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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

Annual Report 2012 - 2013

NOVEMBER 2013

*Submitted to the Governor & the Minnesota State Legislature
in compliance with Minnesota Statute 3.9226 subdivision 7.*

Executive Summary

Mission: To advise the legislature and the governor on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans (APM), advocate on behalf of the community on these issues, and serve as a bridge for and between APMs and non-APMs.

Context: CAPM is an advisory board that seeks to ensure the inclusion of APMs in all state programs, activities, and services by providing relevant, objective, and credible advice and information on the status and needs of APMs. Key stakeholders are the Governor, state legislature, state agencies, and APM organizations and individuals. CAPM is funded primarily through general fund appropriation and grant opportunities to perform the following functions:

- **Advisory:** Policy briefs, comments and testimony on issues; publish and release original research/reports to the Governor, state agencies, legislators, and citizens.
- **Advocacy:** Direct engagement with citizens to influence public policy & resource allocation decisions.
- **Brokerage:** Facilitate opportunities for engagement and inclusion with others and recognition of APMs.

Strategies: To deliver on its mission and support statewide outcomes, CAPM utilizes the following strategies:

- **Research and information analysis** – developing and publishing reports for use by decision makers and citizens.
- **Outreach** – developing forums, conferences, retreats and advocacy trainings to inform public policy.
- **Facilitation & coordination** – developing engagement, inclusion, and recognition activities.

Statewide Outcomes: The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM) supports the following statewide outcome(s):

- Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.
- A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.
- Minnesotans are healthy.
- Minnesotans are safe.

Results: CAPM measures our success in objective ways that are both qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative measures include its impact on the legislative process, state programs, and services. CAPM also is working to measure the level of engagement of APMs in public policy and other related activities. Quantitative measures include: gaps in educational attainment, health disparities, employment opportunities, juvenile crime rates, and domestic violence and other quality of life measures.

Future Outlook: CAPM will continue to: (1) work to make sure that our accomplishments are measurable and real; (2) maintain meaningful and significant relationships with stakeholders; and, (3) strategically create opportunities for outreach, engagement, and capacity building.

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Upon Request, this report will be made available in an alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audiotape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 and ask for the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

Part I: Summary of Activities

Agency Purpose

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans ('Council' or 'CAPM') was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1985 pursuant to Minn. Stat. 3.9226 to fulfill the following primary objectives: advise the governor and state legislators on issues pertaining to APM people; ensure that APMs are more incorporated and engaged in the governmental and policymaking processes; assist APMs with accessing state government resources; promote the talents and resources of APM people where appropriate; and act as a broker between the APM community and mainstream society. Serving as a conduit to state government for APM organizations and individuals, the Council recommends bills to the governor and state legislature designed to improve the economic and social conditions of all APMs.

Furthermore, the Council may provide comment and/or recommendations regarding any application for federal funds submitted by state departments or agencies that stand to impact programs pertinent to APMs.

Core Functions

On behalf of this population, the Council plays the role of advisor, advocate, and broker. In these capacities, it deals with problems unique to non-English speaking immigrants and refugees; administrative and legislative barriers blocking APMs' access to benefits and services; opportunities for affordable housing and health care; and taking appropriate measures to increase APMs' level of preparedness for, and overall presence in, the state's ever-evolving workforce.

The Council may perform its own research or contract for studies to be conducted for use in developing policy recommendations intended to benefit the APM community. Areas of focus may include education, work-force development, human rights, mental health, affordable housing, economic development, violence prevention/intervention, immigration and refugee issues, social welfare, or any other timely subject matter. To ensure the APM community has a more thorough understanding of these issues and listen to the community's voice, the Council frequently hosts community dialogues, roundtable discussions, forums, and workshops. It also convenes workgroups, taskforces, and special committees focusing on issues of particular importance – issues that require more detailed examination or ones where the need for solutions is conveyed with a sense of urgency by the community.

Operations

CAPM's board of directors consists of 23 members, 19 of whom are appointed by the governor and represent a broad cross section of the Asian-Pacific community. In addition, two members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate are appointed under the rules of their respective bodies. They serve as non-voting members. The Council maintains a staff of three under the leadership of the executive director.

As a state agency, CAPM serves individuals and ethnic groups from over 40 countries, including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Federated States of Midway Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii's, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos (Hmong and Lao), Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New

Zealand, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tahiti, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tibet, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

Board Members

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Ethnic Group</u>
Priya	Outar	Asian Indian
Shivanthi	Sathanandan	Asian Indian/Sri-Lankan
Hue Danny	Lee	Hmong
Hedwidge	Tripp	HAPA/Singapore
Ananda Srilal	Liyanapathiranage	Sri-Lankan
Tran T.	Nhon	Vietnamese
Mukhtar	Thakur	Asian Indian
Tsewang	Ngodup	Tibetan
Shanti	Shah	Asian Indian
Elsa	Batica	Filipina

Legislative Appointments - Ex Officio

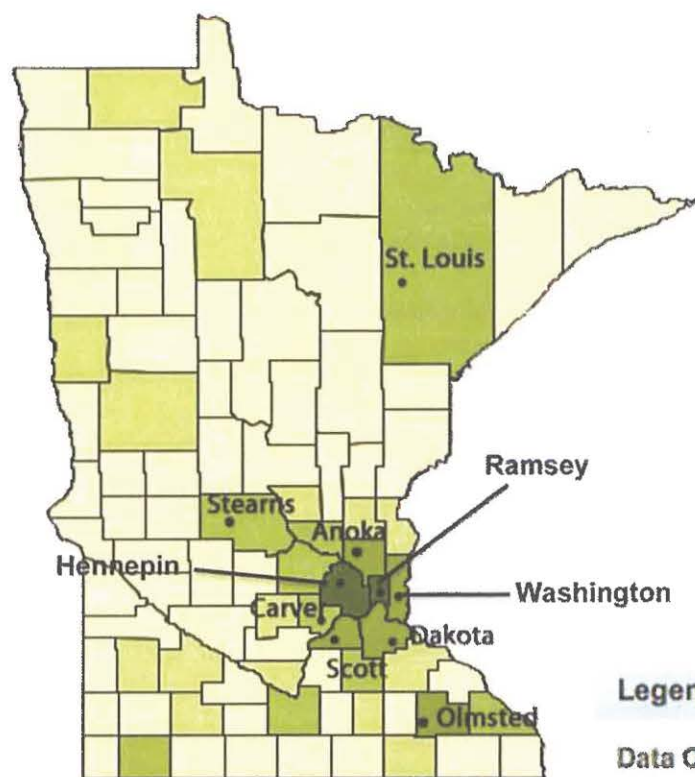
Representative Joe Mullery – House District 59A
 Representative Carolyn Laine – House District 41B
 Senator Alice Johnson – Senate District 37
 Senator Fong Hawj – Senate District 67

Context

The past seven months have seen significant changes taking place at CAPM. The current staff team is entirely new, including the executive director. Additionally, the Council is currently undergoing an audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). In light of this audit and ongoing communication with various stakeholders, CAPM made the strategic decision to dedicate this time of change to reassessing its goals, staff and board makeup, programs, and practices. At the board's direction, CAPM is carefully redefining and repositioning itself to more strategically adhere to its enabling statute and is looking forward to receiving the OLA's audit report.

With this 2013 report, CAPM will communicate to the Governor and the Legislature the programs and initiatives it will continue; just as importantly, however, CAPM will communicate its intent to develop and implement measures to ensure it is a more efficient and effective partner and fulfill its role to engage its APM community more fully in government at the local, state, and federal levels.

Figure 1. Asian Pacific Minnesotan Population Density



Asian Pacific Minnesotans

- APM are present in every county of the state
- 85% are concentrated in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
- Hmong is the largest Asian Ethnic group in Minnesota
- Karen, an ethnic group from Burma, are among the most recent refugee population to Minnesota
- Asian Indians are among the fastest growing ethnic groups in Minnesota and grew 95% from Census 2000 to Census 2010.

Legend

Data Classes

Persons

3 - 231

261 - 809

1093 - 2921

7113 - 16987

58248 - 70439

Minnesota Ten Largest Asian Populations, by Ethnic Group (alone, or in any combination)

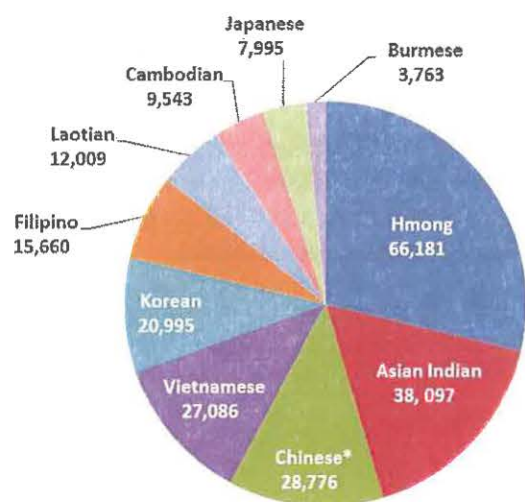


Figure 2. Minnesota's Ten Largest Asian Populations by Ethnicity

Strategies

CAPM utilizes several strategies to deliver its mission and support statewide outcomes.

