

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

c/o Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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September 18, 2026. 2:00–3:30pm
Grace United Methodist Church, 722 30th Ave

Attending

Members: Chair - Pamela Williams, Vice Chair - Tiffany Toms, Claudette Thomas, Debroah O'Neal, Dr. Benjamin Abe, Cindy Herndon, Cole Kiser, and Deborah Hughes

Members Absent: Paul Mitchel, Brady Rainy, and Calvin Lassiter

Staff: Dinah Stephens, Eldad Mekuria, Erika Henry, Jacqueline Cobbs, Mary Pearson, Michael Adusha, Phung Nguyen, Siham Mohamed, Stevie Elliott, Kamaria Hightower

Guests: Sharon Hargraves, Peggy Pahl, AyeNay Abye, CM John Boyd, Dr Jennetta Brown, Gillian Marshall, Sheila Braxton, Warner Lew, Felicia Ishino, Mayor Katie Wilson, Dominique Stevens

Welcome

Chair Pam Williamson opened the meeting by welcoming MCAAE members, ADS staff, and community guests. She restated the council's mission to advocate for African American elders through policy, outreach, and community-supported initiatives. She offered a special welcome to Mayor Katie Wilson, who joined the meeting as the featured guest.

Guest and Presentation

Remarks from Mayor Katie Wilson: Mayor Wilson shared her key priorities and described how her administration's goals intersect with MCAAE's mission areas. She provided an update on the city's budget environment and addressed questions related to housing stability, caregiving needs, nutrition services, and general support for older adults. Her message emphasized collaboration and the importance of keeping community needs at the center of decision-making.

This meeting provided an important educational opportunity for Mayor Wilson, allowing the committee to clearly highlight key gaps and major concerns within the Mayor's current plans for the city.

Mayor Wilson has named Dominique Stephens (Dominique.Stephens@seattle.gov) as the council's contact person for continued collaboration, updates and asks.

Presentation: Community Living Connections (CLC) Overview: Presented by Phung Nguyen, ADS Planning Specialist. The presentation highlighted the role of Community Living Connections as a central access point for aging and disability services, outlining available supports, referral pathways, and ways community members can connect to resources.

MCAAE Business

Minutes: A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Cindy and seconded by Deborah Hughes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Task Force Updates:

Housing: No formal report for this meeting.

Social Connectivity: Acknowledgment of Grandparents Day events held the previous Sunday.

Caregiving: The Caregivers Forum is November 7, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Museum of Flight.

Nutrition: No formal report for this meeting.

ADS Staff Update:

ADS Director Update: Mary Pearson shared that the Senior Center Roadshow has begun, with three centers visited this week. The Listening Tour is designed to understand unique needs across neighborhoods and inform ADS advocacy for the upcoming state legislative session. With the state facing a budget deficit, strategic decision-making is underway to sustain essential programs.

Federal Update: Updated on the impact of HR1, which resulted in refugees and asylum seekers losing certain services as of October 1. ADS is collaborating with King County to identify available supports for affected clients, though service gaps remain. At the federal level, a continuing resolution funds government programs, including Health and Human Services through December 11.

Older Americans Act (OAA): Staff emphasized the critical moment for OAA reauthorization, urging community members to advocate with senators and congressional representatives. Representative Murray is viewed as a potential champion, and ADS is seeking meetings with her office.

Local Update: ADS is awaiting the Mayor's budget proposal and is proactively exploring creative solutions to maintain community programs despite projected deficits. The team stressed their commitment to keeping community needs at the forefront.

A welcome was extended to the Tubman Center team. Tubman continues to expand services, now operating two community clinics and developing a third.

Review of Action Items and Closing

Review of Action Items:

- Promote and attend the Nov. 7 Caregivers Forum.
- Continue outreach and advocacy for OAA reauthorization.
- Look for updates following the Mayor's upcoming budget release.
- Maintain engagement with Senior Center Listening Tour findings.
- Continue collaboration efforts with Tubman Center as programs expand.

Adjournment: Chair Pam Williamson thanked all attendees, staff, and guests, especially Mayor Wilson for her participation. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting; October 16, 2026