



Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

BIENNIAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET PRESENTATION 1988/1989

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Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

I. AGENCY MISSION

The Council was created by the Laws of 1985, Special Session, Chapter 13, Section 68 to ensure that Asians are more fully incorporated into the governmental and the policy making process; to create improved access to government programs and services; assist Asian-Pacific Minnesotans in understanding and influencing legislation and administrative policy; promote the talents and resources of the Asian-Pacific community where appropriate; and provide increased opportunities for communication between Asians and Non-Asians. Attachment No. 1 is a copy of the law creating the Council.

II. AGENCY OPERATIONS

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans has 13 members, 9 of which are appointed by the Governor and are broadly representative of the ethnic and geographic diversity of the Asian-Pacific community in Minnesota. Two members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate serve as nonvoting members of the Council. Attachment No. 2 is a Directory of the present Council Members.

III. AGENCY OFFICE

The Council office is located at the Summit National Bank Building, 205 Aurora Avenue, Suite 100 in Saint Paul, MN, which is one block away from the State Office Building.

IV. AGENCY CLIENTELE

The Council represents the interests of over 55,000 Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. Included in this number the Council serves as an advocate for the needs of over 30,000 refugees. The Asian-Pacific family comes from 38 different communities namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, Gilbert Islands, Guam, Hmong, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Khmer, Korea, Laos, Malaysia,

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Agency Clientele (continued)

Maldivé Islands, Maoris (Australia and New Zealand), Marianas, Melanesia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, New Guinea, Okinawa, Pakistan, Philippines, Polynesia, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet, Tonga, and Vietnam. In addition, there are many adopted children in Minnesota from Asia and the Pacific.

V. FIRST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS: MAJOR INITIATIVESA. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Heritage Center

Each year the Council confers Outstanding Asian-Pacific Leadership Awards to Asian Pacific Minnesotans who have demonstrated distinguished services to the community in several categories such as - government, business, education, social services, refugee services, science and technology, performing arts, literature to mention a few. The First Annual Leadership Awards were conferred on Leeann Chin, Rochester Mayor Chuck Hazama, Duc Q. Lam, Gaoly Yang and Lo Vang. In addition, the Heritage Center publicizes numerous cultural and social events sponsored by Asian-Pacific Minnesotans community organizations.

B. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Citizenship Preparation Center

The Council sponsored the first "Meet Your Candidates Night" at the Famous Prom in Saint Paul, MN and invited every candidate for statewide public office to meet members of the Asian-Pacific Community. The Center conducts voter education and voter registration programs. The Center sponsored two free workshops on federal and state tax preparation conducted in 4 Asian languages. The Center co-sponsored a workshop with the Urban Concerns, Inc. on the legislative process in Minnesota at the State Capitol.

C. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Small Business Opportunities Center

The Council created the Center to assist Asian-Pacific Minnesotans to achieve "self-sufficiency." The Center conducted two free Small Business Development Seminars in Rochester and Saint Paul in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration

D. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Employment Center

The Council created the Center to promote "self-determination" among the Asian-Pacific Community. At the General Mills' invitation, the Council's Executive Director met with 25 major corporations to establish the Asian-Pacific Job Market. With the assistance of the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training, the Center developed a Job Bank which matches the skills of qualified Asian-Pacific individuals with job vacancies in the public and private sector.

Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Employment Center (continued)

The Center, under the sponsorship of The University of Minnesota presented a "Breakfast with the Experts" workshop on "Employing Asians: Inter-and-Intra-cultural Differences" at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs attended by 40 personnel and affirmative action officers from the private and public sectors. The Center is currently conducting a "Job Search Workshop" with the assistance of 3M management.

E. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Leadership Center

With a view towards harnessing the untapped human resources of the Asian-Pacific Community, the Council established the Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Leadership Center composed of the chairpersons, presidents and executive directors of various Asian-Pacific Community Organizations. The Center serves as the network to advise, to communicate, to inform, to facilitate, to expedite, to identify needs and, most importantly, to provide solutions to problems facing the community in areas such as employment, housing, food, education, social and refugee services, training, health, community development, economic development, political involvement, and international trade and commerce, to mention a few.

F. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Economic Development Center

The Asian-Pacific Community provides the economic foundation for the growth and development of Minnesota. The record indicate that 18 Minnesota Companies are doing business with CHINA, 37 JAPANESE Companies are doing business in Minnesota, 61 Minnesota Companies are doing business in KOREA, 33 Minnesota Companies are doing business in TAIWAN, 51 TAIWANESE Companies represent Minnesota Firms, and 427 Minnesota Companies are doing business with JAPAN - a total of 627 Asian-Pacific and Minnesota businesses engaged in international trade and commerce. With the development of our Council's Economic Development Center, we plan to support the activities of the Minnesota Department of Economic Development, Minnesota Trade Office, Minnesota World Trade Center and serve as the economic advocate for re-newed trade missions, increased export and import programs, and Minnesota-Pacific Rim International Conferences including scientific and cultural exchange.

G. Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Advocacy Center

To "discuss and debate", to "secure community input", to conduct "public hearings", to sponsor "town hall meetings", to present "community forums", to "prioritize needs", these and related activities are the legitimate tasks of The Advocacy Center. The Center's achievements are as follows: (Partial list only)

Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Advocacy Center (continued)

1. Conducted state-wide public hearings in 5 cities - Rochester, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Saint Cloud and Duluth representing 27 hours of public oral testimony, transcribed in 800 pages (verbatim) as presented by more than 150 individuals covering over 234 issues. The Advocacy Center analyzed and prioritized the recommendations into - a. Legislative Recommendations and b. Administrative Recommendations. The "administrative recommendations will be implemented through "in-house" tasks. Attachment No.3 is a copy of our legislative recommendations transmitted to the leadership of the Senate and the House of Representatives and our legislative representatives;
2. Co-sponsored with the Minnesota Asian Advocacy Coalition the first state-wide Conference on Asian-Pacific Issues in Minnesota;
3. Conducted a Community Forum regarding the future of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and presented testimony before the Joint Senate Committees on Judiciary and Government Operations;
4. Conducted a letter writing campaign to our U.S. Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Department of State, the White House opposing the closing of the refugee camps in Thailand and the proposed federal policy change on the status of refugees;
5. Publicized the availability of positions in Minnesota appointive boards, commissions, and councils in accordance with the Open Appointments Act;
6. Worked with the Minority Councils and the State Planning Agency on improved minority data collection with the issuance of the Governor's Executive Order;
7. Participation in the State-wide Affirmative Action Committee to ensure equal opportunity in the personnel management process;
8. Participation in the American Red Cross' Disaster Stress Intervention Training Program;
9. Translation of Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board financial aid program from English to Hmong - the first activity ever undertaken in the nation;
10. Participation in the Saint Paul Area Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness.

VI. BUDGET ISSUES

1. The Council was authorized a complement of three positions and a \$75.0 per year General Fund appropriation.
2. In FY 1986 the Council, due to budgetary savings, returned \$7,500 to the general treasury. We were not allowed to "carry over" this amount to our FY 1987. Thus, the budget for FY 1986 was only \$67,500.00.
3. In FY 1987, the Council's budget is \$75,000.00. This funding level is totally inadequate to operate an effective minority council for one year. Only two employees (Executive Director and Clerk Typist) and a part-time consultant have been hired because the FY 1987 provides a minimum funding for these salaries, expenses for the board, and office rent. There is virtually no budget for communications, technical assistance, travel, publications, supplies, printing, or other services needed to effectively carry out the Council's responsibilities as mandated by the 1985 legislation.
4. By comparison, the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council is also authorized for three positions and is funded at \$134.3 per year. Also, the Council on Black Minnesotans which is authorized for 3.5 positions is funded at \$148.7.
5. The Council is requesting a CHANGE LEVEL for FY 1988 with an additional funding of \$76.7 which will provide the resources necessary to operate an effective program for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.
6. The Council is requesting a CHANGE LEVEL for FY 1989 for \$162.0. It is critical that the Council continues to represent the Asian-Pacific Community and work to incorporate them into the main stream of life in the State of Minnesota.
7. The Governor's Recommendation is to fund the Council at \$81.6 for FY 1988, and at \$81.6 for FY 1989. For almost the same number of authorized positions, the Council is being funded \$52.7 less than the proposed funding for the Council for Spanish-Speaking Affairs, and \$67.1 less than that proposed for the Council on Black Americans for each FY.
8. We respectfully recommend to the Senate Finance Committee and the House appropriation Committee that the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans be authorized equitable funding similar to the two other minority councils mentioned above.

