

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



**Ohio Asian American Pacific
Islander Advisory Council**

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INTRODUCTION & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The 2015 Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the Ohio Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Council (OAAPIAC) in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies as well as with the diverse Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) communities and community-based organizations (CBOs) from across the State of Ohio. The report also serves as the roadmap for the work of the OAAPIAC for 2016 and beyond.

Executive Summary

During 2015, the OAAPIAC focused on:

- Developing strong relationships with major state agencies that work with AAPI communities;
- Engaging AAPI communities across the State of Ohio to inform on OAAPIAC's mission and goals;
- Collaborating with AAPI CBOs, federal and local agencies; and
- Raising visibility of AAPI communities and their issues among the wider population.

In recognition of the State's current priorities, OAAPIAC paid close attention to the areas of commercialization of technology and human trafficking. Commercialization is a cross-cutting issue. It impacts Ohio's ability to retain talented foreign-born researchers and academicians; highlights an opportunity to improve on the State's competitive edge to strengthen its economy; and defines a gap where AAPIs can be better connected to information, resources and opportunities. Human trafficking is another area that deeply affects AAPIs in Ohio especially when it comes to economic and sex trafficking. There is a strong recognition for how the AAPI community can be better engaged in prevention and in identification of trafficking activities in their communities.

We look forward to continued opportunities to improve the health and well-being of Ohio's AAPI community so they can be important contributors to the vitality of the State.

Respectfully yours,



Michael Byun, MPA
Chair

**OAAPIAC MEMBERS
BRIEF HISTORY
MISSION
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Advisory Council Members

Michael Byun, MPA	Cora Munoz, PhD, RN
Tom Chung, PhD	Rebecca Nelson, MA
Vi Huynh, MHA	Bounthanh Phommasathit, MS
Ron Katsuyama, PhD	Radhika Reddy, MA, MIS, MBA
Yung-Chen Lu, PhD	

Brief History

On September 27, 2007, Governor Ted Strickland issued a Directive Order to establish the Ohio Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Council (OAAPIAC). On June 9, 2010, OAAPIAC partnered with the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition to co-sponsor the first ever AAPI Legislative Day with representation from over 300 people at the State House. The event included a keynote from Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs. On May 27, 2011, during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Governor John Kasich issued an Executive Order 2011-09K to re-establish the OAAPIAC. To date, OAAPIAC has been active on a number of fronts to raise visibility of the AAPI community and to advance policies and practices that address the health and well-being of the AAPI community in the State of Ohio.

Mission

The Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council promotes Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI's) rights and well-being through education and mobilization of all stakeholders including AAPI communities, government agencies, and Ohio society in general.

Acknowledgments

Morgan Barnes	Suparna Bhaskaran	Cora Munoz
Vi Huynh	Yung-Chen Lu	Nancy Pyon
Rebecca Nilson	Asafu Suzuki	Bounthanh Phommasathit
Arlene de Silva	Kathy Chen	

Annual Report Designed by Mee Vue

ECONOMIC/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMMERCIALIZATION

At the July 21, 2015 meeting of the OAAPIAC, Charles See, Assistant Deputy Chancellor of External Relations from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, shared information about the State's Commercialization Initiatives. Commercialization is a top priority statewide.

In 2012 and 2013, the Ohio Board of Regents (now the Ohio Department of Higher Education) issued two reports on the status of commercialization within Ohio's institutions of higher education. Key findings showed in 2012, that Ohio ranked sixth nationally in total research funding, but 25th in terms of innovation readiness. The amount of funded research in the vast majority of cases was not resulting in commercialization.



Assistant Deputy Chancellor See shared resources for research faculty, such as I-Corps@Ohio, to better educate and extend outreach on the commercialization process. He also talked about

commercialization initiatives that focus on engineering and biomedical industries. An example is the Ohio Healthcare Innovation Alliance, where the Chancellor John Carey hired Cleveland Clinic Innovations to perform an "Innovation Diagnostic" of universities and organizations to determine the level of commercialization infrastructure and process, and to assess collaboration among institutions to fast track commercialization.

The OAAPIAC determined that there are many foreign-born or international graduate students who have the opportunity to contribute to Ohio's economic vitality but do not stay in Ohio. The reasons are complex and varied. One primary obstacle is that institutions and businesses do not fully understand how to sponsor a work visa to keep talent in Ohio; and regions in Ohio, especially in major cities, lack the soft infrastructure (e.g. Asian-specific services found in larger, more diverse metropolitans like New York City or San Francisco) to keep talent in Ohio.