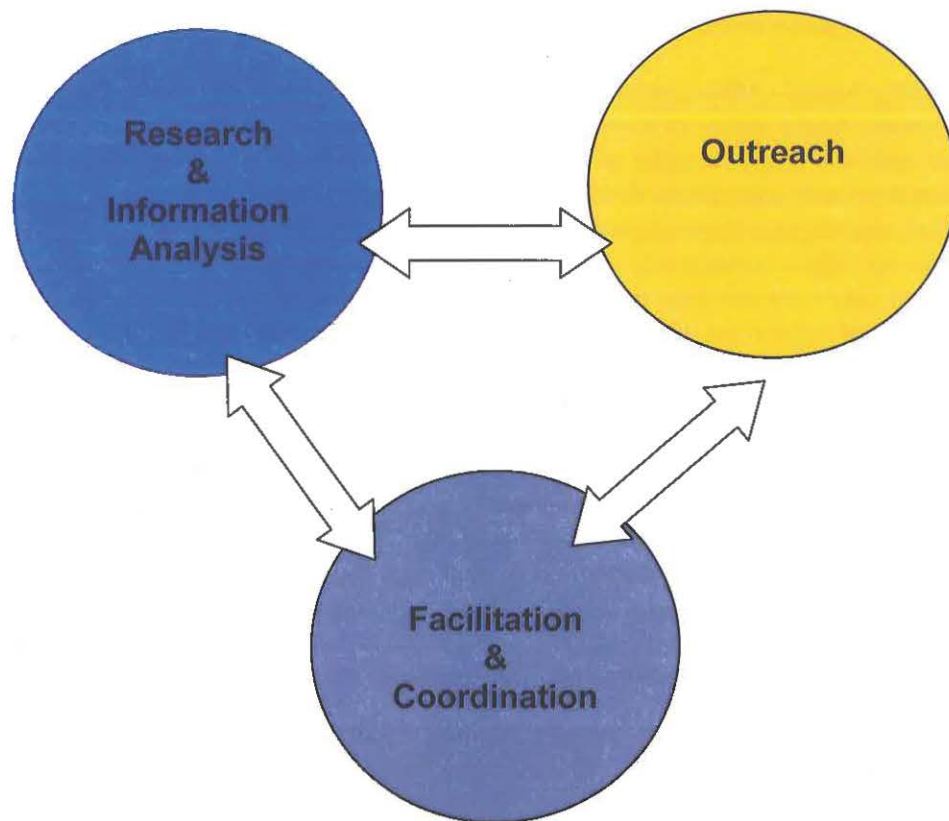


Figure 3. CAPM Strategies

- I. **Research and Information Analysis** – CAPM has a history of collaborating with key partners, developing, and publishing reports for use by decision makers and citizens. With new staff, CAPM thought it was an opportune time to clearly define its focus, strategies, and vision and focus more internally to ensure consensus and provide clear direction to the staff leadership. In FY 2014, the results of this foundational work will be evident in renewed vigor by the staff with clear goals and plans of work.
 1. **Policy Briefs** – CAPM’s goal is to issue 4-5 policy briefs per session responsive to current legislation so as to inform legislators and the administration of the impact their decisions will have on APMs. Starting with the 2014 legislative session, CAPM will start issuing policy briefs again.
 2. **Reports** – CAPM’s goal is to create original reports on issues of importance to the APM Minnesotan community that are inclusive of their voice, input, and buy-in. Reports define the issues, and offer solutions and recommendations for policy makers. CAPM is currently working on an Early Childhood Education Access for Southeast Asian Minnesotans Report and in conversations with potential partners about future reports.

- II. **Outreach** – CAPM’s goal is be perceived by its key stakeholders as a trustworthy, informed, and effective state agency. CAPM achieves this goal with various outreach strategies, including attending community events, forums, conferences, retreats and hosting advocacy trainings to inform policy makers and the APM community.
1. **Community Events** – APM nonprofits, small-businesses, and other community-based organizations host a variety of events annually, including galas and resource fairs. CAPM led, co-hosted, and/or attended in order to maintain presence, continue informing APM citizens and/or connect them with appropriate decision-makers, and learn about community priorities/challenges and perceived opportunities for affecting change.
- a. **Connect India** – Convened by India Association of Minnesota, this event brought together community members from the Indian Minnesotan and non-Indian communities for an evening of networking with prominent leaders from the engineering sector. CAPM visited with community members and learned about their needs in the areas of business development and international business relations.
 - b. **Hmong Women Achieving Together (HWAT) Annual Dinner** – Convened by HWAT, a nonprofit organization focusing on improving the lives of Hmong women, this event brought together a diverse group. HWAT members urge that more attention and appropriate resources need to be allocated to addressing domestic abuse and gender equity.
 - c. **Lao Minnesotan New Year Celebration** – Convened by the Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota, this event brought together about 600 members of the Lao Minnesotan community to celebrate culture, family, and achievements they have experienced as Americans. CAPM was invited to speak at this event about its role in state government.



Young Lao Minnesotans celebrating culture and family at the annual New Year’s celebration. In front of an audience of 500 community members, these Minnesotans were asked to share their vision of what it will take for this new American community to succeed. There are more than 10,000 Laotian living in Minnesota.

- d. **Passage to China** – Convened by the Chinese Heritage Foundation, this event brought together both APM and non-APMs to learn about the Chinese culture, history, and meet with Chinese organizations and businesses. CAPM met organizations such as Families with Children from Asia (FCA), a group of families that have adopted children from Asian countries. FCA asked that CAPM consider speaking at its annual conference about the Asian American experience.
- e. **Minnesotan Immigration Coalition** – This is a coalition of nonprofits and faith organizations working together to advance comprehensive immigration reform. CAPM, as a member, alongside organizations including Jewish Community Action and Minnesota Immigrant Law Center, met with Senator Klobuchar and Congresswoman McCollum to advocate for the protection of family-based immigration.
- f. **Festival of Nations** – An annual event highlighting the diversity of Minnesota. CAPM introduced itself to the majority of the APM vendors, informing them about CAPM and inviting them to call on our office.
- g. **Hmong Freedom Celebration** – Convened by Lao Family Community of Minnesota and held in Saint Paul, this event brought together an estimated 15-20,000 Hmong from around the nation to celebrate Independence Day. At Lao Family's request, CAPM extended an invitation to the Minnesota legislature and state department commissioners. Fifteen public officials joined CAPM and the Hmong American community at this event, including Commissioner Lindsey (Department of Human Rights), Senator Franken, and Congressman Ellison. Public officials took the opportunity to speak directly to the community on issues such as civic engagement, community vitality, and leadership for the common good.



The annual Hmong Freedom celebration in St. Paul, MN attracts an estimated 20-30,000 Hmong from around the world to enjoy sports and spend time with family.

- h. **International Abusive Marriages Vigil** – In light of several tragic events in the Hmong Minnesotan community, Hmong Women Achieving Together (HWAT) brought together community activists, service providers, and other community members to talk about meaningful responses to violence against women. CAPM heard from advocates about the extent and depth of gender-based violence and the many strategies individuals, nonprofits, and others can act on to address this very sensitive issue.
- i. **Asian Heritage Event** – Convened by Wilder Foundation, this event consisted of a panel of Hmong, Karen, and Cambodian refugees. Speakers shared their personal stories of challenges, triumphs, hopes, dreams, and perspectives on issues affecting the Southeast Asian refugee communities. CAPM was there to listen and learn.
- j. **Community Open House for the Center for Social Healing** – Convened by Wilder Foundation, this event brought together a diverse community group for the purpose of building

awareness for and emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to health and healing for Southeast Asians, a community that continues to experience significant cultural and linguistic barriers to human services.

- k. IndiaFest – Convened by the Indian Association of Minnesota on the lawns of the Capitol, this celebration brought together an estimated 9,000 members from the Asian Indian as well as non-Indian communities. This was a day-long celebration of the vibrant culture and heritage of India. CAPM participated in the opening ceremony and visited with community members on the issue of immigration reform. [See CAPM's email invitation on page 30.](#)



An estimated 9,000 people attended the 2013 IndiaFest held on the Capitol lawn. The Asian Indian community in Minnesota constitutes more than 33,000 members, making it the second largest APM population.

