



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Yasmin Padamsee

Forbes

One Ashburton

Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Meeting Notes

Monthly AAPIC Program & Research Subcommittee Meetings

Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6603360175>

Meeting ID: 660 336 0175

May 9, 2024 11:15 AM

The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law

*Meetings occur on the first Wednesday of every month

	Program & Research Subcommittee Team Members	AAPIC Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia (Chair) Commissioner Dr. Ekta Srinivasa Commissioner Amy Goh Commissioner Karen Chen Commissioner Moana Bentin Commissioner Dr. Richard Chu Commissioner Jennifer Rubin Commissioner Marilyn Park Yasmin Padamsee Forbes Shubhechha Dhaurali
Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes One Ashburton Place 12th Floor Boston, MA 02108 aapicommission.org	Aim	Spearhead our community engagement and research efforts, ensuring we stay connected and informed about the community's needs. The tag, "Engage & Insight," highlights our commitment to engaging with our community and gaining insights through research.
	Focus Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Health, Education2. Youth Council3. Pacific Islanders4. Western Mass5. Listening Sessions6. Tracking impact of programs7. Conducting Surveys



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In Attendance: Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia (Chair), Commissioner Marilyn Park, Commissioner Jennifer Rubin, Commissioner Amy Goh, Commissioner Dr. Richard Chu, and Shubhechha Dhaurali

Agenda & Notes

1. Discussion from subcommittee chair Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia
 - a. Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia
 - i. Keeping in alignment for the strategic plan in place- in service for community and state (North Star)
 - ii. Connect governmental agencies and organizations in community
 - iii. Explore: Prestigious name of AAPI - some organizations have trouble finding interns - can have interns apply through us, and funnel interested candidates to the appropriate organizations
 - iv. Commissioners have the ability to hold **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
 1. Speaking to state departments and other leaders to see how our findings can be addressed
 2. Can invite other members in Monthly commission meeting, hosting in-person, or just having Zoom
 3. Hold a listening session, setting up a public hearing to discuss with important representatives involved (i.e. MCAS problems discussion with Dept. of Education in MA)
 4. Use information from hearing and discuss what we learned, how it impacts community, and discuss recommendations we have
 - b. Commissioner Marilyn Park
 - i. Integration is clear in the different parts of the commission's projects/programs
 - ii. Agrees the public hearings are an excellent idea to take-action on listening sessions
 - iii. Benefits Commissioners and purpose for the Commission
 - c. Commissioner Rubin
 - i. Conveying what we learned and what that community needs to the legislators that represent that area I think could work very well. Us being a conduit and gathering their needs and putting that in writing to the legislator could make a huge difference. It puts them on formal



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notice that these constituents need certain things from the people that are supposed to be representing them.

- ii.
2. What do we want this subcommittee to be? Commissioner discussion
3. Current programs/research
 - a. Youth Council
 - b. Survey
 - c. Small Grants
 - d. Listening sessions/potential of hearings
 - e. Pacific Islander programming
 - f. Western Mass programming
4. Interest in requesting CHES Data- look specifically at AAPI population ([link](#))
 - a. Yes!
5. Event: AAPIsCan Data Equity Meeting, Thursday, May 16 4:00 – 5:00pm
 - a. A roundtable discussion on data equity, wealth, and narrative shifting in the AAPI community
 - b. When: Thursday, May 16 at 4pm
 - c. Where: Tufts Medical Center, 35 Kneeland 8th Floor Conference Room // Zoom
 - d. Register: Zoom -
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kceysqzlsHNRw69OEzjyxklswYg5S91Uq>

Action Items

- [] @Shubhechha Dhaurali - Send request form to CHES for API-specific data
- [] @Shubhechha Dhaurali - Share key takeaways from past listening sessions for potential public hearing topics
- [] @Shubhechha Dhaurali - Schedule next subcommittee meeting to discuss public hearing process and proposals
- [] Review strategic plan documents and past meeting notes

Outline

Subcommittee plans and small grants for community organizations.

- Saatvik Ahluwalia suggests aligning subcommittee goals with strategic



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plan to maximize efficiency.

- Saatvik Ahluwalia suggests using the organization's prestigious name to attract interns for community organizations.
- Ahluwalia and the committee aim to collaborate locally to improve their current efforts and explore new ideas.

Using public hearings to gather community input and address API concerns.

