



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

September 23, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Action Items

The Commissioners voted unanimously to move forward the recommendation, as amended, from the Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate, and Anti-Discrimination Subcommittee with Commissioner Simon Pang recused from voting:

Recommendation One:

The White House in conjunction with WHIAANHPI should convene an annual gathering to prevent gun violence. These gatherings shall include AA and NHPI representation and focus on bringing together community groups, organizations, healthcare providers, researchers, government agencies, Judiciary branch representatives, representatives from the Surgeon General's office, and other stakeholders for the purpose of creating policy recommendations and institutional change through informal committees focused on the following ideas:

1. The Centers for Disease Control's research into mass gun violence and effective prevention strategies should include disaggregated data for AA and NHPI communities regarding specific impacts caused by gun violence such as hate crimes, suicide, and other harmful effects.
2. The White House should prioritize a strong evidence-based, culturally appropriate, messaging campaign targeting the AA and NHPI communities, that includes translated materials on reducing gun violence.
3. The convening should discuss reframing gun violence prevention as an on-going exploding public health crisis and developing a whole-of-government, multi-disciplinary response.
4. The convening should discuss systemic policy changes including:

- a. Engaging in AA and NHPI specific outreach on universal background checks on gun buyers.
 - i. Establishing a national extreme-risk or “red flag” system (based on behaviors and actions) and conducting AA and NHPI specific education campaign about these systems.
 - ii. Banning sale of semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines to buyers younger than 21 years of age.
 - iii. Repealing the liability shield that has been in place since the 2005 passage of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA).
 - iv. Incentivizing firearms manufacturers and owners to explore technologies such as fingerprint scanners, trigger locks, and safe storage.
 - v. Closing loopholes for acquiring unregistered guns through means such as 3D printed guns, online purchases, and straw purchases, and more.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to move forward the recommendation, as amended, from the Health Equity Subcommittee with Commissioner Simon Pang recused from voting:

Recommendation One:

It is imperative CMS in collaboration with the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) implement measures to increase transparency and accountability in the prior authorization and claim denial processes. We acknowledge that changes to reporting of metrics (including denials), decreasing decision timeframes further, requiring the use of electronic prior authorization, and other improvements may require change in federal statute. Recommended actions include:

1. **Mandatory Disclosure of Denial Rates:** Require insurance companies to publicly disclose their denial rates for various medical services and procedures. By building on existing health equity frameworks, we advocate for more comprehensive reporting that includes denial rates for all services. These reports should be categorized by claim type, geographic area, and demographic information to provide a clear picture of who is most affected by denial practices.
2. **Standardized Prior Authorization Process:** Fully standardizing the prior authorization process across all CMS health plans to reduce administrative burden on healthcare providers and ensure that necessary care is not delayed or denied. We urge CMS, where authorized, to expand these efforts and include all health plans, particularly Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), under the standardized prior authorization rules.
3. **An independent review process for denied claims:** We recommend the creation of a new independent review process for denied claims across all categories, including specialty care, physical therapy, durable medical equipment, and more. We recommend the Executive Branch direct CMS to develop a more effective independent review process that includes:
 - a. **Comprehensive Data Collection and Reporting:** Implement mandatory public reporting of denial trends across all insurance plans. These reports should be categorized by claim type, geographic area, and demographic information to provide a clear picture of who is most affected by denial practices.

- b. **Enhanced Oversight and Accountability:** Empower the CCIIO with the resources and authority needed to conduct detailed analyses of denial patterns and ensure compliance among insurance providers across the board.
 - c. **Regular Audits and Evaluations:** Establish routine audits to assess whether claim denials are justified based on medical necessity. These findings should be publicly available to enhance transparency and ensure accountability within insurance companies.
 - d. **Support for Underserved Populations:** Develop targeted initiatives aimed at supporting communities disproportionately affected by claim denials, ensuring equitable access to necessary healthcare services for vulnerable populations.
4. **Increased Oversight:** We recommend significantly increasing independent federal oversight of insurance companies to ensure full compliance with transparency and accountability measures by implementing the following measures:
- a. **Rigorous Monitoring of Insurer Practices:** Develop and enforce stricter monitoring protocols that regularly assess insurance companies' denial rates, response times for prior authorizations, and overall adherence to transparency measures.
 - b. **Clear and Public Accountability Metrics:** Require insurance companies to publicly disclose their compliance with oversight regulations. This should include denial rates, processing times for prior authorizations, and metrics on how well insurers are serving underserved communities.
 - c. **Increased Penalties for Non-Compliance:** Strengthen penalties for insurance companies that fail to comply with transparency requirements or engage in discriminatory practices, ensuring there are real consequences for non-compliance.
 - d. **Enforcement of Penalties:** Enhance the enforcement of penalties for unjustified denials across all health plans to strengthen accountability. This includes implementing consistent and transparent reporting mechanisms that ensure insurers are held to the same standards regardless of the type of plan.
 - e. **Regular Audits of Denial and Approval Practices:** Establish regular, mandatory audits of insurance companies' denial and approval practices to ensure that they are operating fairly and equitably, particularly in relation to underserved populations and vulnerable communities.
5. **Disaggregation of Data:** We recommend that insurance companies be required to publicly disclose disaggregated data on Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities to ensure transparency in how these populations are served. We recommend that we take the following steps to ensure disaggregated data collection and reporting:
- a. **Leverage Revised OMB Standards:** Utilize the minimum revised OMB standards as a starting point, to require insurance companies to collect and report disaggregated data on AA and NHPI communities. This is crucial for obtaining accurate data that reflects the specific healthcare challenges faced by these populations.
 - b. **Implement Clear Guidelines for Data Collection and Disclosure:** Develop clear, enforceable guidelines that ensure insurance companies collect disaggregated data ethically and transparently. These guidelines should include consent mechanisms

for enrollees and ensure that sensitive data is disclosed responsibly and only in aggregate or appropriately anonymized forms when necessary.