- l. A public talk featuring His Holiness the Sakya Trizin – Convened by the Sakya Center of Minnesota in partnership with the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota, CAPM E.D., legislative board members Representatives Joe Mullery and Carolyn Laine, and the Commissioner of Human Rights, Kevin Lindsey, attended. Commissioner Lindsey gave the opening speech in which he highlighted the role of his office in state government, the Tibetan Minnesotan community's importance and contributions to Minnesota, and the ongoing need for all of Minnesotans to work together to build a better Minnesota for all.



The Sakya Trizin and members of his entourage, with Commissioner Kevin Lindsey (MDHR) and Representatives Laine and Mullery. There are more than 3,000 Tibetans living in Minnesota, mostly in the Twin Cities metro area, which is the second largest Tibetan concentration in the U.S.

- m. Tour of Hmong Village in Saint Paul, MN –At his request, CAPM introduced Representative Fischer to Hmong Village and its small businesses. Issues that emerged in this visit included small business needs, access to healthcare for immigrant children, public transportation needs, and the importance of communities of color participating in local government. [See Hmong Pharmacy Memorandum on page 31.](#)
- n. Minneapolis Mayoral Forum: Education and the Opportunity Gap – Convened by a host of organizations that included MinnCAN, African American leadership Forum, and the Chicano-Latino Affairs Council, this non-partisan forum was an opportunity for voters to hear from the Mayoral candidates about their visions and strategies for improving educational outcomes for all students in Minneapolis. CAPM's presence ensured that APM students were considered in the discussion.
- o. Families with Children from Asia (FCA) – CAPM was invited to speak at this annual conference that brings together Minnesotan families with adopted children from Asia. About 50 parents learned about CAPM's role in helping the community to build capacity to amplify the APM voice and raise awareness of the issues American children of Asian descent are experiencing.
- p. Theatre Latte Da's Steerage Song – A musical documentary, Steerage Song tells the story of European immigrants that passed through Ellis Island. In light of CAPM's participation in immigration reform, CAPM was invited by Theatre Latte Da to participate in a post-show panel. CAPM's contribution to the discussion focused on the shared aspects of all immigrants/refugees' experiences as the stories of pain, sorrow, and hope resonate with Asian refugees and immigrants who came to America in search of better opportunities.
- q. Interviews with Hmong media – In the last eight months, the Executive Director has been invited to interview with the community specific media such as radio and T.V. CAPM is aware that these interviews are much needed as APM communities consistently express that they are unaware of CAPM's existence and/or they have a very limited understanding of CAPM's role as a state agency. CAPM has worked closely with these community media sources to educate the Hmong Minnesotan public by addressing community questions and concerns.

- r. Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) Gala – This annual fundraiser was convened by the first Karen nonprofit in the country. KOM serves the Karen Minnesotan community, the largest concentration of the Karen outside of Burma. The Karen is an ethnic minority that has been persecuted for decades in Burma and in recent years, resettled in Minnesota. The nearly 400+ attendees included local and state public officials, service providers, and other non-Karen stakeholders who came to learn more about the issues facing the Karen community as it assimilates and acculturates to life in Minnesota.



CAPM Executive Director with young members of the Karen Minnesotan community at the Karen Organization of Minnesota's 2013 annual gala. With a population of about 6,500, Minnesota is home to the largest concentration of Karen outside of Southeast Asia.

- s. Hmong Higher Education Banquet – After more than three decades in America, Hmong Americans are more aware than ever before of the importance of higher education. The Hmong Higher Education Committee (HHEC), created by Lao Family Community of Minnesota (a non-profit), focuses on creating a space for Americans of Hmong descent to collaborate around the issue of higher education. CAPM, Hmong parents and students, public officials, and educational experts including Dr. Zha Blong Xiong of the University of Minnesota came together to discuss the role of higher education in the Hmong community that is almost fully transitioned from refugee to immigrant.



Young Hmong American dancers – celebrating a rich culture is part of most community gatherings and celebrations. The Hmong community is the largest APM group with a population of more than 66,000. Behind California, Minnesota is home to the second largest concentration of Hmong in the U.S.

- t. Hmong Across Borders Conference – Convened by the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin Hmong Consortium, this annual conference brought together graduate students and experts from the United States and around the world in the field of Hmong studies. CAPM was invited to give one of the opening speeches of the conference. [See CAPM Executive Director's Welcome Letter on page 33.](#)
 - u. A Community Conversation on the Achievement Gap – Convened by Lao Family Community of Minnesota, this event brought together education experts, students, and community members on the issue of the achievement gap. Attendees learned about some of the most current data and what they tell us about the opportunity costs if stakeholders, including Hmong parents, do not succeed in working together to address the root causes of the achievement gap.
 - v. APM Islander Non-Profit Leaders Meeting with MNsure – CAPM convened a meeting in July 2013 between MNsure, the Department of Commerce, and fifteen Executive Directors of various APM non-profit organizations in the metro area. The purpose of the event was to provide our non-profit leaders with an opportunity early on to ask these questions and offer input on engagement strategies for the APM community in Minnesota. See API Leaders' Meeting on MNsure document on page 39.
2. **Engaging with Legislators/Government** –With the hiring of Sia Her as the new Executive Director, the board of directors made it a goal to (re)introduce CAPM and its communities to key legislators and the commissioners of the state departments. Since taking office in March of 2013, the Executive Director has sat down with commissioners of the departments of Commerce, Education, Human Rights, Human Services, and a deputy commissioner in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Where legislators are concerned, thus far CAPM met with Senators Jeff Hayden, Roger Chamberlain, Sandy Pappas, and Patricia Torres Ray, and Representatives Erin Murphy, Bob Dettmer, and Rena Moran. CAPM is re-engaging its legislative board members – and looking to them for their expertise in the policy-making process, the issues, and the key players.

3. **Achievement Gap** – CAPM prioritized closing the achievement gap among Southeast Asian Minnesotan students. Part of the challenge is to demystify the perception that all Asian students are high-achieving. When test scores, graduation rates, and educational attainment data are disaggregated, it is clear that Southeast Asian students, including Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and Karen fare much worse by all achievement indicators compared to their Chinese, Indian, Filipino, and White counterparts. CAPM’s goal is to shed light on the barriers that hinder Southeast Asian Minnesotan students from achieving up to their potential. CAPM attended many education policy conferences, panel discussions, and collaboration initiatives with key partners such as the Education Diversity Taskforce created by the Governor. A research study is in process to produce the Early Childhood Education Access for Southeast Asian Minnesotans Report.
4. **Eliminating Health Disparities** – CAPM worked with the Department of Health, Office of Multicultural and Minority Health to engage the APM community in working towards addressing health disparities. Common health problems among the APM population are Hepatitis B, cervical cancer, breast and liver cancer, diabetes, obesity, chemical dependency and drug abuse, and kidney disease. With the launching of MNsure, CAPM also worked with the Department of Commerce to ensure that APM community members get accurate, timely, and useful information about upcoming changes.
5. **Eliminating Economic Disparities** – Engaged with APM small businesses, local government entities (such as St. Paul Port Authority) and state agencies such as Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) on understanding the economic needs of the APM community and the opportunities for systems changes driven by communities-based strategies.
6. **APM Youth Day at the Capitol** – The 2013 policy and advocacy training day is designed to educate APM youth about civic engagement & leadership in order to increase their capacity to advocate for themselves. Thirty youth participated and after the training they met with legislators to advise the latter on issues they believe are important to their community’s well-being, such as bullying in the schools, employment for young adults, and human trafficking. [See Youth Legislative Agenda attachment on page 34.](#)
7. **APM Day at the Capitol** – The 2013 Day at the Capitol is an advocacy and civic engagement opportunity for the APM community. Participants gathered at the Capitol to engage with legislators and the administration around the theme of health disparities. About 40 individuals, including non-profit executive directors and their program staff, students, and activists participated in an advocacy training led by Organizing for America. In the second half of the program, 80 members of the community joined state legislators and state department commissioners to discuss current strategies to eliminate health disparities. [See APM Day at the Capitol Flyer on page 36.](#)
8. **Asian Heritage Day 2013 at the MN History Center “A Thousand Journeys, One Home”** – In partnership with the Minnesota History Center, CAPM invited families to the MN History Center to celebrate the contributions APM make to this great state; attendees shared and learned from an array of music, dance performances, activities demonstrations, and arts displays.

