



Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

Commission Attendance: Yes

Obaid Ahmad, Member

Dr. Bishal Bhandari, Member

Arti Bhatt, Member

Raj Borsellino, Member

Dr. Kausik Das, Member

Preeti Emrick, JD, Member

Dr. Ahmad (Raza) Khan, Member

Preeti Menon, Member

Dr. Ahmed Nawaz, **Vice Chair**

Nivea Ohri, Member

Sushma Pakalapati Potluri, Member

Dr. Faisal Quader, Member

Fahim Rafiq, Member

Dr. Shahid Rafiq, Member

Amarjeet Sandhu, Member

Devang Shah, Member

Harshid Shah, Member

Aman Shergill, Member

Gurpreet (Preet) Takhar, **Chair**

Archana Thakker, Member

GOCI Staff:

Christina Poy – Administrative Director of SAA Affairs Commission, GOCI

Cheryl Madigan – Executive Assistant for the Ethnic Commissions, GOCI

I. Call Order and Procedural Reminders at 6:05 p.m.

Preet Takhar, Chair, Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs

II. Opening Remarks

Christina Poy, Administrative Director, Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs

- With confirmation of the quorum, she recommended the review and vote for: 1) Adoption of this meeting's Agenda and 2) Approval of the Minutes from meeting on April 9, 2025.

- No changes were made to the minutes.

Adoption of the agenda.	1st	2nd	Vote	Motion passed.
	Dr. Raza Khan	Preeti Menon	13 Y – 0 N – 0 A	YES

Adoption of the minutes.	1st	2nd	Vote	Motion passed.
	Dr. Raza Khan	Nivea Ohri	13 Y – 0 N – 0 A	YES

- o Administrator Director Poy reminded the commissioners that when they are in commission meetings and commission events, representing the Commission and speaking as commissioners, they should not change their hat (role) to speak on behalf an external role or professional capacity that’s not related to commission business. She also reminded commissioners to complete the SOP Event Request Form and inform both Chair Takhar and her via e-mail of the community events they’d like to participate or attend as a representative of the Commission.

III. Commissioner Events Check-In

- Commissioner Ahmed Nawaz asked when the commissioners will receive the reappointing letters from Executive Larry Walker. Director Christina Poy stated that everyone should have received an email, but the letters were not sent yet. Chair Preet Takhar wants to know if it’s a timeline to receive the reappointed letters. Director Poy stated that she will speak to Executive Larry Walker regarding his question and send both commissions an update.
1. Asian American Business Conference:
 - a. Faisal Quader provided updates (agenda timeline and program panel topics) about the Business Conference scheduled the following day (April 10, 2025) at The Universities at Shady Grove.
 - b. Raza Khan requested volunteers arrive early to pack the swag bags. Commissioners discussed the logistics of the Business Conference. Director Poy emailed an event reminder with the list of confirmed panelists, moderators and speakers and flyer with Lt. Governor, Secretaries Chaudhry and Rai to all commissioners, GOCl colleagues,

community leaders, and cabinet members. The registration increased since Lt. Governor confirmed her appearance with 435 registrants.

IV. Sub-Committees Reports *(The Commission Chair designates the sub-committee chair and then each commissioner must choose at least one sub-committee.)*

V.

1) **Business/Economic Development** *(in Sub-Committee Chair Obaid Ahmad's absence, Commissioner Faisal Quader reported on the Asian American Business Conference during the Commissioner Events Check-in.*

2) **Community (Arts, Culture & Interfaith):**

- Commissioner Raza Khan provided updates about the (Asian American) Heritage Month on May 17th, with three to four planning meetings in a joint effort with the APA Affairs Commission. The event will be held at Howard Community College in the new building 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM.
- Commissioner Aman Shergill provided updates about the Vaisakhi event planned for 6 pm to 8:30 pm on Monday, April 28th at Carroll Community College with dinner.

3) **Education (Social Workforce Development)** – Education Sub-Committee Chair Raza Khan reported that he shared a spreadsheet of the Education Survey responses the Committee received. The Committee has received 234 responses to date from community members across the State (including students, parents and teachers). The Committee will digest the results to help provide guidance to GOCL and state agencies, to check if policies are working, identify the priorities, and if/what resources are needed.

4) **Health (Bishal Bhandari)** – Commissioner Bhandari has no updates now. The subcommittee has two project plans: a flu vaccine drive and mental health initiative that he will have updates in October for these initiatives.

5) **Legislative (Devang Shah)** – Commissioner Shah spoke about the legislators working on a bill to recognize Diwali, Lunar New Year, and Eid in the school system. Commissioner Shah recommended to plan a legislative night during the legislative session next year to talk about legislative issues (i.e., Sikh issues head gear) and to collaborate with the other committees (i.e., Education), possibly next year.

6) **250** – No updates or comments were made.

VI. Old Business

N/A

VII. New Business:

N/A

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	Adjourn : 8:01 pm
Adjourned	Preeti Menon	Devang Shah	13 Y – 0 N – 0 A	