

# Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County  
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February 17, 2023

**Members Present** –Charlotte Antoine, Vice Chair, Paul Mitchell, Madinah Slaise, Claudette Thomas, Pamela Williams

**Members Absent** – Dr. Abe, Sheila Mary, Paula Williams, Chair

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

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## I. **Byrd Barr Place**

Members received a warm welcome from the Byrd Barr Place Chief Executive Officer, Andrea Caupain-Sanderson. For more than two decades, Andrea has worked to promote economic mobility and racial equity for people across Washington state. As the CEO since 2008, she has led the organization in its efforts to build an equitable Washington through innovative program and services that nurture people's health and well-being. She has also been instrumental in designing initiatives that focus attention on the adverse impacts of racism and advocating for policy and systemic change.

First known as the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), their original purpose endures to this day—helping people move from poverty to self-sufficiency in Seattle and building the political strength and economic wealth of the Black community statewide. In 2018, the organization became Byrd Barr Place, named in honor of legendary Seattle civil rights leader Roberta Byrd Barr. Services provided at Byrd Barr Place include:

- **Energy Assistance** – Provided year-round for Seattle residents to help pay for home heating and furnace repair.
- **Food Bank** – Open three days a week for people who need to shop for healthy foods and non-grocery essentials.
- **Home Assistance** – Helps renters facing eviction and offers resources for those needing temporary transitional or permanent affordable housing.
- **Personal Finance** – Connects people to financial tools and resources to help with managing finances, reduce debt, and save for the future.

Visit the website to learn more about other essential services at Byrd Barr Place at [www.byrdbarrplace.org](http://www.byrdbarrplace.org) or call 206-812-4940.

Co-sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

## II. Priorities and Planning for 2023

Following a review of the list of ideas discussed at the January meeting, members voted on their top three priorities to address during 2023.

### 1. Address isolation and loneliness, including:

- a. Advocate/promote affordable internet connectivity
- b. Advocate to increase access to transportation services

### 2. Address financial literacy and fraud prevention:

- a. Partner with community organizations to create educational materials (articles, information brochures, etc.) to promote financial literacy and increase fraud prevention awareness.

### 3. Address health disparities, including:

- a. Advocate for affordable medications
- b. Advocate to expand community services for African American elders.

### 4. Advocate for affordable housing and rent control (carryover from 2022):

- a. Continue advocacy for extremely low-income/affordable housing
- b. Monitor statewide efforts to promote rent control.

**Next steps** – At the March meeting members will focus on committee formation.

## III. Hybrid Meeting Update

At the January meeting, Karen reported that the City requires all boards and commissions to provide hybrid meetings. As requested, she investigated possible meeting locations, including the Garfield Community Center, the Douglass Truth Library, and the UW Memory Hub located by the Frye Art Museum.

She learned that the Garfield Community Center and the Douglass Truth Library do not have hybrid capacity, but the UW Memory Hub does. Members agreed to have the March meeting at the Memory Hub to see the site and learn more about it.

## IV. Advocacy for Tubman Center for Health & Freedom

Mary encouraged all members to take action for health justice by telling state legislators to invest \$17 million to help build the Tubman Center for Health & Freedom. Sign the online letter at [www.tubmanhealth.org](http://www.tubmanhealth.org).

## V. Updates & Other Items

- **Mayor Harrell** – Karen announced that Mayor Harrell is confirmed for the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. It will be an opportunity for the mayor to meeting the members and for members to inform him about the MCAAE 2023 priorities.

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