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## OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

*News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs*

### A Message from the Director

**Dear Community Members,**

The arrival of the new fiscal year has brought upon us many new changes in the District of Columbia.

Most importantly, DC Health Link, the District of Columbia's new online health insurance marketplace, opened on October 1, 2013, and offers new affordable health plan options for small businesses and residents in the District. Many residents and businesses can now shop for the specific plans that meet their needs. If you were unable to attend OAPIA's recently held AAPI Leadership Summit that detailed the changes under the new health care law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the benefits of DC Health Link, you may visit [www.dchealthlink.com](http://www.dchealthlink.com) for more information.



Tomorrow afternoon on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 3pm, OAPIA will be working with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to conduct a safety meeting regarding the Florida Avenue Market. OAPIA and MPD will discuss ways to make the market a safer and better site for businesses, as well as to present any available government funding opportunities for businesses. The meeting will be held at Maurice Electrical Supply, 500 Penn Street NE, Washington, DC 20002. For more information, please feel free to call OAPIA at (202) 727-3120.

And despite the ongoing federal government shutdown, OAPIA and all other District agencies will continue to be in operation, unless otherwise noted through our [website](#), [Facebook fanpage](#), and/or [mailing list](#). OAPIA will continue to work with other District agencies and community based organizations to ensure the needs of our District's residents are being met.

Sincerely,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

### OAPIA in the Community

## OAPIA Attends 15th Annual Washington Chinese Culture Festival



*A performance showcasing Chinese culture from China's Anhui province.*



*OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo (second from the left) in the audience.*

OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo attended and made remarks at the 15th annual Washington Chinese Culture Festival (CCF) at the National Mall on September 28, 2013. The primary purpose of the CCF was to showcase Chinese American culture, to enrich American cultural life by promoting cultural diversity, and to foster harmony and friendship among people with different cultural backgrounds.

### **OAPIA Attends the DC Office of Human Rights' Immigrants Contribute: America, We Sing Back!**



*Spoken word artist George Yamazawa Jr. shares his experiences in front of an audience.*

On September 28, 2013, OAPIA attended the DC Office of Human Rights' event of community and poetry entitled "Immigrants Contribute: America, We Sing Back!" at All Souls Church Unitarian in the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

The event presented the challenges and the stories of the immigrant experience in DC, as well as poetry and spoken word. A resource fair was held during the event so attendees can learn more about services available to immigrants.

### **OAPIA Meets with the Beijing Office of All America, Inc.**



*OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo (center) with the Beijing Office of All America, Inc.*

On September 30, 2013, OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo met with Chinese officials from the Beijing Office of All America, Inc. to discuss the role of OAPIA within the District of Columbia, as well as the services and programs offered that help assist the AAPI community.

## District News and Announcements

### **Medicaid Applications Will Be Processed Without Delay As Plans To Integrate Eligibility Processing Through The District's New Health Insurance Exchange Near Completion District's Health Insurance Exchange is ready to assist Medicaid applicants**

(Washington, DC) - The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) announced that DC residents who need medical assistance on October 1, 2013 can still apply for Medicaid and those applications will be processed without delay, according to Wayne Turnage, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance.

Beginning October 1, 2013, DC residents who want to apply for Medicaid will have several new options for submitting applications. Through DC Health Link -- the District's new on-line health insurance marketplace and automated eligibility system -- residents will be able to complete and submit an electronic application over the Internet. Using the DC Health Link Contact Center (1-855-532-5465), residents will be able to apply over the telephone, working with trained eligibility and enrollment experts. Residents will also be able to get help from trained, in-person assisters from 35 community organizations or they can visit a neighborhood service center and submit an application in person. Applicants can continue to mail in their applications if they choose.

The District's new eligibility system also automates the verification process. This means that people applying for Medicaid on line or over the telephone through DC Health Link will not have to bring in paper documents as proof of eligibility unless the information is inconsistent. Further, residents who are denied Medicaid because they are over the program's income limit will be reassessed to determine whether they qualify for federal premium tax credits that would reduce the cost of their private insurance.

"These new features bring us closer to a seamless, no wrong door approach that promises to be more efficient and less burdensome for District residents and we are excited about our continuing work with the Exchange Authority and the DC Department of Human Services to implement this new integrated approach to eligibility," notes Director Turnage.

The automation of Medicaid applications is part of a larger project to automate all health and human services assistance applications. "We are moving in a step wise fashion to create a one-stop shop for everyone who lives here," according to David Berns, Director of the District's Department of Human Services. "Over the next year, we will continue to build system capacity with the goal of making it easier for residents to apply for the District's federally supported human service programs and to reduce the burden of annual recertifications."

The District of Columbia has been on the forefront of health care reform implementation and was one of only two states to expand Medicaid coverage early. Today, one in three residents gets health coverage through Medicaid and only six percent of District residents are uninsured.

Press Release: <http://dhcf.dc.gov/release/medicaid-applications-will-be-processed-without-delay-plans-integrate-eligibility-processing>

## Spotlight: Jane Pan Receives Community Advocate Award



Jane Pan, Executive Director of Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC (HBI-DC), received the Community Advocate Award at the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) 10th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. She joined four other devoted health advocates as award recipients of the night.

As a community advocate, Ms. Pan continually demonstrates her passion for achieving health equity through her work with HBI-DC. Since 2008, Ms. Pan led HBI-DC to work with community partners and organizations to bring awareness, vaccinations and treatment of hepatitis B and C

to underserved and at-risk populations.

HBI-DC seeks to mobilize communities to prevent liver disease caused by hepatitis B among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, African newcomers, and other high-risk groups in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Through collaborative partnerships, HBI-DC provides culturally and linguistically appropriate hepatitis B outreach, education, screening, vaccination, linkages to care, and patient navigation services for impacted communities.

For more information about HBI-DC, please visit [here](#).

## October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

The Mayor is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities in the District have access to the full variety of employment opportunities offered by District government. The Mayor and District government will celebrate Disability Employment Awareness Month by participating in Disability Mentoring Days (DMDs), from October 16, 2013 until October 31, 2013.

DMDs is an important way to introduce high school and college students with disabilities to the District Government and the possible employment opportunities available to them, such as the Summer Youth Employment Program. Through the DMDs, students with disabilities spend a day with an agency, shadowing the Director, interacting with staff, and getting to know what the agency does. Students learn about the variety of work that District agencies do while agency staff are exposed to the life experiences of students with disabilities.

For more information about disability rights and developmental disabilities, as well as resources pertaining to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, please visit:

- [DC Office of Disability Rights](#)
- [DC Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
- [National Technical Assistance Center \(NTAC-AAPI\)](#)

## DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 6:30pm in Conference Room 1114 at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St NW, Washington, DC 20001.

All commission meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact [oapia@dc.gov](mailto:oapia@dc.gov).

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