 pm A3PCON Mental Health Committee Capacity Building Workshop @ A3PCON Center. For information, please call Carolann Calizar at (213) 680-4847.

December

7 10-11 am Lead Expert Briefs API Community on Health Concerns Regarding Bioterrorist Threats & Related Diseases Such as Anthrax. A3PCON Health Committee will host this briefing featuring Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health and Health Officer who is a specialist in this area @ the A3PCON Center. For more information, please call Miya Iwataki at (213) 240-7718.

12 3-5 pm A3PCON General Meeting @ A3PCON Center. "Voting on Incorporation of A3PCON" will take place by paid members. For more information, please call Carolann Calizar @ A3PCON at (213) 680-4847.



ASIAN PACIFIC

Policy & Planning Council

300 W. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Suite A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

JOIN A3PCON TODAY!
The 2001-2002 Membership Drive is underway!
Deadline is November 30, 2001

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Asian American Drug Abuse Program Outpatient Counselor, Youth & Family Counselor, Administrative Assistant, Computer Trainer II, Case Manager. Send/fax/email cover letter and resume to Kevin Uyemura, AADAP Inc., 5318 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90043. Fax: (323) 295-4075. Email: kuyemura@aadapinc.org

Asian Youth Center Youth Supervisor. Send/Fax cover letter and resume to Asian Youth Center, 100 West Clary Avenue, San Gabriel, CA 91776. Fax: (626) 309-0717.

Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights Executive Director. Send resume, cover letter, salary requirement, and writing sample to APHIR, Executive Director Search, P.O. Box 461104, Los Angeles, CA 90046

The California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative Statewide Policy Analyst. Send cover letter, resume, sample, references by Dec. 3, 2001 to: **CIWA Statewide Policy Analyst Search, c/o National Immigration Law Center, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2850, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Fax: (213) 639-3911.**

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar Fellowships in Asian American Studies & Ethnic Studies at UCLA. For information go to www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc or write to Dennis Arguelles, Assistant Director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, P.O. Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095.

WRAP Family Services A3PCON Special Project Coordinator. Send/fax letter and resume to Nancy Au, Executive Director, WRAP Family Services, 8616 La Tijera Blvd., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Fax: (310) 337-2805