III. **Facilitation and Coordination** – CAPM’s goal is to facilitate engagement, inclusion, and recognition activities. For the past several years, CAPM has worked closely with the Minnesota Humanities Center to successfully design and implement programs that deliver on these goals with money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008:

1. **Legacy Amendment, Arts & Cultural Legacy Programming** – Established to engage all Minnesotans in learning about, appreciating, and valuing the arts and cultural legacy of APMs. The programs also offer to APM artists and cultural groups or communities opportunities to build or grow their capacity to deliver art and cultural legacy programming.
 - a. **Artists Fellowships** – A capacity building initiative that seeks to increase the number of artists of APM descent to contribute to art and cultural preservation. Each artist/fellow designed a project to showcase work in their respective genres. Additionally, fellows receive monthly professional development opportunities around topics such as fundraising, marketing, and building a portfolio.



The 2013 Legacy Artists fellows on their exhibit night, with CAPM’s Executive Director and the program’s facilitator.

Contracted local writer, playwright, and poet May Lee Yang lead and implemented this program. The fellows include Elijah Chhum (filmmaker), Chay Douangphouxay (poet), Joseph Hang (visual artist and architect), Jade Hoyer (book artist), Joua Lee (filmmaker and spoken word artist), and Ying Lee (screenwriter).

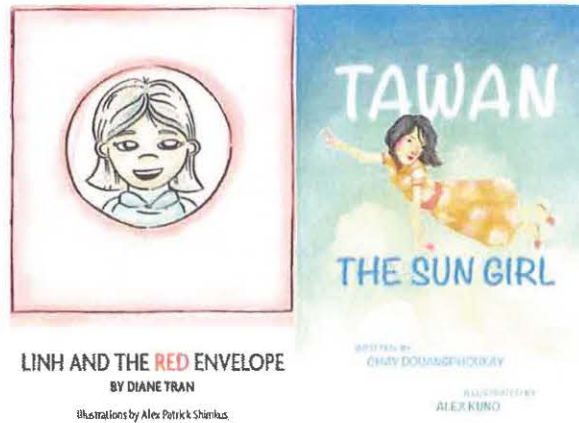
Fellows met once a month. This project ended November 15, 2013. Artists showcased their work at the October exhibit titled “Perspectives: Redefining the Asian American Experience.” [Click here to watch “Soul Search” online](#) or see DVD enclosed.



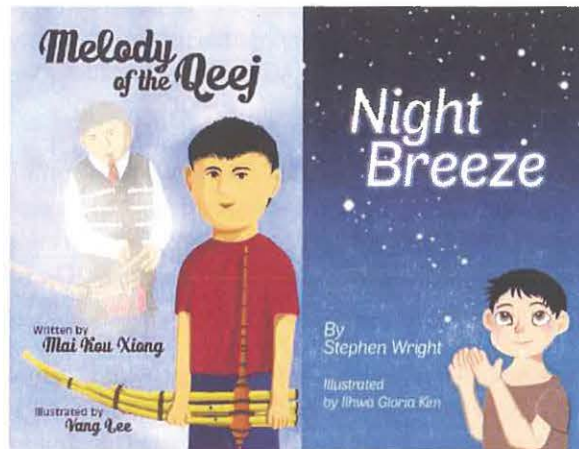
The 2013 Legacy Artists' exhibit Perspectives: "(Re)Defining" the Asian American Experience. Family, friends, and community members came to learn about the artists and the visions behind each of the projects.

- b. APM Youth Council – Year-long leadership training program to grow, develop, and strengthen skills and capacity of young people to know, understand, appreciate, and celebrate their arts and cultural heritage. Thirty youth from the metro area participated in the program, which consisted of bi-monthly meetings, demonstration projects, and a week-long leadership retreat. The youth participated in:
 - APM Youth Day at the Capitol – On February 16, 2013, over 80 APM high school students participated in the Speak Up, Speak Out, Speak Now: APM Youth & Civic Engagement Conference at the State Capitol. Issues of focus were the achievement gap, higher education, human rights, and human trafficking. The culmination of their conference breakout sessions were recommendations to the MN Legislature on those issues.
 - Asian History Day at the History Center – APYC members volunteered to help educate the public on Asian-American history and culture. APYC members greeted guests, facilitated family-friendly cultural activities and cultural performances, and spoke with legislators about their educational needs.
 - Asian Youth Exposition – Open Mic Night to celebrate APM youth artistic perspectives and voices. Members of the APYC wrote and performed a play called The New Adventures of Mulan.
 - Leadership Retreat – 65 youth from over 13 APM communities participated in the youth leadership retreat held at Vermillion Community College, Ely, MN. The focus of the retreat was leadership in social media. Youth learned how to use social media to design campaigns that would advance issues of importance to the APM community.
- c. Reading Together Project – This project addresses the lack of children's books that speak to the experience of being an APM child in the United States. The project

supports development of English literacy skills and creates an opportunity for children and families to learn about APM cultural heritage. A Request for Proposals was issued in the spring, a selection committee was created and four writers and four illustrators were selected for the project. [See Book Launch Flyer on page 37.](#)



Reading Together Books: (1) Linh and the Red Envelope by Diane Tran with illustrations by Alex Shimkus and (2) Tawan the Sun Girl by Chay Douangphouxay with illustrations by Alex Kuno.



Reading Together Books: (3) Melody of the Qeej by Mai Kou Xiong with illustrations by Vang Lee and (4) Night Breeze by Stephen Wright with illustrations by Ilhwa Gloria Kim.



The "2013 Reading Together" authors and illustrators with David O'Fallon, President of the Minnesota Humanities Center, and Sia Her, CAPM Executive Director.

2. **Oral History Project in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society** – This project collects historical information about individuals, families, important events, or everyday life using audiotapes, videotapes, or transcriptions of planned interviews. These interviews are conducted with people who participated in or observed significant historical events. The oral histories collected are a part of Minnesota Historical Society's (MHS) Immigration Series and will be housed and archived at the MHS. They eventually will be online and available as a resource for all Minnesotans.

Each oral history series includes 5-10 interviews with community members from a specific APM ethnic group. The series will evolve and start to incorporate arts and cultural legacies. Collected series include: Filipinos, Indonesians, Lao, Karen, Koreans, Malaysians, Pacific Islanders, and communities in Baudette, Warroad, St. Cloud, Rochester, and Worthington. This project ended August 2013.

3. **Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month Annual Dinner** – The Heritage Dinner honors the achievements and contributions of APM leaders in May, a month designated as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month" by the U.S. Congress since 1990. CAPM commemorates Asian-Pacific American Heritage month by:
 - Honoring community members for their dedication and commitment to advancing the APM Minnesotan community with the Outstanding Community Leadership Service Award, Lifetime Service Award, and the Humanitarian Service Award.
 - Encouraging state-wide celebrations focused on highlighting Asian American and Pacific Islanders' contributions to this nation and our achievements.
 - The 2013 Heritage Dinner brought together almost 400 APM community members, including youth, elders, professionals, educational experts, public officials, and APM media sources. In light of CAPM's recent work on the issue of health disparities and the Healthcare Exchange legislation, the dinner keynote speaker spoke to the need for healthcare insurance that covers non-traditional medical care such as acupuncture. [See Asian American Heritage Dinner Press page 38.](#)

4. **Dragon Festival (DF)** – The mission of the 2-day DF is to bring together the Greater Twin Cities community in celebration of the diverse APM cultures. The DF hopes to foster trust and a sense of community among Asian-Pacific ethnic communities. It also strives to enhance a sense of pride among APMs by respecting and honoring the dignity and value of Asian-Pacific histories, cultures, and traditions. Activities at the festival included cultural performances, martial arts, the healing arts, outdoor/indoor Asian games, and the highly anticipated dragon boat race. The vendors who participated were non-profits, businesses community, and academic institution.



Community members watch the boat race on Lake Phalen. The 2013 Dragon Festival drew an estimated 3,000 members from various APM and non-APM communities.



More than 37 vendors from all sectors participated in the 10th annual Dragon Festival to engage with and inform community members of opportunities, programs, and institutions in the Twin Cities metro area.