Attachments

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LAWS of MINNESOTA for 1985
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

Ch. 13

Sec. 68. [3.9226] COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS.

Subdivision 1. CREATION. The state council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans consists of 13 members. Nine members are appointed by the governor and shall be broadly representative of the Asian-Pacific community of the state. Terms, compensation, removal, and filling of vacancies for these members are as provided in section 15.059. In addition, two members of the house of representatives appointed under the rules of the house of representatives and two members of the senate appointed under the rules of the senate shall serve as nonvoting members of the council. The council shall annually elect from its membership a chairperson and other officers it deems necessary.

Subd. 2. DEFINITION. For the purpose of this section, the term Asian-Pacific means a person from any of the countries in Asia or the Pacific Islands.

Subd. 3. DUTIES. The council shall:

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(1) advise the governor and the legislature on issues confronting Asian-Pacific people in this state, including the unique problems of non-English-speaking immigrants and refugees;

(2) advise the governor and the legislature of administrative and legislative changes necessary to ensure Asian-Pacific people access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;

(3) recommend to the governor and the legislature any revisions in the state's affirmative action program and other steps that are necessary to eliminate underutilization of Asian-Pacific people in the state's work force;

(4) recommend to the governor and the legislature legislation designed to improve the economic and social condition of Asian-Pacific people in this state;

(5) serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Asian-Pacific people in the state;

(6) serve as a referral agency to assist Asian-Pacific people in securing access to state agencies and programs;

(7) serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Asian-Pacific people of this state;

(8) perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to the problems of Asian-Pacific people in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas;

(9) implement programs designed to solve the problems of Asian-Pacific people when authorized by other law;

(10) publicize the accomplishments of Asian-Pacific people and their contributions to this state;

(11) work with other state and federal agencies and organizations to develop small business opportunities and promote economic development for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;

(12) supervise development of an Asian-Pacific trade primer, outlining Asian and Pacific customs, cultural traditions, and business practices, including language usage, for use by Minnesota's export community; and

(13) cooperate with other state and federal agencies and organizations to develop improved state trade relations with Asian and Pacific countries.

Subd. 4. REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATIONS AND BUDGET REQUESTS. State departments and agencies shall consult with the council concerning any application for federal money that will have its primary effect on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans before development of the application. The council

shall advise the governor and the commissioner of finance concerning any state agency request that will have its primary effect on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

Subd. 5. POWERS. (a) The council may contract in its own name but may not accept or receive a loan or incur indebtedness except as otherwise provided by law. Contracts must be approved by a majority of the members of the council and executed by the chairperson and the executive director. The council may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the powers and duties specified in this section.

(b) The council shall appoint an executive director who is experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of Asian-Pacific people. The council may delegate to the executive director any powers and duties under this section that do not require council approval. The executive director serves in the unclassified service and may be removed at any time by the council. The executive director shall recommend to the council, and the council may appoint, the appropriate staff necessary to carry out the duties of the council. All staff members serve in the unclassified service. The commissioner of administration shall provide the council with necessary administrative services, for which the council shall reimburse the commissioner.

Subd. 6. STATE AGENCY ASSISTANCE. On the request of the council, state agencies shall supply the council with advisory staff services on matters relating to the jurisdiction of the council. The council shall cooperate and coordinate its activities with other state agencies to the highest possible degree.

Subd. 7. REPORT. The council shall prepare and distribute a report to the governor and legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The report shall summarize the activities of the council since its last report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting Asian-Pacific people, and list the specific objectives that the council seeks to attain during the next biennium.

Subd. 8. REPEALER. This section is repealed June 30, 1988.

