

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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January 27, 2023

Members Present – Dr. Abe, Charlotte Antoine, Paul Mitchell, Madinah Slaise, Paula Williams

Members Absent – Sheila Mary, Claudette Thomas, Pamela Williams

HSD/ADS Staff – Mary Mitchell, ADS Director, Dinah Stephens, Lena Williams, Karen Winston

I. MCAAE 2023 Elections

Members nominated and voted on the chair and vice chair for 2023.

- Paula Williams will serve as the chair.
- Charlotte Antoine will serve as the vice chair.

II. Priorities and Planning for 2023

Members shared the following thoughts/ideas of what they would like the commission to address in 2023.

- Increase awareness about MCAAE and African American Elders
- Increase awareness about fraud prevention and financial literacy.
 - Partner with agencies who are specifically aware of the issues/needs faced by Black older adults.
- Housing
 - Address rising housing costs and the impact on older adults.
 - Advocating to lift the state ban on rent control for older adults and people with disabilities (partner with AARP to learn more)
 - Advocate/support the AAEP and its mission to support homebound elders.
- Addressing health disparities
 - Advocate for affordable medications
- Continued advocacy for better access to internet connectivity.
 - Invite a speaker from the Digital Equity Learning Network (DELN)
 - Find a partner to provide equipment, connectivity, and training (especially for homebound older adults)
- Loneliness and social isolation among older adults
 - Partner with senior centers
- Expanding community services for African American elders (continuum of services)
 - Tubman Center for Health & Freedom
 - Advocate for better care for those experiencing Alzheimer's/dementia.
- Promote and support Black business ownership in providing care of elders.

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- Partner with immigrant agencies and community to increase awareness about available services for elders.

Next steps – At the February meeting, members will have an opportunity to review and add more items to the brainstorming list. Paula would like members to identify the top two or three items to begin working on.

III. Hybrid Meeting Update

Karen reported that the City now requires all boards and commissions to provide hybrid meetings. She discussed possible meeting locations, including the Seattle Municipal Tower, Garfield Community Center, the Douglass Truth Library, or the UW Memory Hub located on the Harborview campus.

IV. Updates & Other Items

- **Black History Month Proclamation** – Karen thanked members who provided comments on the draft proclamation for Black History Month. The proclamation will be included in the February issue of AgeWise – www.agewisekingcounty.org
- **Mayor Harrell** – Karen reported that a request was submitted to the Mayor’s Office for the mayor to attend the February MCAAE meeting. It will be an opportunity for the mayor to meeting the members and to inform him about the MCAAE priorities. She has not received a response yet but will keep members updated.
- **Nutrition Investment Process** – Karen asked members about their interest in participating on a rating panel for the Nutrition Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Members would be responsible for reviewing and rating applications agency applications. She will email more information about the process and what would be required. Members would be compensated for their participation.
- **Area Plan** – The Area Plan is a four-year state required document. This year (2023) is the planning year for the next Area Plan 2024-2027. During the first quarter ADS will be doing a lot of community engagement in Seattle and King County. Members will have an opportunity to give input at a future meeting. To review the current plan, visit – www.agingkingcounty.org/data-reports/area-plan

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.