Part II: List Receipts & Expenditures

General Fund	\$ 254,000.00
Revenue Funds	
Heritage Month Registration Fees	\$ 7,735.00
Humanities Center	\$ 6,296.30
Humanities Center	\$ 4,085.77
Gifts	\$ 1,183.76
	\$ 273,300.83
Expenditures	
Full-time	\$ 46,600.00
Part-time	\$ 110,000.00
Over-Time and Premium Pay	\$ 99.79
Other Employee Cost	\$ 23,185.40
Space Rental, Maint., & Utility	\$ 20,499.59
Repairs, Alterations & Maint.	\$ 728.04
Printing and Advertising	\$ 4,867.21
Prof/Tech Services Outside Vendor	\$ 2,725.00
Computer & System Service	\$ 109.25
Communications	\$ 2,362.72
Travel & Subsistence - INST	\$ 5,631.99
Supplies	\$ 6,197.44
Equipment-CAPMtal Leases	\$ 4,371.89
Employee Development	\$ 917.00
Other Operating Costs	\$ 8,330.25
Statewide Indirect Costs	\$ -
Pmt to Indiv-Not Med-Rehab	\$ -
Equipment-Non CAPMtal	\$ 15,135.17
	\$ 251,760.74
Net Balance	\$ 21,540.09

Financial reports and data provided by Department of Administration, Financial Management Resources (FMR) division.

Part III: Issues Affecting the APM Community

In 2012, CAPM designed its report to speak directly to four desired outcomes for Minnesota as laid out by Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB). In this 2013 report, CAPM speaks to each of the four desired outcomes again as the challenges facing the APM community.

According to the latest U.S. Census numbers, Asians are the fastest growing ethnic group in Minnesota and in the nation. In Minnesota, this growth is attributed to immigrants coming for jobs in the high-tech field and young families having children. This section lays out the major issues confronting the APM community and CAPM's policy recommendations.

1. Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Achievement Gap

By 2018, 70% of jobs in Minnesota will require at least some post-secondary education. However, 19.6% of APMs ages 25 and older have less than high school education and 17.4% have only a high school diploma or GED. By all measures, from income to employment, educational attainment, homeownership, English language proficiency, and health, APM students fall far behind their White peers and never catch up. The Asian population is projected to be the second fastest growing in the state over the next 30 years. It is already an important portion of the taxpaying workforce and will become even more important in the future to both fulfill the jobs of retiring baby boomers and to provide the tax revenues to support that generation in retirement. Thus, the State of Minnesota has a huge economic incentive to invest in APM students in order to sustain and develop the quality of life for all Minnesotans in the next generation. An APM student body that achieves its potential is an asset to the state.

Though Minnesota has made significant progress in the last few years, the achievement gap between our students of color and their white counterparts is unacceptable. CAPM remains committed to working with policy makers to develop effective policies to close this gap. In our 2012 annual report, CAPM reported that according to the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) 2011 test results, 66.1% and 54.4% of APM students scored as proficient on the MCA reading and math tests, respectively. In comparison, 80.8% and 63.3% of White students were proficient in reading and math, respectively. Compared to other racial groups, the seemingly smaller achievement gap between APM and White students has led to less attention given to the needs of APM students. However, researchers, community members, and educational professionals have long recognized that the reported aggregated data for APM students is misleading and masks educational disparities experienced within the APM community.

Significant achievement gaps exist for refugee APM students:

- 50.3% and 40% of refugee APM students were proficient in reading and math, respectively.
- Less than 17% of Burmese students were proficient in reading or math, the lowest of any ethnic or racial student group.
- Less than 59% and 40% of Lao, Hmong, and Cambodian students were proficient in reading and math, respectively.

- In comparison, 80.8% and 63.3% of White students scored as proficient in reading and math, respectively.

Students' income level, English proficiency, and mobility status were significant factors in predicting their academic achievement:

- Low-income APM students experienced achievement gaps of up to 31% on the MCAs in comparison to their more affluent APM peers.
- APM students receiving English Learner services experienced achievement gaps of up to 44% on the MCAs in comparison to English proficient APM students.
- Homeless or highly mobile APM students experienced achievement gaps of up to 23% on the MCAs in comparison to non-mobile APM students.

While CAPM does not have the latest disaggregated statistics, ongoing conversations with researchers, community members, and educators indicate that the latest aggregate educational achievement of APM students continues to mask the disparities ethnic sub-groups within the community continue to experience.

Educational Attainment

As data displayed in Figure 5 illustrates, Southeast Asian refugee groups such as the Hmong, Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese carry higher percentages of students who do not graduate from high school and much lower percentages of ethnic community members who hold advanced degrees. In contrast, about two-thirds or more of Chinese and Asian Indian ethnic community members hold a Bachelor's degree or higher.

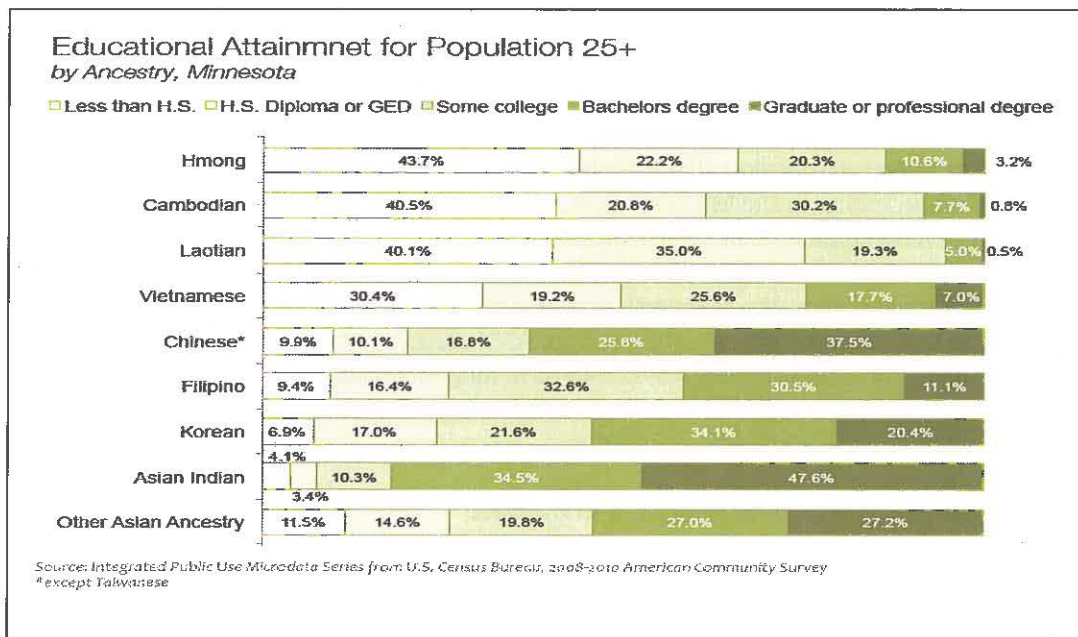


Figure 4. Educational Attainment for population age 25 and older.

CAPM Recommendations

Aggregate data grouping test scores and educational attainment of APM as one race fail to understand that this community is a community of contrast and perpetuate the false notion that Asians are the model minority. CAPM recommends the following:

- Standardize the practice of collecting and reporting disaggregated student data. Each APM ethnic group faces unique challenges that have tremendous influence on student performance. Without disaggregated data, we cannot see the real performance indicator of each ethnic student group. To effectively help struggling APM students, we must first understand and diagnose their current performance challenges.
- Streamline and increase attention, resources, and support for refugee experienced, low-income, Limited English Proficiency, and/or highly mobile APM students. Efforts to help these disadvantaged students overcome educational barriers should be improved; successful models of educational leadership, pedagogy, and programming should be shared across the state.
- Invest in training and development of culturally competent educational professionals. To effectively educate a future workforce increasingly comprised of APM refugee students, educators must understand the diverse student population needs, strengths, backgrounds, and learning styles.
- Include APM families and young children in Minnesota's focus on early childhood education. About 18,000 APM children under the age of 5 will need quality early learning opportunities to set the stage for later academic success. Most APM young children, however, are not enrolled in Kindergarten-readiness programs. As Minnesota invests in programs to increase Kindergarten readiness, we should not neglect to engage with our sizable Asian refugee communities.

2. A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Growth, Resources & Assistance to Asian-Owned Businesses

A powerful force in the growth of Minnesota's economy lies in APM-owned business. The growing number of Asian-owned firms in Minnesota translates to a higher percentage of revenue, higher number of paid employees, and consumer buying power to the state. Asian-owned firms benefit Minnesota tremendously by means of opening doors to international trade, fostering business leaders within the APM community, as well as generating economic capital. An opportunity exists to spur the growth and development of Asian-owned businesses.

With the rising buying power of the APM in mind (\$8.4 billion in 2012), consumer spending can help accelerate the economic recovery of the state, but only if individuals feel secure in their future; free from worries about their health, their pathways to higher education and a career, and their housing stability. Likewise, small and mid-size APM business owners are contributing significantly to the state's economy through generating revenue, taxes, and jobs. APM residents and prospective entrepreneurs, however, have difficulty learning about and accessing federal, state, and local programs that could help with: startup, business loans, and regulation compliance. For some, language barriers can also prevent or delay business endeavors.