Sec. 69. [3C.035] DRAFTING FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Subdivision 1. DEADLINES. A department or agency intending to urge the legislature to adopt a bill shall deliver the drafting request for the bill to the revisor of statutes by December 1 before the regular session of the legislature at which adoption will be urged. A commissioner or agency head, however, may deliver a drafting request later by certifying to the revisor, with supporting facts, that the request is an emergency, relates to a matter that could not reasonably have been foreseen before December 1, or for which there is other reasonable justification for delay. The completed bill draft, in a form ready for introduction, must be delivered by the revisor to a senator or representative as directed by the department or agency. If the draft was requested after December 1, it must be accompanied by a copy of the commissioner's certification to the revisor.

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LAWS of MINNESOTA for 1985
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

Ch. 13

Sec. 41. COUNCIL ON
ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS
Approved Complement - 3

75,000

75,000

Ten percent of the appropriation for each year is available for allotment only upon demonstration of dollar for dollar match with nonstate contributions. During the biennium, up to one-third of the nonstate match requirement may be met with in-kind contributions. All funds not receiving a nonstate match shall cancel to the general fund. Nonstate contributions raised by the council in fiscal year 1986 in excess of the nonstate match requirement shall be credited to the 10 percent nonstate match requirement in the subsequent fiscal year.



Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Asian-Indian-Minnesotan Representative

JAGADISH DESAI (1-1988)
Agent, Insurance and Real Estate

Cambodian-Minnesotan Representative

YANAT H. CHHITH (1-1991)
Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis

Chinese-Minnesotan Representative

JUDY WONG HOHMANN (1-1988)
Senior Public Relation Specialist, Office of Tourism,
Department of Energy and Economic Development

Filipino-Minnesotan Representative

ERLINDA DE LA CRUZ DAVIS (1-1991)
Educator, St. Paul Parochial Schools

Hmong-Minnesotan Representative

WAMENG YANG (1-1991)
Asian Advocate, Centre for Asians and Pacific Islanders

Japanese-Minnesotan Representative

GLORIA L. KUMAGAI (1-1988)
Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Education, St. Paul Public
Schools

Korean-Minnesotan Representative

HYON (KIM) T. THOMAS (1-1991)
Consultant, Osmonic, Inc. & Sam Kwang Aqua-Clear, Inc.

Laotian-Minnesotan Representative

ADAM B. NHOTSAVANG (1-1991)
Sales Representative, Allstate Insurance

Vietnamese-Minnesotan Representative

DUC Q. LAM (1-1988)
Vice-President, International Banking, Norwest Bank Minneapolis

Minnesota State Senate

The Honorable JOHN J. MARTY
The Honorable ALLAN H. SPEAR

Minnesota House of Representatives

The Honorable KAREN CLARK
The Honorable SANDRA L. PAPPAS

2/18/87

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Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

1988 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

In May and June, 1986, the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans held public hearings in Rochester, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Saint Cloud, and Duluth. Citizens were invited to testify on such critical issues affecting Asian-Pacific Minnesotans as voter registration, affirmative action, employment, education, housing, refugee services, minority contracts, immigration, health and human services, economic development, international trade, credit and loans, and civil rights. The hearings were announced through press releases issued statewide, ads in the two major metropolitan newspapers, and announcements to Asian-Pacific organizations and agencies serving Asian-Pacific people.

Altogether there were 27 hours of public oral testimony. Court reporters transcribed more than 800 pages of testimony. More than 150 individuals presented oral and written testimony on 234 issues they considered important.

The vast majority of testimony received addressed the needs of the 30,000 Southeast Asian refugees who have made their home in Minnesota during the past ten years. Many of the issues discussed, however, are of concern to all 55,000 people of Asian-Pacific origin or descent who live in Minnesota.

Members of the Council's Long Range Planning Committee reviewed the transcripts of the original testimony, the 234 separate summaries of testimony arranged into 30 topic areas, and the 100-page report summarizing legislative, administrative, and programmatic recommendations in each of the 30 topic areas. They recommended to the full Council that the 1988 Legislative Recommendations include the following ten key areas:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| I. Education | VI. Welfare and Medical Assistance Reform |
| II. Employment | VII. Women (Day Care & Economic Issues) |
| III. Human Rights | VIII. Legal Aid |
| IV. Mental Health | IX. Housing |
| V. Refugee/Immigration Issues | X. Interpreters and Translators |

These recommendations were passed by the full Council at its meetings on November 18, 1986 and January 13, 1987.