- Marilyn Park and Saatvik Ahluwalia discuss the Suffolk County Youth Council's priorities and how they can be integrated and woven together.
- Saatvik Ahluwalia suggests conducting public hearings to understand the community's needs and work with state departments to address them.
- Saatvik Ahluwalia suggests using public hearings to gather feedback from constituents and invite legislators to attend.
- Marilyn Park and Shubhechha Dhaurali agree, with Shubhechha suggesting tailoring the hearing to specific groups like the Asian Association.
- Saatvik Ahluwalia suggests using listening sessions to gather information and hold government accountable (11:30)
- Marilyn Park agrees, adding that commissioners should ask pointed questions for good discussion and information gathering (12:35)

Survey data for Asian American and Pacific Islander groups in Massachusetts.

- Subcommittee discusses holding public hearings and using C H. E. S data to create actionable steps for change.
- Shubhechha Dhaurali and 12157566683 discuss analyzing survey data on Asian Americans and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in Massachusetts.
- Discussion on analyzing data from a survey on the experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islander groups.

Data disaggregation policy and public hearings for health equity.

- Shubhechha Dhaurali and Saatvik Ahluwalia discuss data disaggregation policy in Massachusetts.
- Commissioners discuss strategic plan and holding public hearings to address community issues.
- Third graders in the US take a standardized test that consumes a month



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of their school year.

- Shubhechha Dhaurali and Saatvik Ahluwalia discuss public hearings for low-income housing and healthcare access.

Strategic Priorities & Programs and Research

1. Strategic Plan Updates [AAPI Strategic Priorities 2024-2026 FINAL DRAFT.docx](#)
 - a. Health, Education
 - i. Past focus: mental health [2 Health & Human Services Subcommittee](#)
 - b. Youth Council [Drive](#)
 - i. Addresses **Strategic Priority 1:** Elevate the voices of AAPI individuals who call Massachusetts home by building clear accountability and the fair distribution of resources to achieve equitable outcomes.
 - i. Elevating Youth Voice through the Youth Council - By **December 2024**, re-think how to meaningfully integrate Youth Council members into Commission activities, such as participating in annual in-person meetings with Asian Caucus members.
 - a. New program
 - i. [YC Manual](#)
 - ii. [AAPIC Youth Council Manual Fall 2024 - Spring 2025](#)
 - iii. [Ashley + Shubhechha YC Meeting Notes](#)
 - i. Pacific Islanders
 1. [Brissa & Shubhechha Meetings](#)
 - c. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3-** Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Increase connections in all regions of the state - By **June 2025** and ongoing, develop a long-term plan to strengthen partnerships with Cape and Islands, Northshore, Southshore, and Central MA
 - i. Pacific Islanders
 1. [Brissa & Shubhechha Meetings](#)
 - d. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3-** Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Increase connections in all regions of the state - By December 2024 and ongoing strengthen partnerships with communities in Western MA.
 - i. Western Mass [Drive](#)
 1. [Shubhechha & Evan Meetings](#)



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2. [AAPIC Western Mass Meetings Qualitative/Thematic Analysis](#)
- e. **Strategic Priority 2** - Increase visibility of AAPI Commission and its work by giving a public voice to issues the community cares about
 - i. Listening Sessions
 1. [AAPIC Listening Sessions Toolkit](#)
 2. [AAPIC Listening Session Qualitative Analysis 2024](#)
- f. Conducting Surveys
 - i. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3**- Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Build partnerships with research institutions (e.g. University of Massachusetts Boston, state agencies) to gather annual data on the Massachusetts AAPI community
 - ii. UMass Boston x AAPI Survey
 1. [Survey AAPIC x UMB](#)
- g. Tracking impact of programs
 - i. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3**- Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Strengthen partnerships with community organizations
 1. **Deadline:** By **June 2024**, complete an analysis of which groups have applied for small grants in the past and make an outreach plan.
 - a. Small Grants
 - i. [2023 AAPI Small Grant Outcomes.pptx](#)
 - ii. [2022 AAPI Small Grant Outcomes..pptx](#)
 - b. [Measuring Small Grants Outcomes](#)
 - c. EC Funding
 - i. [EC & Subcommittees Funding Log 2023-2024](#)

Previous 04/03 Meeting Summary:

Yasmin, ED, initiated a discussion among the commissioners regarding the frequency and purpose of their meetings. Commissioner Amy Goh expressed uncertainty about the decisions to be made, making it difficult to determine meeting frequency. Commissioner Jennifer Rubin suggested monthly meetings with email updates for those on multiple committees, rescheduling if there are no action items. They agreed on setting monthly meetings, with the option to cancel if unnecessary. Commissioner Goh proposed sending meeting reminders and distributing agendas beforehand. Additionally, Commissioner Goh mentioned applying for a DPH grant on perinatal birth outcomes, while



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Commissioner Rubin raised the possibility of voting by email to avoid tight deadlines. However, Yasmin emphasized the need for a full commission vote on the matter.



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