CAPM Recommendations

The APM community contributes significantly to the state's economic growth and prosperity through tax revenues, job creation, goods and services consumption, etc. CAPM recommends that policy makers:

- Support the creation of state programs that systematically inform and provide managerial and technical support to APM businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.
- Encourage the creation of programs that increase APM businesses' access to government contracts.
- Encourage and support increased outreach to small APM-owned businesses and prospective entrepreneurs to both inform them of governmental assistance available and increase their participation in such programs.
- Provide large businesses incentives for committing to and following through on contracting with minority-owned businesses, especially socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses.
- Make enforcement of state policies re opportunities for minority owned businesses a priority.

Access to Jobs/Workforce Development

In 2012, APMs had a 5.8% annual unemployment rate compared to 5.2% for Whites in Minnesota. While the unemployment rate seems moderate in comparison, the combined category of "Asian" masks the true unemployment levels within the APM community. Data from the 2009-2011 American Communities Survey (ACS) reveal that that Hmong population, which is the most populous Asian ethnic group in Minnesota, had higher unemployment levels than the Indian (Asian), Chinese, and Vietnamese in Minnesota (Figure 6). As expected, each group's educational attainment level strongly correlated with their respective unemployment levels.

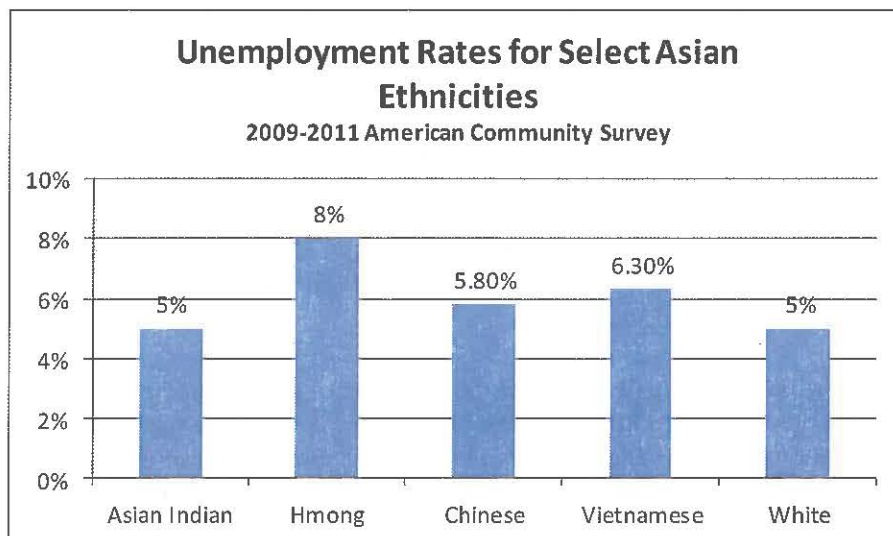


Figure 5. Unemployment Rates for Select Asian Ethnicities in Minnesota.

Although more current ACS data on unemployment is not available just yet, CAPM has received anecdotal reports from community members that suggest unemployment levels are higher than the reported 5.8% for certain Asian ethnic groups and unemployment is especially hard on the untrained,

unskilled, and older community members. Jobs that employ unskilled workers have largely been lost to outsourcing and a new strategy is needed to ensure full integration of new Asian-Americans and better use of this valuable labor pool.

CAPM Recommendations

In an increasingly diverse Minnesota, it is wise to invest in training a workforce that has enormous latent potential. To this end, CAPM recommends that policy makers:

- Improve quality and access to English language courses for new immigrants and other low English proficiency individuals. High illiteracy/lack of proficiency results in disadvantaged position in the labor market and limited integration into society.
- Expand job training programs and similar initiatives, such as FastTRAC, which has already shown success with high APM enrollment rates. Job training programs such as these are important in order to better serve low-income, low-skill, and limited English proficiency APMs.

3. Minnesotans are healthy.

Health Disparities

The United States Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) acknowledges in the Healthy People 2010 Initiative what CAPM has learned from its community conversations – "inequalities in income and education underlie many health disparities." In general, groups that experience the worst health status are also those that have the highest poverty rates and the least education. CAPM continues to work closely with government and community-based organizations to increase understanding of factors unique to the APM community in order to address health disparities.

Factors crucial to APM health disparities include:

- APMs are primarily first generation refugees and immigrants to America – 64% are foreign-born, while 54% are naturalized or citizens. High rates of limited English proficiency exist among APM communities in the Twin Cities: more than one out of three APM children age 17 years and younger are limited English Proficiency (LEP) and more than half (64%) of APM seniors age 65 years and older are LEP. Additionally, more than one out of three Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, and Hmong households are linguistically isolated, while more than a quarter of Korean, Thai, and Chinese households are such.
- According to the 2009-2011 American Community Survey, over 14% of Hmong has no health insurance compared to 13% Vietnamese, 9% Chinese, and 5.2% Asian Indian, relative to 7.8% White.
- Religious beliefs affect the way each community understands health issues and goes about seeking health resources. APMs comprise of great religious diversity. This includes, but is not limited to Filipino & Vietnamese Catholics; Lao, Tibetan, Cambodian, and Burmese Buddhists; and Chinese Buddhists, Falun Gongs and Confucians. The Asian Indian community alone includes Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. The Hmong American community has shamanism or ancestral worship, Christianity, and Chao-Fa. These are religious beliefs that mainstream America has yet to understand but their impact on an individual's decision-making process where health is concerned is critical.

- Mental health is a major health concern for many Southeast Asian refugees in Minnesota due to the trauma they experienced as refugees fleeing war and persecution and as new arrivals to this country. Refugees from Southeast Asia include Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Karen, Burmese, and Thai Dam.

CAPM Recommendations

In a community as diverse as the APM community, the success of some ethnic communities masks the disparities experienced by others. With this knowledge in hand, CAPM recommends that policy makers:

- Fund the development of high quality and measureable professional development programs designed to increase the number of culturally and linguistically competent health educators.
- Support legislation to gather disaggregated health data on APM people statewide.
- Support MNsure as needed to ensure that its strategies are informed and effectively engaging cultural communities.
- Invest in the design of culturally-adapted evidence-based diagnostic tools and programs in the area of mental health.

4. Minnesotans are safe.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is an ambiguous issue in the APM community because there is not broad consensus that this is a serious problem. Victims of domestic violence struggle to find the support they need to leave because of socio-cultural norms. Due to cultural notions of gender roles, domestic violence remains an under-reported issue. A telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 8,000 women and 8,000 men from various ethnic backgrounds, published by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reported 12.8% of APM women surveyed had experienced physical assault by an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime. Compared to their African American and Hispanic counterparts, this lower figure masks the prevalence of domestic violence in APM communities.

In our work with APM communities, CAPM has anecdotal evidence to substantiate the hypothesis that domestic violence is an under-estimated public health concern. The extent to which it affects APM women and children remains unclear. Effective intervention needs to be sensitive to cultural nuances but still hold the perpetrators accountable and support the victims in their effort to leave the situation.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a very complicated problem that outrages us all, yet it is not easy to understand or to solve, especially when it happens within cultural communities. However, as these very communities become more informed about international, national, and local policies and efforts to end human trafficking, the problem can become less difficult to frame, understand, and act on. As one of the state councils established to advise the Governor and legislature, CAPM advises that solutions to the problem of human trafficking start with policy makers and law enforcement understanding the complexities of the issue, particularly in how it is clothed in seemingly innocent (cultural) practices, and building concerted efforts to raise awareness of the issue and the implications of noncompliance.

Fast Facts:

- Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Minnesota has become one of the thirteen most heavily sex and slavery trafficked states in the United States.
- Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. It involves the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through the use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them for labor or commercial sexual purposes.
- Children and women are the most vulnerable to trafficking – 50% of trafficked victims are children.

CAPM Recommendations

Domestic violence and human trafficking are highly sensitive issues in the APM community, even more so in certain ethnic communities than others. CAPM, acting as the cultural broker, can play an important role in facilitating communication between policy makers and APM stakeholders on these issues. CAPM recommends that policy makers:

- Support further research and capacity-building for organizations working to support battered women, especially APM women. Language access, mental health and trauma, housing and financial self-sufficiency remain the biggest barriers for women looking to leave an abusive relationship.
- Actively and publicly encourage dialogues on human trafficking in cultural communities to raise awareness of the legal implications and the roles and the responsibilities of community members, organizations, and the business and faith communities.
- Dedicate funds for outreach efforts into cultural communities and include specific policy language on outreach content including international, national, and local laws such as the Safe Harbor Law.

