

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
Mailing Address: PO Box 34215, Seattle WA 98124-4215
Office Address: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, 51st Floor
206-684-0706 • TTY 206-684-0274 • FAX 206-684-0689
Website: www.seattle.gov/MCAAE

MCAAE Meeting Summary

December 15, 2023

MCAAE Members Present: Paula Williams, Chair; Omara Abe; Charlotte Antoine; Claudette Thomas; Rita Howard, Paul Mitchell; Pamela Williams

Members Absent: Sheila Mary

Guests: Joe Hailey, ADS Advisory Council Chair; Two community members

HSD/ADS Staff: Michael Adusah, Maria Langlais; Mary Mitchell; Dinah Stephens; Karen Winston

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Ice Breaker

Participants introduced themselves followed by an ice breaker game called "Guess Who."

II. 2023 MCAAE Highlights & Accomplishments

Paula presented a summary of 2023 accomplishments and accomplishments. (See attached list)

III. 2024 Advocacy: Making an Impact

Micheal Adusah, ADS Planner, Maria Langlais, ADS Policy Advisory, Joe Hailey, ADS Advisory Council Chair, and ADS director, Mary Mitchell, provided an overview of Aging and Disability Services (ADS).

- ADS is chartered under the Older Americans Act (OAA), 1965.
- The goal of OAA is to meet the diverse needs of the growing number of older adults in the US. The act created the vehicle to organize and coordinate community-based services and opportunities for older Americans and their families.
- ADS is the assigned Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the Seattle-King County region.
- ADS is one of 13 AAAs in Washington state and there are over 600 AAAs throughout the country.
- The City of Seattle Human Services Department acts as the legal contracting authority.
- Under an interlocal agreement the City of Seattle and King County serve as the sponsors.
- In King county alone, ADS serves about 25% of older adults in Washington state.
- The ADS Advisory Council (AC) is a volunteer citizen body mandated by the Older Americans Act of 1965.
- The AC brings knowledge of local issues to ADS and advocates at the federal, state, county, and city levels.

The AC will join the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) who will be advocating and educating legislators about two important items impacting older adults in Washington state.

#1 – Fund \$1.58 million for In-Home Case Managers for Long-Term Care Clients without Caregivers

- Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Medicaid Case Manager workforce is "catching up," thanks to 2022 and 2023 budget investments. Recent state investments in case management are succeeding in reducing workloads and providing capacity for case managers to support increasingly complex clients. In previous years, case managers were overwhelmed and "fighting fires" with clients in crisis every day.

Co-sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

- Now we face a long-term care workforce crisis. Area Agencies on Aging are serving more clients without caregivers. By SFY25, AAAs will support over 4,800 clients who do not have a paid in-home caregiver. With less paid caregivers in the workforce, clients may wait for months before getting care.
- Clients without caregivers need more case manager time than those with a caregiver in the home. Medicaid in-home care has tools to help clients manage needs until an in-home care provider is in place like Assistive Technology, home modifications, behavioral supports, and more – but those tools take extra time, communication, and planning. AAA case managers need the capacity to visit more often and spend more time with clients who do not have in-home assistance to set up supports, help clients recruit caregivers from their family and community networks, and help caregivers navigate training and employment systems.
- Area Agencies on Aging should get paid to case manage all clients with no personal care. Clients that don't have a home care agency or independent caregiver assigned in the state's payment system are not counted in caseload counts. This means that time-intensive case management provided for 700 clients isn't being paid. This group needs to be included for payment and reduced caseloads, to make sure they get the help they need to stay safe at home.
- Solution: Fund \$2.58 million GF-S in the 2024 budget to reduce caseloads to 55:1 for case managers of clients without caregivers in the home.

#2 – Seniors Face a “Perfect Storm” of Hunger - \$15.2 million Needed to Sustain Services

- **Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Medicaid Case Manager workforce is “catching up,” thanks to 2022 and 2023 budget investments.** Recent state investments in case management are succeeding in reducing workloads and providing capacity for case managers to support increasingly complex clients. In previous years, case managers were overwhelmed and “fighting fire” with client in crisis every day.
- **Now we face a long-term care work-force crisis. Area Agencies on Aging are serving more clients without caregivers.** By SFY25, AAAs will support over 4,100 clients who do not have a paid in-home caregiver. With less paid caregivers in the workforce, clients may wait for months before getting care.
- **Clients without caregivers need more case manager time than those with a caregiver in the home.** Medicaid in-home care has tools to help clients manage needs until an in-home care provider is in place like Assistive Technology, home modifications, behavioral supports, and more—but those tools take extra time, communication, and planning. AAA case managers need the capacity to visit more often and spend more time with clients who do not have in-home assistance to set up supports, help clients recruit caregivers from their family and community networks, and help caregivers navigate training and employment systems.
- **Solution: Fund \$1.58 million GF-S in the 2024 budget to reduce caseloads to 55:1 for case managers of clients without caregivers in the home.**




A discussion followed about potential ways both commissions can work together in advocating for vulnerable older adults in King County, such as attending AC meetings (held every 2nd Friday at noon), joint letter writing, and joining state advocates on Senior Lobby Day when scheduled.