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I. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN EDUCATION

When Governor Rudy Perpich addressed the Council's Public Hearing in Minneapolis on June 11, 1986, he told the 125 Asian-Pacific Minnesotans present that he had spoken no English on his first day of public school in Hibbing. "Education was my passport from poverty, and I'm determined to make it a passport to prosperity for all Minnesotans," the Governor said.

The needs of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans in education are the most basic needs of all. Nearly one-third of the testimony presented was on this one subject alone. The legislative recommendations have been divided into sub-topics and are printed below.

NOTE: ESL stands for English as a Second Language in the recommendations listed below.

A. Public School Education, K-12 and Head Start

1. Strongly support continuation of Head Start and increase funding for it. (The waiting lists now are so long that many students enter school before their names come up on the list.)
2. Maintain level of support of ESL program K-12 at current funding level or higher.
3. Continue and expand teen support programs, especially the programs for teenage mothers in high school.
4. ESL instruction is necessary for many years, not just three, and the Legislature needs to understand that ... and fund ESL accordingly.
5. Examine funding formulas.
6. Work with MN Congressional Delegation to maintain federal funding at current levels.
7. Maintain ESL teacher licensure standards. Review as necessary.
8. Institute programs to teach Asian culture to non-Asian counselors and teach counseling skills to Asian-Pacific Minnesotans at the paraprofessional level.

B. Community Colleges and Articulation of K-12 Education with Post-Secondary Education

1. Increase funding for ESL instruction, summer school programs, and support services throughout the community college system. (Project Success at Inver Hills Community College is a model program and all community colleges need something this good.)
2. Work with MN Congressional delegation to maintain funding for ESL and other services at the federal level.

3. One of the problems at the community college level is that Southeast Asian students did not take full advantage of the opportunity to stay in high school longer -- because they could not afford it. All along the system, the Southeast Asian students, who are already disadvantaged because they are non-native speakers of English, push themselves harder and faster than American-born students have to do, with the result that the Southeast Asians fall progressively farther behind. What happens all too often is that these students graduate from high school and then community college or even four-year college without speaking English well enough to get a job. Knowing this, the students are reluctant to take out loans, which means they work too much while they are in school, compounding the problem. If the Legislature could look at the whole educational system in regard to Southeast Asians, it would be most helpful.

C. Vocational and Technical Education

1. Establish pre-vocational training programs for Southeast Asians and other non-native speakers of English at all levels of vocational education.
2. Provide funds so that ESL is taught in vocational schools.
3. Establish special services at each AVTI and secondary vocational education site in job counseling, vocational English, and interviewing skills.
4. Create special partnerships with industry to train Southeast Asian Minnesotans on-the-job and to provide opportunities for further training as soon as their English proficiency has developed sufficiently.
5. Mandate the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education to offer vocational training in smaller sequences so Southeast Asians and others can attend part-time, work, return for further training, and so forth.

D. Higher Education and Articulation with K-12 Education

1. Work with Minnesota Congressional delegation to maintain -- and extend -- all federal funding going to Asian-American education.
2. Make the training in English and basic skills better at the K-12 level. (Most of the colleges said this.)
3. Provide special funds for summer school programs at State University System and UM universities.
4. Prevent cuts in financial aid to Asian-Pacific students at federal and state levels.

5. Expand State funding for ESL and counseling and support services for Asian-Pacific students.
6. State should support instruction in Asian languages in colleges and universities (two universities in SUS system said this.)

E. Financial Aid for Students

The basic problem with financial aid for Southeast Asians is that the guidelines do not fit all Southeast Asian circumstances. For instance, some are Unaccompanied Minors, and the regulations governing family income are applied unfairly to their foster parents who have no plans to support their college educations. There are also problems with other welfare regulations. Another problem is that some Southeast Asian refugees do not dare borrow all the money available to them under student loans because they know their English skills are not strong enough to promise them a good job even after four years of college and good grades -- so how will they repay the loans? This again ties in with the absolute necessity of better ESL instruction and support services like help with interviewing skills. Another problem is that financial aid sometimes does not last long enough for Southeast Asian students. All along the way, the financial aid formulas must be reconsidered, and simplified. Also, state scholarship money for Southeast Asian students is crucial -- and an excellent investment on the part of the State.

