



The President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

Commission Subcommittee Summaries

May 2022

Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate, Anti-Discrimination Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

- **Co-Chairs:** Luisa Blue and Kamal Kalsi
- **Members:** Emily Chen, Grace Huang, Daniel Dae Kim, Naheed Qureshi, Smitya Shah, Robert Underwood
- **DFO:** Phoebe Canagarajah

Summary of Meetings and Presentations:

The Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate, Anti-Discrimination Subcommittee meets bi-weekly. Following the Commission’s inaugural meeting on February 3-4, 2022, the Subcommittee met on March 8, March 22, April 5, April 19, April 29, and May 3, 2022. The Subcommittee received presentations from the following subject matter experts who helped to inform their recommendations:

- **Kent Wong, Director of the UCLA Labor Center:** Provided an overview on the history of anti-Asian discrimination, particularly in labor.
- **Hayne Yoon, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice:** Provided an overview of OJP’s grants related to addressing and reporting hate crimes.
- **Amy C. Blasher, Acting Section Chief, Global Law Enforcement Support Section, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services Division, U.S. Department of Justice:** Presented an overview concerning the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting program, the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and hate crimes reporting and training to law enforcement.
- **Eric Fanning, former Secretary of the Army, U.S. Department of Defense:** Presented an overview concerning religious discrimination and wearing articles of faith in the military.
- **Michael Lieberman, Senior Policy Counsel, Southern Poverty Law Center:** Presented an overview on barriers to improving hate crimes reporting within government and law enforcement.

Summary of Recommendations:

The Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate, Anti-Discrimination Subcommittee approved the following three draft recommendations to present at the May 12, 2022, full Commission meeting:

- Recommendation that the Department of Justice conditions federal funding administered by the agency on credible law enforcement participation in the FBI's Hate Crime Statistics Act hate crimes data collection and reporting program.
- Recommendation that all branches of the U.S. military adopt a standardized uniform policy that presumptively allows for religious articles of faith.
- Recommendation that the Commission engage in public-private partnerships to help build a series of PSAs that address anti-Asian hate crimes and promote inclusion and belonging of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities.

Health Equity Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

- **Co-Chairs:** Teresita Batayola, Kerry Doi, Mia Ives-Rublee
- **Members:** Victoria Huynh, Kimberly Chang, Michelle Ka‘uhane
- **Non-Commission Member:** Quyen Ngo-Metzger
- **DFO:** Lanlan Xu

Summary of Meetings:

The Health Equity Subcommittee meets bi-weekly. Following the Commission’s inaugural meeting on February 3-4, 2022, the Subcommittee met on March 2, March 24, April 7, April 21, May 2, and May 5, 2022. The Subcommittee received presentations from the following subject matter experts who helped to inform their recommendations:

- **Trina Dutta, Senior Advisor at Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):** Provided an overview of SAMHSA’s mission, structure, and resources and shared data on mental illness and mental health service use by race/ethnicity. Also discussed resources including the National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health, culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and tools to seek crisis counseling and behavioral health treatment and services.
- **Laura Ebbert, Senior Advisor for Regional Administration, U.S. Environment Protection Agency, Region 9:** Provided a briefing on EPA’s response to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility leak in Hawai‘i, including actions taken by EPA, the Hawai‘i State Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Defense, and other cooperating agencies.
- **Dr. Diana Felton, State Toxicologist, Hawai‘i State Department of Health and Katie Arita-Chang, Acting Communications Director, Hawai‘i State Department of Health:** Provided a briefing on the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Hawai‘i and the history of its 2021 well contamination incident, the status and health impacts of contamination in the drinking water system, and plans for remediation moving forward.
- **Dr. Anne Saw, Past Vice President, Asian American Psychological Association and Associate Professor, DePaul University:** Presented data from the Asian American Needs Assessment Survey, including the rise in psychological distress by race/ethnicity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also discussed the impact of anti-Asian racism during COVID-19 and its relation to health and mental health challenges of Asian Americans, as well as policy recommendations to support the mental health of AA and NHPs.

Summary of Recommendation:

The Health Equity Subcommittee approved one draft recommendation for presentation at the May 12, 2022, full Commission meeting:

- Recommendation that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in coordination with the White House Office of Public Engagement (OPE) and Commission, host a mental health summit focusing on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander mental health.