IV. Special Acknowledgements

Mary distributed holiday cards to each member and acknowledged their contributions during the year.

Meeting Adjourned

2023 MCAAE Accomplishments

Month	Topic	Outcome
January February	Annual Planning Retreat Part I & II	Paula Williams elected as the 2023 chair. Charlotte Antoine elected as the 2023 vice chair. <u>2023 Advocacy Priorities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address affordable housing and rent control ▪ Address financial literacy and fraud prevention ▪ Address health disparities among Black elders ▪ Address social isolation and loneliness
March	UW Memory Hub  The Memory Hub	The March meeting was held at The Memory Hub, 1021 Columbia St, Seattle. The Memory Hub is a place for dementia-friendly community, collaboration and impact! The Hub offers a wide range of in-person and virtual education, support, and wellness programs for people with memory loss and their. Visit www.thememoryhub.org
April	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 . As a result, members voted unanimously to write a letter of support to the mayor urging him to keep their contract with the City of Seattle, instead of transferring it to the King County Regional Homeless Authority (KCRHA).
May	Meeting with Mayor Bruce Harrell 	About 50 people attended the MCAAE meeting with Mayor Harrell at the Central Area Senior Center. Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayor Harrell committed to some level of assistance for the council. ▪ The Mayor acknowledged receipt of the MCAAE letter of support of the St Martins de Porres Shelter. The contract had already transferred to the KCRHA, but a commitment was made to keep the scope on older men.
July	Online Fraud Prevention 	MCAAE Chair, Paula Williams, presented information on types of fraud and prevention. The title of her presentation was “The Dirty Dozen: Email Fraud.”
August	Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action	PSARA executive board members, Ronnie Shure and Steve Buck, provided a comprehensive presentation on Medicare Fraud and Medicare Privatization.

Month	Topic	Outcome
September	 <p>GRAND PARENTS DAY 2023</p> <p>Rooted in Community, Culture, and Love</p> <p>Neighborhood Park and Street Fund</p>	<p>The 5th Annual Grandparents Day Celebration was September 10, in partnership with AARP and the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM). The event featured the ADS Advisory Council Chair, Joe Hailey, the NAAM African American Cultural Ensemble, and recognition of 2023 Elders Circle inductees: Mona Lake Jones, Kibibi Monet, Claude Burfect, and Lyle Quasim. About 100 individuals participated in the virtual event.</p> <p>Strategic Advisors, Shaquan Smith and Rachael Banner, from Seattle Parks & Recreation Dept. presented information about a new community-initiated project fund called the Park CommUNITY Fund, a project to advance park equity.</p>
October	 <p>GRANDMOTHERING WHILE BLACK</p> <p>A TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY STORY OF LOVE, COERCION, AND SURVIVAL</p>	<p>Dr. LaShawnDa Pittman provided a presentation on her research and newly published book about the complex lives of Black grandmothers raising their grandchildren, also known as kinship caregiving.</p>
November	 <p>African American Caregivers Forum</p> <p><i>Legacy of Love</i></p> <p>A unique, culturally-focused event that draw family caregivers from throughout the Pacific NW</p> 	<p>About 65 caregivers and individuals attended the in-person forum on November 4, at NAAM. Dr. Ethlyn McQueen Gibson, an Associate Professor in the Dept of Internal Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA., was the keynote. The forum also included an interview with caregiver, Sharon Sobers Outlaw, followed by a presentation on caregiver mental health and selfcare provided by Nacala Ayele, Board Chair, Tubman Center for Health and Freedom</p> <p>Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway – For the 2nd time, MCAAE members collaborated with the University District Rotary, Women United, Maverick Cares, and Modern Family Solutions, to provide 150 turkeys, sides, and produce boxes, to families in need in southeast Seattle.</p>
December	 <p>ADVOCACY</p>	<p>ADS Advisory Council chair, Joe Hailey, and ADS senior planner, Michael Adusah, provided a training and information on the upcoming legislative priorities and partnering to make an impact.</p>