- c. **Mandate Regular Reporting on AA and NHPI Communities:** Require insurance companies to publicly report on how AA and NHPI communities are impacted by denial rates, healthcare access, and service utilization. This data should be detailed and disaggregated to uncover disparities in care that are often obscured by aggregate reporting.
- d. **Address Legal and Ethical Concerns Proactively:** Work with legal experts and stakeholders to navigate potential legal concerns regarding the disclosure of disaggregated data. This includes ensuring compliance with privacy laws while still achieving transparency and equity goals in healthcare reporting.

Meeting Convened at 9:17AM Pacific Standard Time

Judith Teruya, Senior Advisor White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) and Lead Designated Federal Officer, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

Ms. Judith Teruya opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the tenth public meeting of the Commission. She thanked the Commissioners for their work since the last meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota on July 1, 2024, including speaking with Biden-Harris Administration officials and deliberating on recommendations to be shared with the President and the public.

Ms. Teruya shared a brief explanation of the Commission's commitments pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and that the Commission was established under Executive Order (EO) 14031 to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) and later updated through EO 14109. Ms. Teruya shared the Commission conducted work through six subcommittees and informed the public of the meeting being offered in live interpretation of Bengali, Hmong, Korea, Mandarin, Marshallese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Ms. Teruya also shared the public can submit written comments and feedback through

Ms. Teruya introduced Secretary Xavier Becerra, the 25th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Co-Chair of the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs.

Welcome Remarks from the Co-Chairs

Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Co-Chair, White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs.

Secretary Becerra welcomes Commissioners and thanks them for their work. Thanks Ambassador Tai for her partnership as Co-Chair and as a member of the President's cabinet. Thanks Ms. Ka'ai for service as Executive Director and welcomes Ms. Beaudreau. Secretary acknowledges the work of the Commission and all the recommendations they have developed, many of which were adopted by the Department and the White House.

Commission started during COVID-19 pandemic and focused on the need for communities to get the healthcare they deserved. Also acknowledges the focus on language access; data disaggregation work; combating hate crimes; and mental health – emphasizing the Department's work on the 988 hotline. Recognizes the deep marks the Commission will leave for AA and NHPIs.

Secretary Becerra recognizes three new Commissioners: Kamana'opono Crabbe, Sameera Fazili, and Vida Lin to be sworn in. Secretary invites Ambassador Katherine Tai to the podium and the three Commissioners stand to take the oath of office.

Upon completion of the oath, Secretary Becerra hands the mic to Ambassador Katherine Tai for remarks.

Ambassador Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative, Co-Chair White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs.

Ambassador thanks Secretary Becerra for partnership as Co-Chair. Acknowledges their history of working for the Secretary in Congress on the Ways and Means Committee. The Ambassador acknowledges the support and work HHS has allowed WHIAANHPI to take on.

Ambassador Tai recognizes Ms. Ka'ai for her hard work and commitment to the Initiative and Commission. Congratulates Ms. Ka'ai on her next role as Commissioner when she is appointed at a later date. The Ambassador also welcomes Ms. Beaudreau to the Initiative and thanks the WHIAANHPI staff for their hard work.

Recognizes the important work that WHIAANHPI has done in sparking and energizing AA and NHPI participation in democracy – and notes that is a key portion of belonging. The Ambassador congratulates the new Commissioners and acknowledges the 83 recommendations the Commission had approved to date. She thanked the Commissioners for the recommendation to have the meeting interpreted into seven different languages. The live interpretation makes the government more accessible and less opaque to our communities.

She then explained how USTR is taking steps to ensure inclusivity is a cornerstone of trade, inspired by WHIAANHPI work. The Ambassador shared her belief that trade can empower workers and small businesses which are the engines of the economy. The WHIAANHPI Economic Summits are one way to work with communities to ensure all communities can thrive. The Ambassador reflected on the eighth summit happened in Irvine in August and the first in Philadelphia in 2023 alongside the Small Business Administration – Administrator Isabel Guzman and team – for supporting this effort

The Ambassador shares the AA and NHPI community is front and center for this admin – inclusion, economic power, health well-being, rebuilding immigration We are building for the future of our children.

Welcome Remarks from Executive Director

Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director, White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

Executive Director Ka'ai thanks the Co-Chairs for their support and announces this is her last meeting as Executive Director, but is honored to be appointed to the Commission. She thanks the Commissioners for being an active Commission; and the first to submit on recommendations on a rolling basis.

