

# Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County  
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July 17, 2022

**Members Present** – Dr. Benjamin Abe, Dr. Brenda Jackson

**Members Absent** – Sheila Mary, Charlotte Antoine, Pamela Williams, Paula Williams, Paul Mitchell, Claudette Thomas

**Guests** – Michael Hubner

**HSD/ADS Staff** – Mary Mitchell, ADS Interim Director, Dinah Stephens, Karen Winston

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## I. One Seattle Comprehensive Plan

Michael Hubner, Long Range Planning Manager, Office of Community Planning and Development (OCPD) provided the presentation on the *One Seattle Comprehensive Plan*. The plan is the City's vision on how we will grow and invest in our community over the next 20 years, consistent with state/regional policies. It is updated every decade per the requirements in the Growth Management Act. The original plan, Seattle 2035, was completed in 2016. The updated plan is due in 2024.

The plan update will address several major challenges for communities and for Seattle as a whole, including:

- Racial inequities, past and current
- Displacement pressures
- Housing costs
- Climate change and resilience
- Investments to meet existing and future community needs
- Recovery from the global pandemic

Elements of the plan guides many City actions, including the growth strategy, land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, utilities, economic development, shorelines, container port, environment, parks and open spaces, arts and culture, community well-being, and community involvement. OCPD coordinates with other planning including the Seattle Transportation Plan, the Parks & Open Space Plan, Shape Our Water Plan, Industrial and Maritime Strategy, and planning for the light rail expansion. Together, they guide zoning/regulations, capital investments, budget, and department work plans.

The **Urban Village Growth Strategy** has been in place since 1994. Urban Villages are intended to concentrate new housing and jobs in designated urban centers and villages. It also designates manufacturing and industrial centers, and focuses most growth in compact, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods linked by transit. Most land outside urban villages is occupied by single family homes and is shaped by a history of racial segregation and exclusion.

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In the past decade, Seattle has grown at a rapid pace. As growth continues over the coming decades, Seattle will approach a population of 1 million. The *One Seattle Comprehensive Plan* will explore new ideas for where and how the city will grow, such as:

- adding new urban centers or villages
- allowing more options for housing across the city
- strategies to reduce the displacement of households and businesses
- complete neighborhoods where more people can walk to local shops and services
- planning for more growth around transit

**Public Engagement & Schedule** – Community engagement will provide opportunities for public involvement through major milestones of the Plan Update, including:

- Goals and policies in the *One Seattle Comprehensive Plan* elements
- Alternatives and impacts studied in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Review and comment on draft Plan and draft EIS
- Engagement on plan implementation
- Racial Equity Toolkit process

### Timeline



Community engagement goals for the current update planning process include:

**Effective communication:** Meaningful, relevant, plain talk and graphics, multiple channels, and platforms (virtual & in-person), and accessible and multi-lingual, and

**Meaningful engagement:** Interaction and co-creation community-based organizations (CBOs), community liaisons, transparency, responsiveness, and accountability to the Public Participation Plan available to the general public, and virtual engagement timeline connects, and engagement outcomes to policy development using the Racial Equity Toolkit.

Through the engagement process, OCPD has prioritized resources to engage with BIPOC communities, limited-English speaking communities, youth, renters, LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, low-income populations, people experiencing homelessness, and immigrants/refugees. In addition, they are also committed to engaging City boards and commissions, public agencies, cultural organizations, policy advocates, CBOs, small business owners, renters/property owners, builders/developers, and the general public.

Partnerships were also established with five CBOs for engagement in underserved communities. These organizations included the Khmer Community of Seattle/King County, the Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association, Estelita's Library, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, and the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict. The organizations received a 12-month contract at \$30K each, and each engagement workplan reflects and responds to the unique communication needs of its community, while outreach centers equity throughout

the engagement process. The CBO engagement process and activities are listed below.

## CBO Engagement Partners 2022 Engagement Activities



Languages spoken and the communities that CBO partners will engage include:

- Somali
- Amharic/Oromo
- Unhoused
- Latinx
- Urban Indigenous
- African American
- Vietnamese
- Mandarin
- Older adults and People w/Disabilities
- Cham

The *One Seattle Comprehensive Plan* also has an online Engagement Hub – ([www.engage.oneseattleplan.com](http://www.engage.oneseattleplan.com)). The Engagement Hub supports surveying and polling, workshops, and community discussions, live and recorded panels, issue briefs and Comp Plan 101 videos, mapping exercises, interactive comment periods, full website translation for the above-mentioned languages, and periodic engagement report-outs.

Information and opportunities to comment on the scoping for the EIS will be ongoing throughout the summer. Presentations, webinars, and community conversations are scheduled through the end of 2022. Upcoming presentations include:

- July – Healthy, resilient communities
- August – Transportation
- September – Housing and displacement
- Report outs from the work of the CBOs and community liaisons (2022-2023)
- Open houses are scheduled during the public comment periods (2023)
- Engagement focused on zoning proposals (2023)

For more information email Aja Hazelhoff, OCPD Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at [aja.hazelhoff@seattle.gov](mailto:aja.hazelhoff@seattle.gov).