“ The OAAPIAC is committed to sharing these new resources and information offered by Assistant Deputy Chancellor See with the broader AAPI community and to engage in further dialogue with them. ”

ECONOMIC/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SMALL BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

One important pathway to self-sufficiency in the AAPI community is small business ownership, and the growth rate of AAPI small business owners continues to increase over time. According to the U.S. Census, the number of U.S. businesses owned by people of Asian background increased 40.4% (1.5 million) from 2002 to 2007, increasing at more than twice the national rate. These businesses generated \$507.6 billion in receipts, a 55.4% increase from 2002.



A great AAPI small-business success story is Toledo-based, Magic Wok, and its owner, Sutas Pipatjarasgit. Sutas is an immigrant from Thailand. He and his wife Nucharee came to the United States with a suitcase and \$300 in his pocket. He began his restaurant in a small food court in Franklin Park Mall in the Toledo area. Like many entrepreneurs, Sutas experienced a lot of failures until he finally found the right business, Magic Wok, which delivers fresh and healthy Thai food. There are now 13 Magic Wok restaurants across Ohio and Michigan.

Cities like Cleveland, Dayton, and Columbus, are beginning to capitalize on the diversity to ignite local economic development opportunities. An example is the efforts of St. Clair Superior Community Development and the Asian community to brand a neighborhood in Cleveland as AsiaTown and to support local business and other economic activities. Additionally, we continue to see China and India, among other countries, as key places for international trade opportunities for Ohio businesses, especially those businesses run by Asian Americans.

On August 20th, the OAAPIAC, in collaboration with the White House Initiative on AAPIs along with the State, Cuyahoga County, and the City of Cleveland agencies, held the New American Business Bootcamp drawing over 200 participants. The event focused on linking information and resources to Asian small business and those who were interested or currently involved in international trade business with Asian countries. Featured speakers included: Gil Goldberg, U.S. Small Business Administration, Daryl Hennessy, Development Services Agency, State of Ohio, Nathan Kelly, Department of Development, Cuyahoga County, and Tracey Nichols, Department of Economic Development, City of Cleveland.

ECONOMIC/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SMALL BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE cont.

This event's success indicates a strong demand and need for small business outreach and technical assistance and continued efforts in trade relations with Asian countries. A similar event to the New American Business Bootcamp is planned for early 2016 and will be organized by the Columbus Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

The OAAPIAC members met with the Director of Governor's Office Workforce Transformation (OWT) and an Export Assistance Program Specialist from the Development Services Agency (DSA) in April. The meeting allowed for information exchange and ways to better link DSA and OWT's programs and initiatives to Ohio's AAPI population.

“ The OAAPIAC members are also engaged or actively supportive of a number of community-based groups and individuals who are working with AAPI entrepreneurs and international trade. ”

OAAPIAC members hosted a Chinese delegate in October. This was in partnership with the Chinese Commerce Group, which was established in March of 2015. TiE Ohio, based in the Columbus area, recently partnered with Rev1 Ventures to provide free mentoring to start-ups. TiE, in partnership with the City of Dublin, held other engagements focused on culture, business, and community within the Indian, Chinese and Korean communities. Ohio-based, Laonei Global Trade Consulting, its president, Eric McGraw, a boomeranger, established an informal gathering called Beer and Guanxi Columbus to help build stronger China-US ties that may lead to business and other economic opportunities.

HEALTH ISSUE & HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Health and health care issues have been a core part of OAAPIAC's work. Several of the OAAPIAC members come from this field and have contributed their expertise towards addressing health disparities in disease areas prevalent among AAPIs, like hepatitis B; mental health; health care access in the face of language and cultural barriers; and victim's issues associated with human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault. OAAPIAC partnered with the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition (OAAHC) this year for their seventh annual health conference held on June 20th at The Global Center for Health Innovation in Cleveland. OAAPIAC partnered again with OAAHC for the fifth annual AAPI Legislative Day on October 20th at the State House where health and health care were major agenda items. This year's AAPI Legislative Day drew over 100 individuals from across the state for a day of interaction between AAPIs and state policymakers.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The issue of human trafficking is a high priority for Ohio's Asian American and Pacific Islander community and for OAAPIAC. AAPIs in Ohio's major cities are faced with the dangers of: trafficking for forced labor; women for the purpose of sexual exploitation; and people smuggling.