Executive Director Ka'ai remembers the Commission was sworn in virtually during covid pandemic – with a backdrop of health/economic challenges as well as anti-Asian hate – what incredible progress has happened. She recaps 10 full Commission meetings and all the recommendations as well as ensuring that AA and NHPI communities could provide feedback across the country through listening sessions.

She thanked the Co-Chairs for their support and thanked the WHIAANHPI staff. Executive Director Ka'ai also thanked her White House colleagues, including Erika Moritsugu, Kota Mizutani, Howard Ou, and Phil Kim. Concluded by reflecting that service with WHIAANHPI was the honor of a lifetime to serve at WHIAANHPI and that she is looking forward to staying connected as an incoming Commissioner. Executive Director Ka'ai then introduced the incoming Executive Director, Helen Beaudreau for welcome remarks.

Helen Beaudreau, Senior Advisor and Incoming Executive Director, White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
Ms. Beaudreau expressed appreciation to Krystal for her guidance and leadership of the Initiative and Commission. Remembers the once in a century pandemic and the impacts AA and NHPI communities were facing. Ms. Beaudreau recognizes Krystal and the White House partners who made foundational impacts to the community.

Ms. Beaudreau expresses the honor to serve as next Executive Director especially under this Administration that hears and sees our community. Shares that her career goal has been to personally help vulnerable families lead more healthy and sustainable lives. She shares that she is the daughter of immigrants and that her goal is to work for the betterment of the next generation.

Ms. Beaudreau thanks the Commission for what they've done and expressed excitement to work with them and the broader community to advance equity and justice for AA and NHPs. She then introduces Erika Moritsugu for welcome remarks.

Erika L. Moritsugu, Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison

Mr. Moritsugu welcomes everyone to the tenth and final meeting of Commission. She recognized the work has been very impactful and expressed deepest gratitude to the Co-Chairs and Commissioners for their dedication. Ms. Moritsugu also introduced Keone Nakoa and Emily Stanley as part of her AA and NHPI Advisor team.

She then reflected on progress of the team's travel to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands where they met with community leaders and discussed issues ranging from gun violence, GBV, combatting Asian hate, expanding economic opportunity, and more.

Ms. Moritsugu discussed President Biden's American Rescue Plan and the work the Commission has done to promote and protect mental health such as the July 2024 AA and NHPI mental health convening at the White House.

She expressed gratitude for Executive Director Ka'ai's vision, passion, and leadership as the first Native Hawaiian Executive Director of the Initiative and Commission. She shared the ways she has personally been influenced and guided by Executive Director Ka'ai and remembered their time working together in the Senate.

Ms. Moritsugu then turned the meeting over to Chief Commissioner Sonal Shah.

Commissioner Charge and Goals for the Meeting

Sonal Shah, Chief Commissioner, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

Chief Commissioner Shah welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanks Erika, Krystal, and Helen. She also thanks Co-Chairs for joining and sharing remarks as well as the staff for putting on this meeting.

Chief Commissioner Shah recognizes this is the second Commission meeting with live translations and acknowledged how incredible the quick implementation of the Commission's recommendation was. She also shared how the Commission was authorized under EO 14031 and made up of 25 members and extended until September 2025. Chief Commissioner Shah reiterated the overarching Commission goals and priority areas and reminded the public that they Commission makes recommendations and does not enact policy. The Commission's Provide role is advisory.

Chief Commissioner Shah thanked the Administration for implementation that's already happened and shared how the Commission is focused on developing a final report. She then announced this would be her last Commission meeting and thanked Sarah Min for her partnership and work on the final report and as Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Chief Commissioner Shah then reminded everyone of the in-person listening session as part of the WHIAANHPI policy summit occurring that same week.

Finally, she welcomed the three new Commissioners and recognized the time, energy and commitment it took to put into 85 recommendations.

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

Co-Chairs: Commissioners Luisa Blue and Dr. Kamal Kalsi

Member: Commissioners Teresita Batayola, Emily Chen, Daniel Dae Kim, Grace Huang, and Smita Shah.

Non-Commission Member: Madihha Aussain

DFO: Judith Teruya

Commissioner Luisa Blue opened by sharing the priorities of the subcommittee and the researchers who had come to present on gun violence and share scholarship on intersection of discrimination and gun violence in AA and NHPI communities. The subcommittee heard from Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu, Professor and Program Director in the Eastern Michigan University School of Nursing and Dr. Frances M. Yang, Research Associate Professor, University of Kansas School of Nursing.

Commissioner Kalsi then presented the subcommittee's **only recommendation**, sharing how AA and NHPI communities are disproportionately affected by racially motivated violence in broader gun violence. During covid, there was a surge due to discriminatory rhetoric and increased firearm purchases by AA and NHPIs many of whom were first time gun-owners. Need culturally informed approach – that incorporates barriers to mental health support.

The recommendation urged the White House and WHIAANHPI to host convenings to prevent gun violence; including stakeholders to create policy recommendations and institutional change through a variety of steps.

CDC research into gun violence should include disaggregated data on AANHPIs o
WH should prioritize messaging campaign targeting AANHPI communities incl translated material

Questions/Discussion

Commissioner Blue mentioned that the White House has held events, briefings, and published fact sheets such as the Vice President's [Fact Sheet announcing two safety solutions while continuing efforts to keep schools safe from gun violence](#).