**Question** – You mentioned an analysis to show where people are at risk of displacement. Are older adults included in the analysis?

**Response** – Follow the link to OCPD’s displacement risk dashboard: <https://population-and-demographics-seattlecitygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/displacement-risk>.

**Question** – For Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and Detached Accessory Dwelling Units (DADU) are there conversations about access to capital to be able to develop them, especially for BIPOC communities.

**Response** – It is easier to build these units on your property now, however, they are expensive to develop due to significant up-front costs, even though there are long-term benefits. A link was provided to an [ADU/DADU website](#) where links are provided to available resources/assistance.

## II. ADS Updates

Mary began her updates with an overview of the USAging Conference in Texas. She and several other attendees from Washington enjoyed the conference. Mary appreciated the opportunity to learn a lot about various structures of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). While some AAAs are connected to government (like ADS), others are free-standing nonprofits. Mary was also pleased that equity was imbedded in many of the presentations. She provided a few highlights of workshops attended:

- Elder Abuse Awareness – She learned about different strategies the state of Wisconsin uses to raise awareness about elder abuse. She would like to see similar efforts in Washington state.
- Boot Camp for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) – Included background information about AAAs and what AAA leaders need to know.
- Consumer Directed Washington (CDWA) – She met the CDWA vendor who will be taking over the administrative tasks for the IP specialist program.
- Dementia Conversations ([Dementia Friendly Nevada](#)) – Included 2x weekly conversations with families about living well with dementia in communities.
- Roundtable discussions – Mary attended two discussions, one on housing and another on employing a rapid response to reducing hospitalizations (during COVID).
- Challenging health disparities through promoting oral health – Focused on community partnerships to increase access to oral health.

Mary provided the following additional updates for the WA. Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) meeting.

- Currently working on the intra-state funding formula (for Older American Act) to develop criteria to determine rather than negotiations.
- Staff are re-examining Title-XIX clients to determine who meets the criteria, especially since the personal allowance criteria has changed.
- Robotic Pets – 200 are currently available statewide and ADS staff are working to determine how many are needed for King County.
- Legislative priorities have been submitted to the External Affairs Team. The 2023 priorities include: 1) Medicaid case management parity, 2) Hospital transitions, 3) Dementia Resource Catalyst Program expansion, and 4) Address the caregiver workforce shortage, and 5) Reduce case management caseloads down to 75:1.
- The Case Management Program director, Theresa Tanoury, has gone on to another position with the Corporation for Housing Services. ADS is working on changes to the position before bringing on a new director.
- W4A will start the process to identify new officers. New officers will start in October.

### III. Seattle Age Friendly Updates

Age Friendly Seattle manager, Dinah Stephens, began with an overview on thoughts for the next 5-year Age Friendly Plan. She started with the Age Friendly mission—to make Seattle a great place to grow up *and* grow old. Guiding values include:

1. We will **lead with race**. Racial injustices compound over a lifetime, and many older adults of color face deep inequities caused by structural racism.
2. Seattle’s seniors are increasingly diverse, and we will view our plans and efforts through a racial and social justice lens that **prioritizes inclusivity and equity**, including language access.
3. We recognize the **intersectional nature** of issues impacting older adults. A “great place to grow old” describes somewhere older adults can thrive.
4. We will do this work in **partnership**. We will be more successful in creating an age-friendly city if we engage a range of City and community partners.
5. We will **seek and listen to community input**, stay open-minded and nimble, consider that aging happens throughout life, and use data to help inform our goals, strategies, and actions.

**Theory of Change** – What does it mean when we say that we want older adults to thrive? “Thriving” can be understood as experiencing a high life satisfaction with the ability to maintain three key resources as we age including, **physical** resources (health & well-being), **financial** resources (economic security), and **social** resources (social connectivity). These resources feed continuity. The more older adults can maintain this continuity, the better off they will be. The next 5-year plan will focus on helping older adults maintain these three resources and desired continuity. Each goal will have several different strategies, and each strategy will also consider race and social justice.

Dinah then facilitated a Zoom poll to get members input on the most important goals within each goal area.

**Physical resources** (health & well-being) – Members identified support for caregivers, increase access to healthcare services, and brain health.

**Financial resources** (economic security) – Members chose improving access to affordable housing as the most important.

**Social resources** (social connectivity) – Members identified aging in place and other types of supportive programs as most important.

Dinah offered additional opportunities to give input for MCAAE members who were not at the meeting.

### IV. Digital Equity Learning Network – No updates.

**V. August Meeting** – The next meeting will be on Friday, August 19. The agenda will include a presentation from the mayor’s office on the Mayor’s Health Initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.