F. Adult English Language Instruction (ESL)

1. The Council needs to sponsor special legislation on English language instruction, with provisions for child care and transportation.

Eighteen people testified on Adult ESL needs, and all agree the need is gigantic and is directly linked to employment, good physical health, strong family ties, and sound mental health, as well as other indicators of well-being among Southeast Asian refugees.
2. Increase funding for ESL, GED, and basic skills instruction at state level.
3. Work with MN Congressional delegation to maintain funding for adult ESL at federal level.
4. Some say that MN should also financially support adult education volunteer tutor training and materials
5. Equitable distribution of funds to small cities and towns to provide ESL is crucial.
6. Extend eligibility for ESL to three years at State level.
7. More money for ESL teacher training.

8. Be sure that all refugees and other non-native speakers of English, no matter how long they have been in the U.S., can receive ESL somewhere.
9. Support ESL financially to the point of teaching true literacy. This may require up to seven years.
10. ESL to be successful must be paired with Job Training Program.
11. ESL Programs should not be limited to two hours.
12. Information regarding number of ESL programs and student attendance/attrition rates, etc.

G. Need for Interpreters and Translators

In 1985 the Legislature passed a bill asking State departments which have a significant amount of contact with non-English speaking people to use some of their departmental resources to develop bilingual facilities, bilingual staff, and publications in other languages. HOW HAS THIS LAW BEEN IMPLEMENTED? BASED ON THE EVIDENCE FROM THE HEARINGS, THIS LAW NEEDS TEETH IN IT BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENTS ARE NOT COMPLYING VOLUNTARILY.

Sixteen people testified at the public hearings specifically about the need for improved translation and interpreting services, and many others mentioned this need in passing.

H. Miscellaneous Education Needs

1. Create a statewide community education program, especially in outstate Minnesota, that will provide a forum for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and non-Asian Minnesotans to meet and learn about each other's cultures. (Social workers and others say Southeast Asian refugees are very isolated if they live in outstate Minnesota.)
2. Establish statewide training programs for human service, medical, educational, and government personnel to work more effectively with Southeast Asians. (Council will provide these trainings.)
3. Establish minority arts and cultural heritage programs in Minnesota and fund them statewide.

II. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN EMPLOYMENT

1. Fund more programs within the Equal Opportunity Division of the State Department of Employee Relations for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. (Two programs they have now are a tutoring program

to learn how to get on State certification lists and a training program for potential human services techs at the Veteran's Home.)

2. Get more employment programs established specifically for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. (It's estimated that 30% of 30,000 refugees are jobless with 1,000 placements per year now occurring.)

Here again the problem with language competency comes up -- often Asian-Pacific refugees cannot be promoted because their language skills are not high enough so they are stuck with entry-level jobs. This is another argument for supporting ESL and language support training. SUPPORT ESL TO THE POINT OF TEACHING LITERACY.

3. Through DEED or some other mechanism, appropriate funds for the establishment of the Asian-Pacific Minnesotan Small Business Opportunities Center.
4. Support and expand DEED.
5. Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training should translate their employment programs to Asian languages and hire bilingual staff.

III. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Appropriate funds for the Human Rights Department to do outreach and intakes in appropriate Asian-Pacific languages.
2. Appropriate funds for bilingual legal assistance to Southeast Asian refugees.
3. Minnesota Department of Human Rights should investigate racial violence and provide "teeth" penalties and criminal liability.
4. Minnesota Department of Human Rights should take a proactive role in eliminating discrimination.
5. Minnesota Department of Human Rights should be provided additional funds to increase its outreach program and community education by conducting workshops on such procedures as - "How To File Civil Rights Complaint," etc.
6. A copy of the latest issue of the Wall Street Journal should be attached as part of our legislative recommendations. (Enclosed).