Immigration and Citizenship Status Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

- **Co-Chairs:** Grace Huang, KaYing Yang
- **Members:** Ajay Bhutoria, Simon Pang, Amy Agbayani, Robert Underwood
- **Ex-Officio Member:** Amanda Baran, Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- **DFO:** Phoebe Canagarajah

Summary of Meetings:

The Immigration and Citizenship Status Subcommittee meets bi-weekly. Following the Commission's inaugural meeting on February 3-4, 2022, the Subcommittee met on March 4, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 3, and May 6, 2022.

The Subcommittee received presentations from the following subject matter experts who helped to inform their recommendations:

- **Quyen Dinh, Executive Director of Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) and Nancy Nguyen, National Campaign Director of Southeast Asian Freedom Network:** Provided an overview of the issues with Southeast Asian deportations.
- **Amanda Baran, Chief of the Office of Policy and Strategy, USCIS, DHS, and Doug Rand, Senior Advisor to the Director, USCIS, DHS:** Provided an overview of USCIS' immigration visa backlogs.
- **Julie M Stufft, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State:** Provided an overview on the reopening of consulates for visa processing and discussed the family-based visa backlog.

Summary of Recommendations:

The Immigration and Citizenship Status Subcommittee approved the following three draft recommendations for presentation at the May 12, 2022, full Commission meeting:

- Recommendation that the DHS USCIS reduce backlog of immigration visas by expanding staffing and modernizing processes to reduce wait times, expanding premium processing services, providing automatic work permit renewals, secure funding, and more

quickly process work permits, travel documents, temporary status extensions, and other immigration applications.

- Recommendation that DHS USCIS and Department of State reduce internal processing times for family green card applications.
- Recommendation that the DHS and Department of State issue new public charge policies that support AA and NHPI immigrant families accessing health and well-being supports, and partner with other federal agencies and community organizations to engage in outreach to AA and NHPI communities about these changes.

Language Access Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

- **Co-Chairs:** Amy Agbayani, Victoria Huynh, Kimberly Chang
- **Members:** Kerry Doi, Grace Huang, Kamal Kalsi, Ajay Bhutoria, Simon Pang
- **Non-Commission Member:** Deeana Jang
- **Ex-officio Member:** Lauren Laglagaron, U.S. Department of Justice
- **DFO:** Larissa Bungo

Summary of Meetings:

The Language Access Subcommittee meets bi-weekly. Following the Commission's inaugural meeting on February 3-4, 2022, the Subcommittee met on March 4, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29, and May 5, 2022. The Subcommittee received presentations from the following subject matter experts who helped to inform their recommendations:

- **Lauren Laglagaron, Attorney, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ):** Provided an overview of LEP.gov, including any known barriers to or recommendations to improve the website; how DOJ works with federal agencies to craft Language Access Plans listed on LEP.gov; and Title VI enforcement, including information about language access complaints DOJ receives.
- **David Munson, Attorney, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau, Policy & Licensing Division, and James Wiley, Attorney Adviser in the Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division:** Provided an overview of the Wireless Emergency Alerts that deliver critical warnings and information over radio and television, Emergency Alert System that delivers critical warnings and information to the public on wireless devices, FCC collaboration with State Emergency Communication Committees (SECCs), and recommendations to expand emergency alerts to limited English proficient communities
- **Justin Knighten, Director, External Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Francesca Ramos, Lead, Language Services Branch in the Disaster Operations Division FEMA Office of External Affairs:** Provided an overview about FEMA's coordination with State Emergency Agencies and how federal dollars are distributed in disaster/emergency situations, and information on how FEMA assesses what language needs exist in areas that have been affected by a disaster.

Summary of Recommendations:

The Language Access Subcommittee approved the following three draft recommendations for presentation at the May 12, 2022, full Commission meeting:

- Recommendation that the Federal government should ensure that emergency/disaster prevention, planning, response, mitigation, and recovery programs are inclusive of and reflect the lived experiences of limited English proficient populations.
- Recommendation that public and emergency alerts should be accessible to persons with limited English proficiency.
- Recommendation that Federal agencies should provide key documents, digital content, and forms on their websites translated into multiple AA and NHPI languages.

Data Disaggregation Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

- **Co-Chairs:** Sarah Min, Raynald Samoa, Robert Underwood
- **Members:** Emily Chen, KaYing Yang
- **Non-Commission Members:** Ninez Ponce, Joseph Keawe Kaholokula
- **DFO:** Lanlan Xu

Summary of Meetings:

The Data Disaggregation Subcommittee meets bi-weekly. Following the Commission's inaugural meeting on February 3-4, 2022, the Subcommittee met on March 10, March 28, April 11, April 18, April 25, May 2, and May 9, 2022.

