

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 6

RESOLUTION NO. 55-2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment - Seema Agarwal-Harding- Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Seema Agarwal-Harding to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

Introduced and read first time on May 4, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on May 18, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on June 1, 2026.

Certified by Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

SEEMA AGARWAL HARDING

Deep and extensive expertise in leadership, management, strategic planning, system engineering, community initiatives and outreach, partnership building, networking, and results monitoring. Professional interest to provide leadership for change for education, holistic development, lifelong learning, with focus on marginalized population groups, children and youth, emphasizing poverty alleviation and holistic human well-being.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Education and International Development, University College London, UK

Master of Arts, Education, University College, London, UK

Bachelor of Arts, English and European Literature; Italian language minor, Warwick University, UK

COUNTRY WORK EXPERIENCE

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; USA and UK

MARYLAND-RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AND VOLUNTEERISM

- **Luminus Network Inc.** : Howard County and MD's program for migrants and refugees
 - **CURRENT – Interim Executive Director**
 - Community Impact Project Team co-leader (2022-23) ; Concept note and program review
 - New American Staffing program. Concept note and program development
 - English as Second Language program partnership with Howard County Community College.
- **Leadership Howard County** : Leadership Premier 2022 Graduate.
- **Local Children's Board**
 - Member of Guidance Council of the Children's Board of Howard County (3/20 - present).
- **Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)** of Howard County
 - Member – (1/23 - present) ; Stakeholder mapping, strategic planning, networking (2023, 2024).
- **Office on Aging and Independence**
 - Co-Chair, Commission on Aging (5/2024 to present); Commissioner on Aging (2022-2025 term).
 - Member, Age-Friendly Howard County Task Force, Committee member 5yr action plan.
- **Bright Minds Foundation** :
 - Board member (2/23 – 2/25). Howard County Public Schools' Educational Foundation
- **Childscope International**
 - After-school multi-cultural language learning program for children ages 5-12. (2001-2) in multiple elementary schools of the HCPSS.
 - Principal and teacher – training between MD and African teachers, in partnership with MSDE and The World Bank Institute.
- **Fulton Bank** : (12/23 – 12/24)
 - Universal Banker, Focus on Community Outreach with the Fulton Forward Program, Women in Technology Resource Group and People of Color Experience Leadership team member.

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Asian Development Bank, People's Republic of China, Xian city
Senior International Education Development Specialist, 2020

- ▲ Full sector assessment, stakeholder analysis, for full early childhood development sector program.
- ▲ Assessment of program implementation, program monitoring and evaluation plan, verification of Disbursement-Linked Indicators, program actions, design, monitoring framework, program results, verification protocols.

Asian Development Bank: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia

Interim Team Leader, Secondary Education Sector Investment Program (SESIP), 2017 - 2018
Department of Secondary and Higher Education, ADB/Ministry of Education, Bangladesh

Inclusive Education Specialist, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Bangladesh
Secondary Education Sector Investment Program (SESIP), ADB/Ministry of Education, 2017 – 2018

Chemonics International, Washington DC, USA

Senior Education Technical Specialist, 2013 – 2019 (intermittent)

- ✦ Fieldwork in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asian countries
- ✦ Analytical work, policy advocacy, and evaluation of basic education programs
- ✦ Youth and workforce development programs design and development in Southeast Asian countries
- ✦ Early Grade Literacy and Numeracy program strengthening with technical input and analysis
- ✦ Co-creation of Early Grade reading & math, early childhood, basic education, youth skills development projects

The World Bank, Indonesia, Ghana, Washington DC

Senior Education Technical Specialist, 2013

- ✦ Analytical and policy advocacy for national early childhood development and basic education programs.
- ✦ Evaluation/review of parenting programs, community driven strategies, support of early childhood development.
- ✦ Development of Aide Memoire to strengthen the national Early Childhood Development Policy and Program.

Technical Specialist, Asia Technical Division and Ghana Resident Mission, 3/1989 – 2/1992

USAID: 2002 – 2006 Washington DC (with brief personal break for six months in 2005)

2008 -- 2010 Thailand/Regional Development Mission for Asia

Senior Regional Education Advisor for Asia, USAID/RDMA

Senior Regional Education Advisor for Asia and the Middle East, USAID/Asia and Near East Bureau