Part IV: Specific Objectives for Next Biennium

CAPM is undergoing a number of significant changes. One of these is a renewed focus on and commitment to having presence in the many APM communities. CAPM understands that its effectiveness lies in knowing the communities we represent and having the relationships in place to call on when it is appropriate and necessary. As a state agency, CAPM understands that its relevancy lies in being able to bridge communities with one another, especially the APM community and the various levels of Minnesotan government.

Next year will be an important and telling year for CAPM as 2012-2013 has been dedicated to reassessing the many aspects of CAPM and how CAPM will build its capacity to realize its mission and vision laid out in its enabling statute.

I. Administration	Administration
Purchasing (SMART)	
Payroll (Human Research)	
Payment (SMART)	
Invoice	
II. Session 2014	
Legislative Agenda	Research & Information Analysis
Policy Briefs	Research & Information Analysis
Other Legislation	Research & Information Analysis
Asian Day at the Capitol (April 2014)	Citizen Outreach
III. Heritage Month	
Dinner Location - Confirmed for May 2014	Facilitation & Coordination
Call for Nominations: Leadership Awards	Facilitation & Coordination
IV. Communication	
Small group meetings	Citizen Outreach
CAPM 101 Presentations	Citizen Outreach
Legislative/Electoral Process Presentations	Citizen Outreach
Newsletter	Citizen Outreach
Blog	Citizen Outreach
Facebook	Citizen Outreach
Twitter	Citizen Outreach
Website	Citizen Outreach
V. Forums	
Early Childhood Education Report	Research & Information Analysis
MNsure Community Forum(s)	Citizen Outreach
Legislative Session Debriefing	Research & Information Analysis
Greater MN Community Conversations	Research & Information Analysis

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Invitation to IndiaFest 2013 from CAPM [Click here to go back](#)

From: Her, Sia (CAPM)

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2013 5:28 PM

Cc: 'Nag Yahoo'; Yang, Pa (CAPM)

Subject: Invitation to IndiaFest 2013 from the Council on APM Minnesotans

Dear All,

On behalf of India Association of Minnesota (IAM), the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM) invites our state and local elected and public officials to join our Asian Indian community in a celebration of India's independence, culture, and heritage on Saturday, August 10th, 2013. The Council, a state agency created in 1985 to advise the Governor and the legislature, represents a 250,000 strong community of Minnesotans with roots in over 40 Asian countries - the Asian Indian community being the second largest of our Asian populations.

Event: IndiaFest 2013

Day: Saturday, August 10th, 2013

Location: Capitol Grounds, 75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Time: 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM

IndiaFest, an annual event scheduled as close as possible to August 15th (India's Independence Day) when the 15th does not fall on a weekend, is a community gathering that brings together thousands of Minnesotans of Indian descent from all over the state for a day of activities including races, cultural performances, cultural exhibits, food, and beautiful merchandises from India. This year, IAM expects well over 9,000 participants from both the Asian Indian and non-Asian Indian communities.

IAM and CAPM invite our elected/public officials to join us at any time during the program (11:30 AM to 6:00 PM); however, if you are only able to come for just a while, we encourage you to join us at the height of the festivities - during the parade and the hoisting of the U.S. and Indian flags. The parade will begin at 2:00 PM (consists of community members in their traditional and native clothes); as soon as this short parade has ended, the hoisting of the U.S. and Indian flags will take place.

We look forward to hosting you on this day of festivities. If you are available and plan to join us, please RSVP to CAPM by responding to this email by August 5th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at 651-757-1741.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sia

Sia Her | Executive Director

Council on APM Minnesotans | 658 Cedar Street, Suite 160 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

(651)-757-1741 office | (651) 246-1089 mobile | (651)-297-8735 fax | sia.her@state.mn.us |

<http://www.capm.state.mn.us>



Hmong Pharmacy Issue Memorandum [Click here to go back](#)

Memorandum

To: Sia Her, State Representative Fischer

From: Souvan Lee

Date: Friday October 4, 2013

Subject: Research summary of APM pharmacist constituent concerns

Background:

State Representative Fischer (DFL-43A) and Executive Director Sia Her visited Hmong Village on September 7th, 2013. During their visit, they met Dr. Chengseng Lo (PharmD) at Phalen Family Pharmacy. In the course of their conversation, Dr. Lo shared that Asian American and Pacific Islander (APM) families, particularly Hmong families, may not be receiving the vaccinations they should.

Pharmacist's Community Concerns:

Dr. Lo shared that he is not allowed to vaccinate children under the age of 18 if they are enrolled in public health insurance plans but he can (for ages 10-18) if they have private insurance. He understands that he needs to enroll in the Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) program in order to administer flu vaccinations to children under 18 years of age but says that enrollment in the program has been difficult. Dr. Lo also expressed that using private vaccines can be done but he does not know if the insurance company will pay for it.

Dr. Lo shared that his inability to administer vaccinations leads to confusion with families looking to receive vaccinations for their children. He attempts to explain to families why he cannot administer vaccinations but this only causes more confusion because these are families speak very little to no English and are not informed about the US/Minnesota health care system. Dr. Lo is concerned that the families he turns away may not be seeking vaccinations for their children and this could lead to health problems.

State of MN:

Email conversations with state employees from the Department of Human Services and Minnesota state statutes chapter 151 confirm Dr. Lo's understanding of the situation. State statutes allow pharmacies to bill for flu vaccines administered by pharmacists to children ages 10 through 18 and all other vaccines to individuals who are 18 years of age and older under standing orders from a licensed physician or by written protocol with a physician, provided that:

1. The pharmacist is trained in a program approved by the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education for the administration of vaccinations or graduated from a college of pharmacy in 2001 or after.
2. The pharmacist reports the administration of the vaccinations to the patient's primary physician or clinic.

It is also important to note that pharmacists must ensure equal access for Medicaid-eligible children (defined as individuals through 18 years), either by enrolling in the Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) program through MDH or using private vaccine and not charging for it.

Through its MnVFC and MHCP Adult Vaccine Programs, MDH provides most pediatric and some adult vaccines to participating providers at no cost. MHCP providers and in this case pharmacies must obtain and use vaccines from the MDH Vaccine Programs when the vaccines are available for free and MHCP reimburses for the administration of vaccines obtained from the MDH Vaccine Programs. When vaccine is

not available free of charge from MnVFC and is a covered service, MHCP will reimburse both for vaccine and admin charge.

Dr. Lo's Recommendation:

Dr. Lo asked that if anything can be done about this, it is to have the state allow small pharmacies that serve underserved populations to vaccinate children ages 10 years of age and older regardless of payer source.

*(payer source: public or private health insurance plans)

Hmong Across Borders Conference: Welcome Letter from CAPM Executive Director [Click here to go back](#)

October 30, 2013

Dear Attendees,

On behalf of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, welcome to the 2013 "Hmong Across Borders" Conference. As Executive Director at the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and a Hmong American, I am proud to help welcome all of you to this dynamic conference that promises to tie the past with the present and the future.

The Council, a state agency, was created by the Minnesota legislature in 1985 to fulfill three mandates: advise the Governor and legislature; advocate for our communities; and build bridges between and among the APM and non-APM communities. The Council represents the interests of the more than 42 Asian & Pacific Islander groups present in Minnesota – this community currently numbers over 200,000. Hmong Minnesotans – estimated at 66,000 according to the 2010 Census – make up the largest group represented by the Council.

This 3 day conference – bringing together many of today's most innovative scholars and inspiring Americans of Hmong descent – promises to be eye-opening and stimulating. Keeping in mind that we each have a role to play and a shared responsibility to bring about a healthier and stronger Hmong community, here and in the rest of the world, let us use this wonderful opportunity to learn from some of the most renowned scholars of our time.

The Hmong experience is unique. The Hmong have both maintained a cultural identity and reinvented itself due to the stresses and influences of being stateless and migratory. Therefore, Hmong identity is more fluid than a people with a geographic base. Defining "Hmongness" is a changing and moving target. Here in Minnesota, one need only look at our family and community gatherings and observe the commonality and differences between children, parents and grandparents to see this.

This conference presents an opportunity for all of us to explore and question our individual and our collective identities. As our community reinvents itself and creates a new sense of belonging, we are writing the next chapter in a story that our forebears in China and Laos could not have foreseen. They would not be surprised at the success of today's Hmong Americans – they would have expected our success.

In solidarity, thank you to all of you for attending and furthering our shared story.