Commissioner Ives-Rublee flagged that red flag laws should not persecute those with conditions and not overly criminalize those with mental health diagnosis. She proposed language to amend the recommendation to focus on action and not cause unintended consequences.

Commissioner Huang reiterated the importance of data disaggregation. Gender based violence affects Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in particular at different rates than the Asian American community.

Commissioner Chang asks in point 4 should this recommendation include members of judiciary and the Surgeon General to attend the convening given the role these entities have played in the policy conversation.

Commissioner Kalsi proposes adding Commissioner Chang's ideas to the beginning of the recommendation to be more prescriptive.

Commissioner Doi appreciated subcommittee's work. Are there subject matter experts that discussed strategies for point 5 – countering violent extremism.

Commissioner Kalsi responded that we talked about this recommendation two years ago, talking to almost eight different speakers to give feedback. The subcommittee had talked about various carrot and stick models and many of which have benefit, but that this recommendation is focused around getting the experts in the room together with government leaders to discuss the best approach.

Commissioner Blue also shared that the challenge is that data does not exist for this population. Not many community based organizations are focused on this issue. Large gun violence coalitions do not focus on AA and NHPI communities. Pandemic exacerbated issue of gun violence, but the issue has long existed before COVID-19 and we were left out of the data.

Commissioner Shah shares AA and NHPI community is often invisible in many eyes. This rec is great example of taking the intangible and making tangible recommendations; she also reiterated importance of data disaggregation.

Data Disaggregation and Education Subcommittee Presentation

Co-Chairs: Commissioner Dr. Robert Underwood and Commissioner Dr. Raynald Samoa

Members: Commissioners Emily Chen and KaYing Yang

Non-Commission Members: Dr. Joseph Keawe Kaholokula and Dr. Ninez Ponce

DFO: Erika Ninoyu

Commissioner Underwood began the presentation by introducing the subcommittee and shared the background on the priority areas. Commissioner Underwood pointed out that data disaggregation is at the center of all the recommendations the commission has made, and this subcommittee takes it very seriously and acknowledges the added subject of education for the last few meetings.

Commissioner Underwood shared how important it is to improve data collection that respects how AA and NHPI communities define themselves, as well as giving advocates access to federal datasets to foster more impactful research and service delivery.

He also shared that this week is Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) week and want to draw attention to the importance of AANAPISIs.

There were no questions or comments on this presentation.

Economic Equity Subcommittee Presentation

Co-Chairs: Commissioners Smita Shah and Simon Pang

Members: Commissioners Luisa Blue, Kerry Doi, and Kevin Kim

DFO: Judith Teruya

Commissioner Shah opens with appreciation for the subcommittee members and DFO. She shares that the subcommittee wanted to ensure economic equity referred to not just businesses, but also individuals and community based organizations because each plays a role in delivering goods and services to the community as a whole.

Commissioner Shah then recapped the priority areas of workforce development, access to childcare, paid leave, living wages, benefits, and prioritizing jobs of the future. She shared the subcommittee had previously heard from Department of Labor speakers on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity programs to think about how AA and NHPIs access to those program and how community-based organizations could be helpful in delivering on their mission.

Commissioner Shah also shared that the subcommittee had heard from nursing workforce experts and learned that there is a huge nursing shortage issue over the next several years. The subcommittee is investigating how AA and NHPI nurses could contribute to reducing this shortage – thinking about training and partnership.

Questions/Discussion

Commissioner Blue highlighted the importance of data/collection and tracking data. Recruitment of nurses from other countries needs oversight to ensure bad actors do not engage in unfair practices with the nurses coming to fill labor shortages.

Commissioner Samoa expressed gratitude to subcommittee for their work. He acknowledged protection of workers is important and that it differs for different communities, such as COFA migrants. COFA migrants may have an easier migration experience but highly vulnerable to worker injustices because they don't have many protections. Commissioner Samoa shared how communities rely on each other and where there's low community support, they are vulnerable to economic system pressures. Commissioner Samoa shared he would like to see a focus on COFA migrants since there is no COFA representation on Commission. Need education on cultural divide between AA and NHPIs. Future Commissions should parallel this. No Melanesian representation. This is a large group for Pacific Islanders that is not represented.

Commissioner Ives-Rublee suggestions the subcommittee look into OSHA protections for COFA migrants who are an at risk population for workplace safety issues like air quality, getting breaks, and heat protection. Areas of concerns include warehouses, fields, and hospitals. Commissioner Ives-Rublee also encouraged the subcommittee look into disabled immigrants who have challenges accessing resources in their own communities and may not know what their rights are under the ADA.

Commissioner Blue referenced the underground community of forced labor and the impacts that has on many South East Asian and South Asian migrants who are recruited to work these jobs and have no protections. This is not known broadly. Suspect there are more communities. These are unsung heroes who rebuild following disasters. Deserve protections and services

Presentation from Greg Jackson, Deputy Director, The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention

Mr. Jackson shares he comes to this movement as a survivor. In April 2013, he was caught in crossfire and shot bullet. Mr. Jackson shared how he arrived at hospital and first was interrogated by investigators, even though he was a bystander in the shooting. Mr. Jackson shared how this experience exemplifies former approach but that President Biden was the first president to classify gun violence as public health crisis.