On September 21, 2015, members of the OAAPIAC attended a community forum titled, "Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery" organized by Columbus-based, Asian American Community Services. OAAPIAC members also attended a meeting with the Columbus City Council hosted by Zach Klein and participated in the Columbus Police Academy Human Trafficking public awareness event. The OAAPIAC along with AAPI community serving agencies worked with the Governor's office to develop Chinese language posters that were distributed to AAPI communities across the state.

In October 2015, Asian Services In Action convened AAPI leaders, community advocates, and community-based organizations to create the Ohio AAPI Sexual Assault Coalition



HEALTH ISSUE & HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HUMAN TRAFFICKING cont.

(OASAC). OASAC is led by a regional anchors from Akron/Cleveland (Asian Services In Action), Cincinnati (Asian Community Alliance) and Columbus (Asian-American Community Services) who in turn work in collaboration with other local agencies and group. This creates a broader, more comprehensive network of partners to address human trafficking. OASAC and its members coordinate their efforts with the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force (OHTTF), and the Ohio Attorney General Office (OAG). OASAC meets regularly to coordinate outreach activities and victim's services. Here are highlights of each anchor group and their local efforts.

Columbus-based, AACS is the primary AAPI-specific human trafficking program in Ohio and is working with other AAPI organizations in the state on sexual assault and other related programs. They have launched the Youth Ambassador Program, a partnership with ACA in Cincinnati and ASIA in Akron/Cleveland. The program trains young people to be leaders to speak out against human trafficking and to mobilize the community to prevent human trafficking. The program also provides training focused on prevention of human trafficking for Youth Ambassadors and staff at partner agencies.

AACS offered anti human-trafficking training to interpreters and community members and arranged for OASAC members to receive specialized service providers training on Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs) presented by the Polaris Project.

Cincinnati's Asian Community Alliance's Project HOPE (Helping Our People through Empowerment) held a human trafficking prevention event on May 14th and Cincinnati's Asian Community Alliance's Project HOPE (Helping Our People through Empowerment) held a human trafficking prevention event on May 14th and 15th at Washington Park. Five youth ambassadors, ACA staff,



HEALTH ISSUE & HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HUMAN TRAFFICKING cont.

and board members, contributed to over 250 attendees present. Project Hope provides education, training, and crisis intervention to Asian American victims, witnesses, and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and elder abuse. It provides a dedicated and helpful staff focused on connections to community resources and culturally relevant services.

Additionally, Ohio AAPI community-based organizations are deeply involved in victim's issue beyond human trafficking. Domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are other pervasive concerns. Organizations like Asian Services In Action, provide comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault services to AAPI women in Northeast Ohio, and smaller AAPI groups, such as Salaam Cleveland, fulfill a unique niche of access to AAPI Muslim women. One notable development in the community is a South Asian women's group in Columbus: ASHA Ray of Hope. ASHA received their first VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funds, enabling them to hire for the first time, two full-time staff to implement innovative culturally specific programs like Chai Chat, and conduct outreach using theater to address the sensitive topic of DV/SA in the South Asian community.

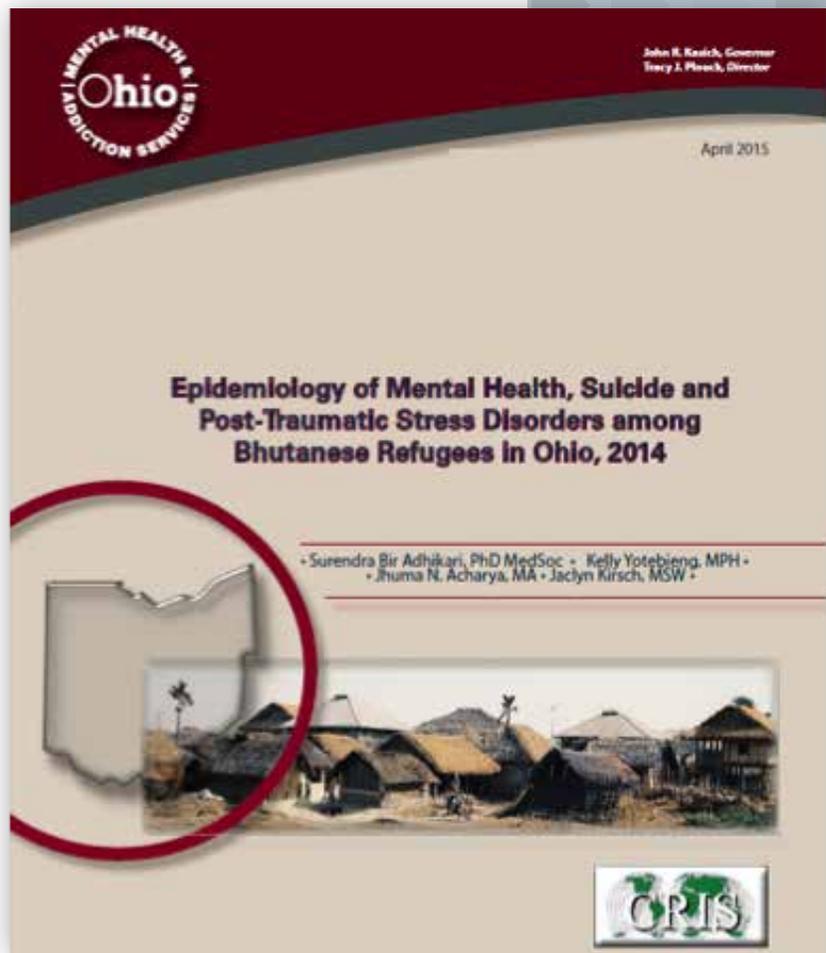
As OASAC continues to work in partnership with OAAPIAC, key recommendations have emerged:

- Need for community forums and educational sessions that include Asian sub-group language and culture.
- Need for certified professional interpreters specializing in human trafficking and victim's issues, and the funds for community-based organizations to hire them.
- Improved data collection on human trafficking in AAPI communities.
- Continued support of a partnership within AAPI community organizations in collaboration with the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force.
- Victim's support that includes immigration assistance given the perceived stigma for victims who receive a T-Visa/U-Visa (that it is not a "scarlet letter"); and culturally and linguistically relevant housing, food, financial planning, medical, job, skills training assistance.
- Victim empowerment to counter misinformation provided by traffickers and information regarding their rights and the services that are available to them.

HEALTH ISSUE & HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

MENTAL HEALTH

Since the arrival of Bhutanese refugees to the State of Ohio (which by some conservative estimates number nearly 20,000 across the state) there have been alarming incidences of suicide and suicide attempts in this population. The State Office of Refugee Resettlement, along with community-based refugee resettlement organizations across the state, are taking action to respond. The Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland worked with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County to complete a regional needs assessment. The Refugee Health Taskforce led by Summit County Public Health, established the Refugee Mental Health Subcommittee to develop a coordinated systems response. In addition to these regional efforts, Dr. Surendra bir Adhikari of Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, released a state report focused on the epidemiology of Bhutanese refugees, the presence of mental health issues, and incidences of suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder among this community.

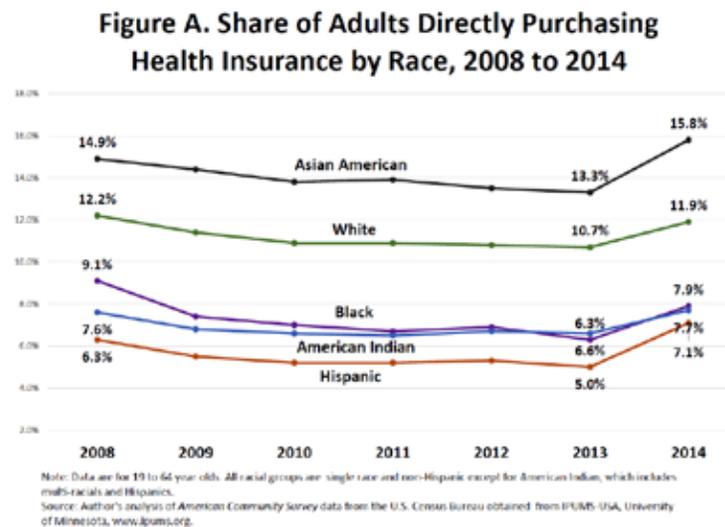


HEALTH ISSUE & HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

MEDICAID EXPANSION

With the passage of the Medicaid expansion in late 2013, AAPIs across the country and in the State of Ohio had the greatest gain in terms of health care access and coverage. This is according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and an analysis conducted by Dr. Algernon Austin, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Global Policy Solutions.

Figure A shows the rate of enrollment in directly purchased health insurance for adults by race from 2008 to 2014. Asian Americans have the highest rate. For all groups, direct-purchase insurance rates were on a downward trend until 2013, when the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act went into effect. In 2014, the rates rose for all groups, but Asian Americans' rate demonstrated the steepest growth. It is not clear why Asian Americans



might use the marketplaces more than other groups. It could be because of the high rate of small business ownership among this group. As small business owners, many of them may not be able to afford a company health insurance

policy, but they may have enough income to purchase health insurance as individuals. There is also evidence that AAPI organizations have been particularly effective in outreach on the Affordable Care Act.