Sincerely,

Sia Her
Executive Director
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

APM Youth Day at the Capitol: Youth Legislative Agenda [Click here to go back](#)

Dear Elected Official,

On Saturday, February 16, 2013, APM youth converged at the State Capitol to draw attention to the issues that impact them and to ask legislators for solutions. Over 80 youth from all over the Twin

Cities attended the 2nd annual *Speak Up, Speak Out, Speak Now: APM Youth & Civic Engagement Conference*.

The APM Youth Council's mission is to be the "voice of their generation" by engaging other youth through education and utilizing them on the tools of civic engagement. In the youth facilitated breakout sessions, attendees discussed the issues of achievement gap, higher education, human rights, and human trafficking. In their discussions, youth leaders found the following to be important issues and they made recommendations;

Achievement Gap	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When disaggregating the data for Asian students, the outcomes indicate that not all Asian students are doing well, specifically many Southeast Asian students and doing poorly. (please see attached Education Policy Brief 2013) - Educators and administrators need to be aware that there are cultural influences which impact the test outcomes: parents' level of education, traditional views on education, cultural views on education, and refugee experiences.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There needs to be more teachers of color. - There needs to be more programs like, Step Up, which works towards motivating students to succeed. - Policy makers should increase the number of programs for early childhood and students in kindergarten to third grade.
Higher Education	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuition of higher education institutions is becoming overwhelming unaffordable. - Students had mixed feelings about guidance from their schools on how to access higher education.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase funding for Minnesota State Grants Programs. - Support diversity and inclusion in all higher education institutes.
Human Rights	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students observe outright discrimination in the schools. Acceptance is an issue in the APM Islander community. - There is sexism in the work place, politics, and military.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be no laws that limit marriage. - There should be more laws to stop harassment and discrimination of any individual.
Human Trafficking	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human trafficking is present even though it is not always visible. - There need to be more work done for the victims of human trafficking;

	focusing on outreach, education, and giving them the support they need to recover from the experience.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the Safe Harbor No Wrong Door legislation to provide funds necessary to protecting rights of victims. - Increase support for organizations to educate their clients the issue of human trafficking.

The youth are the change agents of our future and it is their contributions that will help make Minnesota a better place to live. Attached is a letter a youth wrote to you in hopes that you will consider their perspective and take their recommendations seriously.

The APM Youth Leadership Council (APYC) is a leadership initiative of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, a state agency created by the legislature to advise them and the governor on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

For more information, contact the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans at capm@state.mn.us or contact Sandy Kwan at sandy.kwan@state.mn.us. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kwan
Capacity Development Coordinator

The following is a list of schools of youth attendees:

Southwest Junior High
 Murray Junior High
 Ramsey Junior High School
 John Glenn Middle School
 Champlain Park High School
 Tartan Senior High School
 Washington Tech Magnet School
 Minnetonka High school
 North High School
 Harding High School
 Como Park Senior High
 Eden Prairie High School
 Richardson Elementary
 Woodbury High School
 Central High School
 Brooklyn Park High School
 Park Center High School
 Armstrong High School
 Edina High School
 Richfield High School
 Burnsville High School
 Century College
 Normandale College

Asian Pacific Islander Day at the Capitol “Health & Wellness for All”



Friday, March 22, 2013 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Minnesota State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155

Join over a hundred
community members as
they share their stories
with elected officials.

Together we can rally for
a healthier Minnesota
API community!

OAP Advocacy Training

State Office Building Room 300

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Sign up here: <http://capmdatc2013.eventbrite.com/#>

API Rally

Capitol Rotunda

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This program is offered in partnership with:



Set up an appointment to meet your legislators

Call us at 651-757-1740 or email

Souvan Lee at souvan.lee@state.mn.us

Reading Together Book Launch 2013 Flyer [Click here to go back](#)

2013 Reading Together BOOK LAUNCH October 30, 2013 5:30 p.m.



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

COUNCIL ON
**ASIAN PACIFIC
MINNESOTANS**
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Community members, the [Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans](#), and the Minnesota Humanities Center celebrate the four upcoming titles from the [2013 Reading Together Project](#).

Linh and the Red Envelope
Written by: Diane Tran
Illustrated by: Alex Shimkus

Melody of the Qeej
Written by: Mai Kou Xiong
Illustrated by: Vang Lee

Tawan the Sun Girl
Written by: Chay Douangphouxay
Illustrated by: Alex Kuno

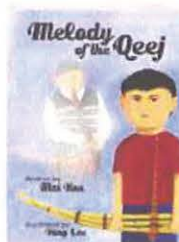
Night Breeze
Written by: Steve Wright
Illustrated by: Ilhwa Gloria Kim



LINH AND THE RED ENVELOPE
by Diane Tran
Illustrated by Alex Shimkus



TAWAN THE SUN GIRL
by Chay Douangphouxay
Illustrated by Alex Kuno



Highlights

- Registrations flooded in! 125 registrations were received 3 weeks before the event. Had to close registration early.
- We allowed authors and illustrators and other close project partners to invite guests after registration closed, resulting in nearly 150 expected guests!
- Over 60 schools and organizations, with over 500 names of teachers and community members have been identified to receive information about how to order books for their community and daily inquiries are still coming in!

Know a school or community organization who would love these titles? Let us know! Contact Elizabeth Fei at 651-772-4244 or elizabethf@mnhum.org

COUNCIL ON
**ASIAN PACIFIC
MINNESOTANS**
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Minnesota Humanities
Center



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

957 IVY AVENUE EAST SAINT PAUL, MN 55106
MNHUM.ORG 651-774-0105

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month Annual Dinner Press Release [Click here to go back](#)

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Sia Her**

April 26, 2013

(651) 757-1740

The Community celebrates May as Asian American and Pacific Islanders' Heritage Month with Dinner and Leadership Awards

ST. PAUL, MN - The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is pleased to once again host, with the support of community, business, and government partners, the annual Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month Dinner. In 1993, to honor the achievements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, Congress, by Public Law 102-450, designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month." The Heritage Month Dinner has since become a tradition for the APM Minnesotan community – each year, it brings together hundreds of community members and leaders from the APM community and the non-profit, faith, government, and business communities.

Dinner will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013 at the Ramada Plaza Minneapolis, 1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The dinner will feature keynote speaker, Colet Lahoz, a pioneer in the practice of holistic medicine in the United States and the founder of the East West Acupuncture Clinic. To honor the achievements of leaders in the APM community, the 2013 APM Leadership Awards will be presented.

Leadership Awards are given to honor, recognize, and celebrate the work of individuals and organizations that have demonstrated continuous commitment to and leadership in the APM Minnesotan community. The Council is pleased to announce this year's recipients:

David Zander, Recipient of the Lifetime Service Award

Dr. Bernard Quebral, MD, Recipient of the Outstanding Community Leadership Service Award

Zafar Siddiqui, Recipient of the Humanitarian Award

The dinner is supported by the financial contributions of businesses and community based non-profits and organizations. Lead sponsors are Blue Cross Blue Shields of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesotan National Guard, ECOLAB, Minnesota Korean Service Center, Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota, Japanese American Citizens League, Think Small, Samoan Organization of Minnesota, and Minnesota Historical Society.

Dinner tickets are \$40.00 each. Please RSVP with Pa Yang at the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans at 651-757-1740 or email to confirm your presence pa.yang@state.mn.us.

[end]

API Leaders' Meeting (w/ MNSure and Commerce) on MNSure

From: Her, Sia (CAPM)
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 3:13 PM
Cc: Vargas, Mario S (DHS)
Subject: API Leaders' Meeting on MNSure

Good Friday afternoon, everyone!

If you are receiving this email, it is because we have confirmed your participation at a meeting of Twin Cities API nonprofit leaders and MNSure. The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM), in partnership with MNSure, is looking forward to seeing you.

Location: Lao Family Community of MN
320 University Avenue West, Saint Paul

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Day: Thursday, July 25th, 2013

Tentative Agenda:

- (1) MNSure Presentation
- (2) Outreach Strategies
- (3) Future RFPs

Confirmed organizations: Lao Assistance Center, SEWA, CAPI, Hmong American Partnership, Korean Service Center, Lao Family Community of MN, Karen Organization of MN, Chinese Social Service Center, Bhutanese Community Organization of MN, Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women, Hmong 18 Clans Council, Asian Media Access, and Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association.

Also, you are welcome to forward to this to other heads of API organizations that are not listed here. We have attempted to reach a good number more, but have yet to hear back from them.

We will send out another email next Tuesday to remind you and provide you with any updates in information pertinent to this meeting.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office at 651-757-1740.

Thank you,

Sia Her | Executive Director
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