- ✦ Technical support to USAID Missions in over 15 countries – focus area basic education, youth and workforce development, early childhood development, secondary and post-secondary education reform and productive pathways, especially for marginalized and hard to reach students and families
- ✦ Design & implementation, regional initiatives, SOW, recruitment, monitoring and supervision, budget and contractor management)
- ✦ Technical review, design, implementation support of in-country education sector programs
- ✦ Briefings for Front Office, Congress, State Department
- ✦ Inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration and coordination
- ✦ Public-Private Partnerships development
- ✦ Development (including design, implementation and monitoring) of new regional initiatives
- ✦ Selection and supervision of implementing partners and contractors

UNITED NATIONS – UNICEF and United Nations Development Program:

Chief, Education and Adolescent Development, UNICEF/Indonesia; 2010 – 2012

National Country Coordinator, Pan-UN Education Program, UNDP/India; 1995 - 1998

Chief, Education and Human Resource Development, UNICEF/Ghana, 1992 – 1995

Program Planning Specialist, UNICEF/Myanmar, 1986 – 1988

- ✦ Program management, strategic planning, networking, monitoring and evaluation of early childhood development, primary education, non-formal education, youth programs, workforce development.
- ✦ Strengthening national early childhood development programs for equitable and quality expansion with policy.
- ✦ Designing and implementing innovative community initiatives for children and families
- ✦ Donor coordination in basic education, youth skills and workforce development, including life-skills for children and youth, early childhood development (cross-sectoral) and strengthening parenting practices and skills.
- ✦ Partnership development and relationship-building with donors, government, and development stakeholders.
- ✦ Analysis, report writing, proposals, advocacy briefs, budgeting, planning, management, monthly monitoring.
- ✦ Leadership of disaster-risk-reduction country coalition, with Save the Children.

OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

PLAN International: Senior Education Technical Advisor, Plan Australia – focus: early childhood, parenting.

Catholic Relief Services: Education Team Leader, Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore USA – strengthening early childhood education and development, including school feeding and response in conflict-affected areas.

Creative International LLC: Director, Education Programs, Creative Associates: Washington DC USA – Strengthening program focus in basic education, including girls' education and early childhood development.

American Institutes of Research: Girls' Education Specialist, Washington DC USA

United Nations Development Program: Country Coordinator, India – leading a national effort to strengthen community-based initiatives on early childhood development and primary education in partnership with other UN agencies in eight States of India, in partnership with UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, and The World Bank, and under the leadership of the National Government's Ministry of Education and Culture.

European Union: Deputy Coordinator, District Primary Education Program, European Union, India – focus on EU-supported State of Maharashtra as part of the national District Primary Education Program effort coordinated by the government of India.

Asia Regional Representative for Consultative Group on Early Childhood Development – South Asia representative; conducted analytical and policy advocacy work on early childhood care and development.

Teacher Training and School Teacher, London UK – trained as a teacher and worked in inner city London schools (primary and middle) for two years.

RECENT PAPERS/PUBLICATIONS

ADB/China

- Concept note and program review of Xian's Early Childhood Development Program.

ADB/Department of Secondary and Higher Education/MoE/Bangladesh

- DLI Action Plan ; presentations on DLI Action Plan progress.
- SESIP Quarterly Progress Reports and Implementation Plan (Tranche 1 & Tranche 2).
- Concept paper on Harmonized Stipend Program and achieving SDG4.
- Justification for Education and Protection program for the Rohingya Refugee program.
- Coordination with Development Partners for Secondary Education Development Program implementation.

ADB/Ministry of Education Youth and Sport/ ESDPIII/Cambodia

- *Design and Monitoring Framework, Quarterly/Annual Reports, Gender Report, ESDP3.*
- *National Framework and Guidelines for Implementation of Life Skills Program in Lower Secondary Schools.*
- *School Improvement Planning Handbook for School Directors and Education Managers, Cambodia.*

PLAN International: Parenting Education Program-An Assessment- Indonesia, PLAN Australia

ADB/Ministry of Religious Affairs; Indonesia

- *Madrasah Education In Indonesia: Keeping The Promise Of Quality. A Review Of Madrasah Education In Indonesia and Madrasah Education Development Program : Lessons Learned And Future Directions --- Executive Summary, Expanded Report and Annexes, Indonesia.*

World Bank and Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia

- *Aide Memoire : Early Childhood Education and Development Project, Indonesia.*

UNICEF and Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia

- *Out of School Children Study.*
- *We like being taught : a study on teacher absenteeism in Papua and West Papua, UNICEF, SMERU, UNCEN, UNIPA and Provincial Education Offices of Papua and West Papua, Indonesia.*

LANGUAGES

English (Native); Hindi (Native); Nepali (Beginner/Intermediate – oral only); Bengali (Beginner/Intermediate – oral only); Urdu (Beginner/Advanced – oral only)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google, QuickBooks