Mr. Jackson expressed pride to be part of the first White House Office focused on preventing gun violence and noted the office just made its one year anniversary. In April 2021: President Biden issued the first executive action on gun violence and since then, there have been over 40 executive actions aimed at reducing gun violence. This administration has also passed the first gun violence prevention law in the last 30 years - The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

In addition, the Administration's American Rescue Plan and COVID relief funds had dedicated money to address gun violence. The White House Office's charge was to implement strategies from each of these pieces of legislation. Mr. Jackson shared key measures from the laws such as enhancing background checks for those under 21 who attempt to purchase guns. Since the implementation of these policies, there has been a 25 percent decrease in attempted purchases after looking at juvenile and mental health records which showed concerning patterns of behavior.

Mr. Jackson explained the Administration has also clarified what it means to be engaged in the business of selling firearms. Those who are prohibited from firearms, the number one source of those guns are unlicensed private sellers. So now the law states that private sellers now have to be licensed and do background checks.

He also shared how the President has made gun trafficking a federal offense. Law means it now is a prosecutable offense. Additionally, Mr. Jackson noted the law provided \$15 billion in the Safer Communities Act to help expand suicide crisis support, the 988 crisis lifeline which has been used by over 10 million people. The Administration has also prioritized the largest investment in youth mental health, adding more school and community violence interrupters.

Mr. Jackson also shared the office is responsible for implementing policy, ensuring that the dollars are going to communities most in need.

The second charge was identifying new ways to prevent gun violence. Mr. Jackson described working with Department of Education and DOJ on secure storage campaign because many guns used in school shootings are getting the weapons from home. Campaign is made to educate parents, recognizing that it can reduce youth suicides and school shootings.

Mr. Jackson flagged that the U.S. Surgeon General announced gun violence was a public health crisis which is a signal to health world that they need to be part of solution. Finally, he shared that the White House has partnered with AmeriCorp to develop Safe for American Network. You can sign up to be an AmeriCorp volunteer to work on the gun violence prevention issue.

Mr. Jackson described the third charge on expanding partnerships with state and local governments. He shared the need to invest in programs and strategies that work, which includes working upstream to keep guns out of hands of those most vulnerable and at risk in moments of crisis.

Questions/Discussion

Commissioner Daniel Dae Kim appreciated the work of office and asked about the correlation between guns used in youth violence and youth suicide and the relationship to parents and presence of guns at home. Can you share more info on that study?

Mr. Jackson responded it was the targeted violence department in the Department of Homeland Security. They have done two studies on youth violence and they have learned there are warning signs. Many youths who use lethal force, have in 90% of cases, told someone they are in a crisis/what they will do.

The studies also have demonstrated we can intervene, such as red flag laws. Mr. Jackson reiterated how access to firearms is a huge concern; 76% for school shooting and 86% for suicide come from home.

Commissioner Huang shared appreciation in investment in victim services and asked how the Office of Victims and Crime can improve outreach and access to funds by local AA and NHPI communities/CBOs. Commissioner Huang shared the Commission had approved a recommendation to improve accessibility to state funds because often AA and NHPI communities were traditionally left out of that outreach and access to federal dollars.

Commissioner Jackson shared they have worked closely with DOJ Office of Victims and Crimes. The DOJ Office has done listening sessions, studies, and in the proposed rule, this concern will hopefully be addressed. Mr. Jackson shared they are removing immigration status as a requirement to receive services because that can be used negatively against individuals, as well as requiring states to clarify what they mean by contributing behaviors. That term has been defined differently to impact who receives funds.

Mr. Jackson then shared the partnership with DOJ is working to ensure funds can be granted to community groups and not just government organizations. Guidance document has been rolled out to states so that the fed government is at least encouraging funds be granted to non-profits.

Commissioner Chen then asked if the team coordinates with youth serving organizations? What does teen or youth education on recognizing issues they see in the school/peers?

Mr. Jacksons shared that is an area they are working on and partnerships with institutions is easier, whether that is school systems or community organizations. He then shared the Department of Education is working to uplift CBOs that work with youth with the major goal of reaching youth earlier in crisis. Utilizing social media influencers is another avenue the White House Office is trying to use to expand cultural approaches to outreach.

Commissioner Samoa thanks the Belonging Subcommittee for engaging communities in their recommendation. He then shares examples of Marshallese or Samoan gun violence that was resolves with community leaders – community leaders are actively working towards this reconciliation. Commissioner Samoa encourages working with these cultural community leaders to expand this type of reconciliation to address gun violence.

Commissioner Fazili asked about resources for protection against gun violence – not just prevention. Especially those that might be relevant for religious communities facing threats or fear of violence. Physical safety costs and administrative costs are burdens for smaller organizations or houses of worships, and there is also a need to train/educate teams on making organizations more physically secure.

Mr. Jackson shared that the Department of Homeland Security has a preparedness division focused on targeted violence which includes threats from houses of worships. Mr. Jackson also shares there is training for government and expanding to non-profits, on identifying and defending against targeted violence. His office is primarily focused on prevention. Some work in the government is being done to proactively identify groups that are threats and engage with them or remove access to firearms from those groups.

