

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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April 21, 2023

Attending – Paula Williams, Chair, Charlotte Antoine, Madinah Slaise, Claudette Thomas

Members Absent – Dr. Abe, Sheila Mary, Paul Mitchell, Pamela Williams

Guests – Margaret Boddie, Noni Ervin, Bill Holleman, Twanda Hill, Rita Howard

Staff – Mary Mitchell, Karen Winston

I. March Meeting Summary

The March meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

II. St Martin de Porres Shelter

Bill Hallerman, Agency Director, Catholic Community Services of King County (CCS), presented information on behalf of CCS and the [St. Martin de Porres Shelter](#). The presentation was a request for commission's support in asking the City Council to keep their partnership and contract with the City of Seattle. While the City has been moving other homeless services to the King County Regional Homeless Authority (KCHRA), the special nature of the population served and their long history with the City necessitates the funding for this program to stay with the City.

St. Martin de Porres Shelter (named after St. Martin de Porres, a Catholic, African American saint who ministered to the sick and elderly) was founded in 1984 through a collaboration between the City and CCS. It was founded to respond to an urgent need for older homeless men who were living and dying on the streets and being victimized by predators. A renovated surplus Army property on Alaskan Way was secured and turned it into a shelter for homeless men aged 50 and older. The City currently holds the lease for the building with the Coast Guard, which took over the building from the Army about 15 years ago. Since the beginning, many of the residents served have been African American men. In the last two years, 50% of the residents have been persons of color, 33% were African American, and over 75% were disabled. The shelter is full every night.

This year marks the 45th anniversary for St Martin de Porres, and the City has maintained the contract with CCS for 40 years. Because of this long-standing relationship, CCS would like the City to keep the contract and not have it transfer it to the KCRHA.

Question – Where is the shelter located?

Response – 1561 Alaskan Way So., Seattle, 98134

Co-sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

Question – Why do you want to keep the contract with the City?

Response – We’d like to offer more long-term care services for residents, such as case management. Keeping the contract with the City provides potential for us to build a relationship with Aging and Disability Services (ADS) who currently holds the contract for the African American Elders Program. Our concern with moving the contract to KCRHA is that the shelter might lose its ability to only serve older homeless men.

Question - Does the KCRHA support this?

Response – We’ve talked with staff at KCRHA, and they are not opposed to the idea, but more conversations are needed. We also intend to have a discussion with the KCRHA governing board and implementation board.

Bill requested a letter of support from the MCAAE to keep the contract with the City. If the contract is moved to KCRHA, he asked for support for their desire to keep the shelter for older men only. He will provide additional information to help inform the letter.

III. Committee Work & Expectations

At the April meeting, members volunteered to be committee chairs. Paula reported that since the last meeting, Madinah volunteered to lead a committee. Committee chairs are:

Social Isolation Committee – Charlotte

Financial Literacy & Fraud Prevention Committee – Paula

Health Disparities Committee – Madinah

Affordable Housing/Rent Control Committee – Claudette, Dr. Abe

IV. Prep for meeting w/Mayor

Karen previewed the draft PowerPoint slides with members. Since we only have 20-30 minutes with the mayor, members thought the slides should be reduced.

Paula would like each committee to create achievable goals to share with the mayor that will ultimately have a positive impact and improve the lives of older African Americans. Focus on questions for the mayor, e.g., what can he do to help us make a difference.

Following a brief discussion, members agreed to discuss the following with Mayor Harrell.

- Introductions of MCAAE members; Reduce slides re MCAAE history
- Share MCAAE accomplishments
- Share MCAAE priorities and committees
- Discuss the letter re St Martin de Porres Shelter
- Request a dedicated mayoral staff person to support MCAAE and attend meetings on a quarterly basis.
- Help create a video about the commission to increase awareness.

V. ADS Director Updates

Mary Mitchell, ADS Director, provided the following updates.

- The Care Coordination Program Director has been hired – Niesha Williams.
- A Budget Advisor – Jessica Gardener, was also recently hired.
- ADS Deputy Director – Implementing another round of interviews soon.
- Mary will be attending USAging Policy Conference and join others in advocating for:
 - Supporting older adults in homes and in communities.
 - Supporting healthcare.
 - Supporting caregivers.
 - Addressing social isolation.
- Mayor Harrell would like to expand Health One Team that works with the Care Coordination Program.
- Applied for fellow thru City who will joining ADS for 6 to 8 weeks.
- Currently, there are 18 vacancies in the Care Coordination Program (CMP). ADS is asking for one person to be dedicated to recruitment.
- Two new supervisors were hired for the CMP. This will allow for smaller CMP teams.

VI. Age Friendly Update

The Age Friendly manager, Dinah Stephens, could not attend the meeting but she wanted members to know how much she appreciated all who participated in reviewing the Age Friendly Anti-Ageism Training. The comments were great and very helpful! The training is progressing, and she hopes to have it completed by May.

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