The Subcommittee received presentations from the following subject matter experts who helped to inform their recommendations:

- **Margo Schwab, Co-chair of the Equitable Data Working Group; Branch Chief for the Statistical and Science Policy, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and a senior science policy analyst at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA):** Provided an overview of OMB's minimum standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, updates on the Equitable Data Working Group, and equitable data investments in President's FY23 Budget.
- **Cynthia Davis Hollingsworth: Program Manager for 2020 Census Data Products and Dissemination, Decennial Census Management Division, U.S. Census Bureau; Nicholas Jones: Director and Senior Advisor of Race and Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau; and Rachel Marks, Chief of the Racial Statistics Branch, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau:** Presented on the collection of Race and Ethnicity Data for the 2020 Census and on updates of the timeline and status of the 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics File.
- **Stephen Blumberg, Director of the Division of Health Interview Statistics and Director of the National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, and Adena Galinsky, Health Statistician of the Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics:** Presented overview of NCHS past work on the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander National Health Interview Survey in 2014, and other ways to collect disaggregated health survey data on the AA and NHPI communities.

- **Doua Thor, Vice President of Strategy and Influence at Sobrato Family Foundation; former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), and Akil Vohra, Executive Director of Asian American Youth Leadership Empowerment and Development; former Director of Strategic Initiatives at WHIAAPI:** Presented lessons learned on the implementation of Commission’s data disaggregation recommendations from the Obama Administration.

Summary of Recommendations:

The Data Disaggregation Subcommittee approved two draft recommendations to present at the May 12, 2022, full Commission meeting:

- We recommend the Office of Management Budget (OMB) update the minimum standards for federal data on race and ethnicity to fulfill its mission to produce full, fair, and accurate data on the status of health, education, labor, immigration, economy, and other vital indicators for all communities in our nation, including AA and NHPI communities.
- The Commission recommends the encouragement of key federal agencies such as the OMB, the U.S. Census Bureau, CMS, and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through administrative support and funding to partner with communities and their advocates to ensure the optimal gathering, reporting and access to AA and NHPI data are relevant and usable by these groups.

Economic Equity Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

- **Co-Chairs:** Ajay Bhutoria, Simon Pang, Smita Shah
- **Members:** Luisa Blue, Kimberly Chang, Kerry Doi, Michelle Ka‘uhane, Kevin Kim, Aijen Poo
- **DFO:** Larissa Bungo

Summary of Meetings:

The Economic Equity Subcommittee meets bi-weekly. Following the Commission’s inaugural meeting on February 3-4, 2022, the Subcommittee met March 4, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29, May 2, and May 4, 2022. The Subcommittee received presentations from the following subject matter experts who helped to inform their recommendations:

- **WHIAANHPI Regional Network National Co-Chairs Janan “Ben” Raju and Paul Chang:** Provided an overview of the Regional Network, efforts to increase awareness and access to economic opportunities, and recommendations for further collaboration between PACAANHPI and the Regional Network for the benefit of AA and NHPI communities.
- **Bharat Ramamurti, Deputy Director, White House National Economic Council:** Shared information about the Administration’s efforts to help small businesses increase access to relief, grow and thrive, including: expanding technical assistance to ensure that AA and NHPI businesses have equitable access to the increased investment in support for small businesses; and efforts to help the long term unemployed find work.
- **Jenny Yang, Director, Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP):** Presented on how the OFCCP looks at data in compliance evaluations, as well as the important work being done to protect AA and NHPIs from discrimination in areas such as pay and hiring discrimination.
- **Julie Wong, Presidential Management Fellow and staff lead for the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Subcommittee on Secretary Walsh’s Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship:** Discussed the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration’s apprenticeship work, with a focus on Registered Apprenticeship Programs as a workforce development tool to increase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility and offered suggestions for increasing AA and NHPI apprentices.

- **Janis Bowdler, Racial Equity Counselor, U.S. Department of Treasury:** Provided information on what the Department of Treasury is doing to promote economic equity for AA and NHPIs, including information on grants and investments to CDFIs and MDIs who in turn provide loans. Ms. Bowdler also discussed SSBCI program that provides grants to states who then provide funds to partners who will provide loans or equity investments.

Summary of Recommendations:

The Economic Equity Subcommittee approved two draft recommendations for presentation at the May 12, 2022, full Commission meeting:

- Recommendation to host forums in several cities across the country, entitled *WHIAANHPI and White House AA and NHPI Economic Summits*.
- Recommendation to increase the share of federal contract dollars that go to small, disadvantaged businesses (SDBs) to 20% by 2025.