Immigration and Citizenship Status Subcommittee Presentation

Co-Chairs: Commissioners Grace Huang and KaYing Yang

Members: Commissioner Dr. Robert Underwood

Ex-Officio: Carol Wu

Members: Judith Teruya

Commissioner Yang introduced the subcommittee members and reviewed the subcommittee's priority issues areas. Priority issues included items such as universal legal representation, improving language access in the immigration system, and reducing visa backlogs to name a few. There were no recommendations from the subcommittee for this meeting, and the subcommittee had no speakers because they were focused on internal deliberation.

Commissioner Huang shared about the work the Commission has to do, living under the need for larger structural reform and legislative action. The Commission continues to work on issues and hopefully inviting some guests to speak to the Commission soon. A challenge of the subcommittee is the diversity of communities – immigration pathways are unique/diverse, driven by diverse economic and social needs.

Commissioner Huang explained the subcommittee has focused on some communities that are furthest away from access and ability to participate in immigration system. Ongoing attention to

impacts of climate change on migration is a raising concern. She shared there are particular parts of Asia and the Pacific where climate is impacting need for people to move. Communities in the Pacific have high migration patterns from the islands and they have unique infrastructure needs to support the immigration needs. Individuals applying for status have very long wait times.

Commissioner Huang shared about the need for people to work and looking at labor shortages, and how immigration processes can help us with those employment immigration processes. She shared that the hope is whether in this Commission or in future Commissions, that there continues to be a focus on the communities that may be smaller and not as prominent part of the immigration system.

Questions/Discussion

Commissioner Blue shared she thought it was relevant for economic equity subcommittee to collaborate given the impacts immigration have on labor market.

Health Equity Subcommittee Presentation

- **Co-Chairs:** Commissioners Teresita Batayola, Kerry Doi, and Mia Ives-Rublee
- **Members:** Dr. Kimberly Chang, Dr. Kamal, Kalsi, and Dr. Raynald Samoa
- **Non-Commission Member:** Dr. Quyen Ngo-Metzger
- **DFO:** Erika Ninoyu

Commissioner Batayola introduced co-chairs, subcommittee members, and acknowledged the previous Commissioners and staff. She then recapped the priority issue areas and emphasized goal of subcommittee.

Commissioner Kalsi then presented the subcommittee's **one recommendation**. He began by sharing the background on the insurance claim denials system which is not transparent and has little accountability leading to delays and denials of necessary care. Challenges disproportionately affect AA and NHPIs exacerbating issues of healthcare access.

Commissioner Kalsi then shared the recommendation would require Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), implement key measures to improve transparency and accountability for prior authorization and claim denial process.

Question/Discussion

Commissioner Batayola shared these measures should improve access, particularly for disadvantaged communities. Recommends reporting transparency, audits to ensure integrity in the report, and eventually penalties/accountability.

Commissioner Ives-Rublee noted that there is an expectation certain patients will not fight back which leads to “soft” denials automatically, requiring patients and doctors appeal decision. She asked to consider including recommendations surrounding AI and its involvement on denial rates, since AA and NHPI and women healthcare information is not utilized to build these algorithms, resulting in higher denials for these groups.

Commissioner Shah suggested that comprehensive data collection should be incorporated into mandatory disclosure to make it more actionable.

Briefing from the Department of Justice

Laureen D. Laglagaron, Senior Attorney, Team Lead for Federally Conducted Language Access, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Ms. Laglagaron shared the DOJ’s actions to improve language access and thanked the Commissioners for letting her present and she thanks the interpreters. She then described Title VI of Civil Rights act of 1964 which designates if you receive funds from federal government, you must not discriminate based on race, color, or national origin including those with limited English proficiency.

Ms. Laglagaron shared her office also works with other agencies under Executive Order 12250, no matter the agency that provides funding, the message remains the same, individuals with limited English proficiency must be meaningfully offered federal services. Executive Order 13166 holds federal agencies to the same standards as those who receive federal funding, providing Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals access to services.

She shares the federal government cannot commit to only translating documents, but it must have in-house access to subject matter experts who can identify which documents need translating including Public Affairs staff to share with non-English media, and IT experts familiar with multilingual content. Ms. Laglagaron described how the federal government is building this team through the Federal Language Access Working Group, which holds bimonthly meetings of language access practitioners who are all federal staff. Over 200 members across 30 agencies attended the last meeting to share resources.

Commissioner Huynh asked if Ms. Laglagaron could expand on the challenges and opportunities in the Language Access field.

Ms. Laglagaron answered that four agencies have appointed language access coordinators, in her 14 year career which is a new development. Three quarters of agencies have committed to providing multilingual digital content. Ms. Laglagaron recognized that AI/machine translation is a new opportunity but must be reviewed as it may not be that accurate yet.

Commissioner Chang thanked Ms. Laglagaron for the work and expertise she provided to the language access subcommittee. Commissioner Chang asked what some recent language access cases that are being resolved and if/how they work with local law enforcement?

Ms. Laglagaron answered by explaining how their small office pairs with law enforcement that are already aiming to improve language access. This is because the Attorney's office is small, and it is easier to work in a voluntary manner than requiring other offices to act. She then gave the example of the Denver Police Department as a model for the work in language access.