Cleveland/Akron-based Asian Services In Action has led this effort in partnership with Columbus-based Asian American Community Services and Cincinnati-based, Asian Community Alliance. Funds were received from Center for Medicaid and Medicare with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks as the lead recipients who then sub-granted to partners like ASIA. The partners together conducted 79 outreach events, reached 1,194 individuals, and assisted 258 households enroll into qualified health plans. This included assistance to 952 individuals to apply for Medicaid. Close to 500 individuals provided required interpreting services, critical to the success of reaching a large number of AAPI in the state. The OAAPIAC worked with these groups to assist in outreach to different pockets of communities across the State.

ARTS, CULTURE, & EDUCATION

ARTS & CULTURE

Advisory Members actively participate, and in many cases plan and coordinate with other AAPI community leaders in a variety of culture and arts festivals across the state. These events take place during the month-long national celebration in May which is known as Asian

Pacific American Heritage Month. They highlight the arts, cultures, food, and performances of the diverse nationalities represented in the AAPI community. The events have also been an economic driver bringing people and dollars into cities like Cleveland and Columbus from the surrounding regions. For example, the Cleveland Asian Festival drew over 25,000 people during the weekend and nearly \$2 million was spent in the community. The Columbus Asian Festival, which is a larger event, drew 180,000 people with over \$10 million in economic activity during the two days during the Memorial holiday weekend.



The Cleveland and Columbus Asian Festivals have inspired other activities. The Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival and the Columbus Dragon Boat Race are recurring annual events. The former is an incorporated 501c3 nonprofit. This year also marked the first ever in the State of Ohio, The Cleveland Night Market. The event took place over three separate summer nights and was inspired by the very popular night markets found across Asia. In December, the first Asian History Exhibit was showcased at Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus.

AAPI culture are also integrated into larger, more multi-ethnic, festivals across the state. A World A'fair in Dayton celebrated its 42nd year. The Global Village Festival of Greater Akron celebrated its fourth year of operation at downtown Akron's Lock 3.

ARTS, CULTURE, & EDUCATION

EDUCATION

AAPI groups throughout the state, provide educational programs that focus on academic achievement, acculturation, and leadership development. Data shows that the national graduation average of Asian American boys is 79.2% compared to 51.9% for African American, 58.1% for Hispanic, and 76.1% for Caucasian. However, when more closely examining and disaggregating Asian American graduation data, you see a different picture. Take for example GED completion program data which shows an 81% completion rate for African Americans and 86% for Asian Americans (Education Week's Diploma Count 2012). Within the Asian American sub-groups however, Hmong Americans only have a 61% completion rate (2007-2009 U.S. Census).



Acquiring a high school diploma and other educational milestones are especially difficult to achieve for Asian refugees that come to the state. AAPI community-based organizations are supporting these individuals to make progress towards academic success and acculturation.

ARTS, CULTURE, & EDUCATION

EDUCATION cont.

In Cleveland, Asian Services In Action, serves nearly 300 immigrant and refugee youth in the City of Lakewood with strong support from the city, school district, and a number of mainstream local volunteer groups. The students come from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, China, Iraq, Somalia, The Republic of Congo, Russia, and other countries. ASIA's Akron program reached more than 150 students each. Program services encompassed education prep from pre-K to young adults graduating high school or passing the GED. In Columbus, Asian American Community Services' Healthy Asian Youth (HAY) provides tutoring, mentoring, leadership, and other educational services to 140 at-risk kids grades K-12. A six-year evaluation showed HAY increased scores in English and math by 25% for 70% of its participants. Private foundations such as local United Ways along with local private foundations such as area United Way along with public agencies like the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services boards are important partners.

MOVING FORWARD IN 2016-2017

MOVING FORWARD

For 2016 and beyond, OAAPIAC will increase efforts to convene more regional listening and engagement sessions. While the nine-member OAAPIAC has been very active in the community, there is still an opportunity for raising awareness in the AAPI community on what OAAPIAC does. OAAPIAC also recognizes and will continue to relay critical information from the AAPI community back to the Governor's office. These include issues and concerns, but also opportunities for the AAPI community to support economic and social vitality of the State as a whole.