IV. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN MENTAL HEALTH

It sounds like the mental health needs of Southeast Asian refugees is the greatest single unmet need for this population. There are currently only two metro area programs serving the mental health needs of refugees in any depth -- Wilder and Community University Health Care Center. There are no mental health programs for refugees

in the rest of the State. Refugee mental health problems were initially hidden by language barriers and cultural traditions but are emerging more into the open now. They stem not only from the tremendous difficulty of losing one's homeland and adjusting to such a different country but also from the major traumas many Southeast Asians suffered en route to the camps and in the camps.

Furthermore, some of the more recent arrivals from Southeast Asia are not as fully socialized as most people are because of living in the deprived environment of the camps for up to ten years.

Recommend that a Legislative Task Force be appointed to study the problem with the help of the Council and the benefit of the extensive testimony the Council received on this issue.

This Task Force should look at establishing services in outstate Minnesota, where they are non-existent; namely

1. At training non-Asian mental health and social workers at both the professional and paraprofessional level in Asian culture and the realities of life in the Thai camps;
2. At training Asians to become paraprofessional mental health workers and mental health translators/interpreters;
3. At establishing board and care and half-way houses for Asians;
4. At establishing chemical dependency prevention and treatment programs for Asians (past the one \$20,000 pilot program there is now -- which is pathetically small);
5. At establishing services for treatment of depression in elderly Southeast Asians;
6. At establishing support for women and children who are victims of rape and physical assault, i.e., re-establishment of funding for temporary shelters for battered persons currently non-existent;
7. At funding Asian Sudden Unexplained Death Syndrome research;
8. At reviewing all mental health services particularly their fund support next year, monitor funding trends, and provide for transition of programs and/or services with less government funds;
9. At exploring ramifications of de-funding of mental health programs;
10. At developing more mental health advocacy for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;
11. At coordinating Council Legislative Recommendations with Legislative Task Force on Mental Health;
12. And at supporting funds for the Minnesota Torture Center.

V. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FEDERAL REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT ISSUES AND POLICIES

1. Continue to work with the MN Congressional delegation to keep open the refugee status for the 450,000 Asians in refugee camps on Thai border and to keep the camps open until all the refugees are resettled. Improving conditions within the camps is also necessary, especially the educational opportunities.
2. Work with MN Congressional delegation to keep operating all federal aid to Southeast Asians without any cutbacks. Restore the 36 month services limit, and add money for mental health services and chemical dependency prevention and treatment.
3. Maintain all State funding for refugee programs and, as indicated elsewhere in these Legislative Recommendations, substantially increase aid in some areas.
4. Ensure better coordination and networking of programs and services provided by the State Refugee Office and the State Refugee Mental Health Office.
5. Provide opportunity for community mental health providers to integrate programs and services to reduce duplication, overlapping, and better client/patient access to services at reduced cost.

VI. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WELFARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REFORM

1. Explore "workfare options" which has been utilized successfully in 20 states;
2. Allow welfare recipients to work more than 100 hours per month and still receive partial grants;
3. Develop a program to gradually "wean" recipients from the welfare program;
4. Require "co-payment" element in medical assistance. Totally free health care for welfare recipients creates false expectations;
5. Create a "National or State Health Insurance Plan" because the prospective loss of medical assistance benefits is the single greatest deterrent to work for welfare recipients;
6. Extend the "WIN" (work incentive program) and make it work through reducing caseloads for social workers;
7. In general, streamline the welfare program; and
8. Don't reduce budgetary support for the welfare program.

VII. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WOMEN (DAY CARE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES)

Asian-Pacific women, especially refugee women, need day care and transportation in order to attend English classes.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LEGAL AID

Federal and State funds should be appropriated to provide legal services to the Asian-Pacific community.

IX. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOUSING

Research special legislative programs for housing for minorities and develop a low- and middle- income housing Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. The proposed Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota should create a Housing Committee to provide expertise and guidance to the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans in the development of the Housing Program for the Asian-Pacific population.

X. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

The 1985 Minnesota Bi-Lingual Services Act requires State agencies with significant amount of contact with Non-English speaking population to utilize their departmental resources to hire bi-lingual staff, print bi-lingual materials, and develop bi-lingual facilities. We recommend monitoring the implementation of this state law and that appropriate funds be provided to ensure compliance.