Commissioner Chang asked if Ms. Laglagaron was seeing any work done with language that are mostly oral tradition and not written.

Ms. Laglagaron shared it can be difficult with oral languages or languages of lesser diffusion. She cited Rohingya as example where you can go to civil rights division's website and hear oral translation. However, Ms. Laglagaron noted it is difficult to get there and requires connections with community groups. She also explained there is an issue with community groups not knowing who to talk to. The civil rights division has a reporting portal and an online report can be filed in five different languages, or an individual can call and it can be handled in any language over the phone.

Commissioner Shah asked if language is gateway to cultural awareness or competency, is there a database of community-based organizations for organizations like law enforcement that need support with in-language services? Is law enforcement able to get financial support for language services?

Ms. Laglagaron answered that a lot of work is done at engaging with community outreach officers in state and local law enforcement agencies. Any database happens organically at local level but partnership is done with those already doing outreach in community.

Ms. Laglagaron shared that law enforcement agencies who receive federal funding, Title VI applies which means those agencies can spend money on language access. She urged more money to supplement local law enforcement agencies' ability to increase their language access budgets.

Commissioner Batayola asks what kind of guidance has the agency given to jurisdictions in addressing small or emergent language groups?

Ms. Laglagaron explained that they should provide links or pages where people can have language access translation. It seems reasonable to ask why not translate everything but it is important to recognize the cost can be high for the short answer is cost.

Commissioner Ives-Ruble expressed her concern that when she looks at web pages from the federal government, many of them are not translated and if they are, it is mainly translated in only in Spanish. She also expressed that if there is a phone number to call for help translating, it is normally hard to find. Commissioner Ives-Ruble explained that many immigrants do not understand disability accommodations or small businesses accommodations. She asks how often Ms. Laglagaron works with the disability rights section in the DOJ?

Ms. Laglagaron explained that they just recently started working with the disability rights section in the DOJ to provide language access. She has pushed for American Sign Language (ASL) to be

recognized as another language. She expressed that there is still a long way to go regarding translated federal webpages.

Commissioner Huang wanted to know what the DOJ is doing to better educate federal agencies to develop grant programs to acknowledge the organizations that have recently stepped up to be the translator in their local communities.

Ms. Laglagaron explained that when DOJ provides technical assistance and recommends plan, there is no enforcement authority to ensure recommendations are adopted. However, if DOJ sees federal agencies are relying on Community Based Organizations, treat them like any other language access vendor. Make sure they are vetted and paid. Previously was an issue because agencies were receiving it as a gift, but there is a fair market value on interpretation.

Briefing from the Domestic Policy Council

Neera Tanden, Domestic Policy Advisor in Biden Administration, Chair, Domestic Policy Council, The White House

Domestic Policy Council Chair Neera Tanden provided a brief overview of the Administration's accomplishments on their racial equity and economic justice work. Particularly proud of trying to re-order programs put forward, and making sure all communities are reached. Committed to ensuring AA and NHPI communities are thought about in the Small Business Administration.

Commissioner Min asks what she would want the audience to take away from today's meeting and presentation.

Chair Tanden explained that we should think through the barriers that are not obvious to other folks like language barriers. She also shared that a good feedback loop is effective and needed. Chair Tanden explained that she is trying to get the information outside of the government's walls about grants or language access opportunities.

Commissioner Doi thanked Chair Tanden and asked if she had any data about the inclusions of AA and NHPI communities in the Justice 40 Initiative. Chair Neera Tanden explained that they are facing real hurdles from the court after the Supreme Court decision last summer ending affirmative action. Many programs that appear to prioritize race of applicants are under scrutiny.

Commissioner Fazili thanked Chair Neera Tanden for the DPC's focus on addressing anti-Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate. She expressed her gratitude toward Chair Tanden and looked forward to working with the Commissioners to continue that work.

Domestic Policy Council Chair Neera Tanden thanked the Commissioners and concluded her remarks.

Language Access and Communications Subcommittee Presentation

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kimberly Chang and Victoria Huynh

Members: Simon Pang

Ex-Officio Members: Laureen Laglagaron
DFO: Erika Ninoyu

Commissioner Huynh opened the presentation by sharing the subcommittee's priority issue areas. They were focused on increasing outreach and engagement in communities with LEP populations, improving language access funding for health care settings to serve LEP families, and expanding federal funding for AA and NHPI language access, including translated communications.

Commissioner Chang explained that there are no new recommendations from the subcommittee but they wanted to share their accomplishments and the progress that has been made. On federal infrastructure, the committee's recommendation resulted in increased language access plans. Commissioner Chang expressed her thanks to the subcommittee and what they have done to help AA and NHPI communities.

Commission Discussion and Vote on the Subcommittee's Recommendations

Chief Commissioner Sonal Shah presented the recommendations from Belonging, Inclusion, Anti-Asian Hate, Anti-Discrimination and Health Equity and the full Commission voted separately on each recommendation. Commissioner Simon Pang was recused.

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

Actions Taken:

Commissioner Ives-Rublee made a motion to vote on the recommendation as amended and Commissioner Min seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation, focused on gun violence prevention:

- The Commission recommends a coordinated effort of government agencies, community

Health Equity Subcommittee:

Actions Taken:

Commissioner Doi made a motion to vote on the recommendation as amended and Commissioner Batayola seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation focused on prior authorization and insurance claim denials:

- The Commission recommends the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in collaboration with the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) implement several key measures to improve transparency and accountability in the prior authorization and claim denial processes: (1) insurance companies should be

mandated to publicly disclose their denial rates for various services to enhance transparency; (2) a standardized prior authorization process should be established across all CMS health plans to minimize administrative burdens and delays; (3) an independent review process for denied claims should be created, with comprehensive data collection and regular audits to ensure fairness and support underserved populations; and (4) there should be increased federal oversight, including rigorous monitoring, public accountability metrics, and enhanced penalties for non-compliance, along with mandatory disaggregation of data on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities to address healthcare disparities.

Final Discussion:

Commissioner Ives-Ruble thanked everyone who attended the Asian American adoptee event in Minnesota and that the Commissioners were able to give these individuals space to share their stories.

Commissioner Batayola strongly supported maintaining engagement on this issue for future Commissions. She reminisced about how there were issues in the past and how it is amplified in adoptees.

Deputy Chief Commissioner Min thanked the writing subgroup members and the staff for their continual work and support. She explained that they are almost done drafting up the final report.

Chief Commissioner Shah clarified that in the final report, they need every Commissioner engagement to ensure nothing is lost as they close out their work.

Commissioner Daniel Dae Kim asked if there will be any social media or public roll out of the final report? Executive Director Krystal Ka'ai responded that there will be a public rollout plan including social media.

Briefing from the Council of Economic Advisors

Jared Bernstein, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors, The White House

Chairman Jared Bernstein expressed his gratitude at how much work has been done in the Biden administration. He shared in depth background information on the role of the Council of Economic Advisors and how the Biden-Harris Administration is working to strengthen the economy.

Chairman Bernstein began by talking about the economy that President Biden inherited when he took office in 2021 and how important it was to address the pandemic conditions as a pre-requisite to fully reopening the economy. He also shared how a cornerstone of the President's plan was to focus on building an inclusive economy that would help us get back to full employment, assuming that if you are helping to bake the pie, you deserve to get a fair slice.

Chairman Bernstein shared how the President has focused on lowering the unemployment rate and has succeeded by having the average lowest unemployment rate of any Presidential Administration in over 50 years.

Chairman Bernstein shared that there is a distinction between slower inflation and deflation meaning lower costs. Chairman Bernstein shared how people remember what things used to cost and share that they want what things used to cost. He then shared that to get the costs lower, it would require a major recession which is not economically helpful.

Rather in a healthy economy, the prices steadily increase. The Chairman shared that what needs to happen is that people need to acclimate to new price levels because wages and real income goes up. He shared how the news is not reporting how disposable income – income after taxes – are increasing.

Chairman Bernstein stated that an inclusive economy means the lowest-income workers need to be included and there are ways the government can help lower costs, such as lowering the cost of prescription drugs through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Commissioner Kalsi asked how the Administration creates an economic plan and protects the effort and work that immigrants do, especially those who are often not counted or protected due to immigration status.

Chairman Bernstein answered acknowledging that immigrations helped us build America. He also shared that we must make a distinction between legal and illegal immigrants. Chairman Bernstein shared the President's day one comprehensive immigration reform legislation that would help make immigration easier for these workers which is the best way to capture and protect these workers.

Commissioner Daniel Dae Kim asks how the Chairman has found successful ways to message to the people accurate information about fair wages and prices. Chairman Bernstein explained that part of the solution is to get the facts right. He noted that people should keep getting the facts out there and act more optimistic about the economy.

Commissioner Shah asked how he is looking at the low number of experts in specific industries and what can be done to avoid labor shortages. Chairman Jared Bernstein described his work has regarding apprenticeship programs and how they can build a highly trained and skilled workforce from the ground up.

Commissioner Batayola asked about real wages for careers like teachers and nurses and how to help them recognize that the economy is actually doing well even though they are talking about needing to use food banks and other assistance programs.

Chairman Bernstein shared that he is unsure we need to convince these people that the economy is doing well because their lived experience is the opposite. He noted that the private market, left to its own devices, will not provide affordable housing to the bottom half of the income brackets. Chairman Bernstein shared that the affordable housing problem is one that the President and

Vice President feel is unfinished. He noted that the President has plans to attack these problems, but that it's not just his organization's problems, but the American people's problems and that he cannot fix them alone.

Final Discussion

Commissioner Samoa articulated how this Commission is built on the assumption our communities being seen. He notes that there are some communities that are not seen on the Commission and wanting to ensure that they are included in the report and future Commissions.

Commissioner Batayola stated that there are large and diverse populations under the AA and NHPI umbrella. She explains that every group has experienced a similar thing in that they are the “other.” She expressed that her hopes are that the work continues and that the communities are working together to be seen.

Chief Commissioner Shah expressed her gratitude towards the Commission and the work that they have done. She wanted them to recognize that the celebrations are just as important as the acknowledgement of what work remains. She explained that the reason that they are here is to make sure that the AA and NHPI communities feel like they belong.

Meeting Adjourns