

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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September 20, 2019
Liberty Bank Building
2320 E. Union St.

Members Present – Brenda Charles-Edwards, Benjamin Abe, Dr. Brenda Jackson, Claudette Thomas; Paul Mitchell; Mattie Taplin;

Excused – Rev. Janice Davis; Tricia Diamond; Ina Howell, Cynthia Winters

Guests – Eudora Lowery Carter, Project Director – Center for MultiCultural Health

ADS Staff – Brent Butler, Age Friendly Manager; Sariga Santosh, Advisory Council Liaison, Karen Winston, Planning/MCAAE Liaison

I. Liberty Bank Building Tour

In 2018, MCAAE members met with staff from the Seattle Office of Housing about affordable housing development in the Central District, including the Liberty Bank Building. The project was completed in early 2019. Project partners included Africatown Community Land Trust, Byrd Barr Place, the Black Community Impact Alliance, and Capitol Hill Housing. The six-story building has 115 apartments for individuals and families earning 30% - 60% of Area Median Income; commercial space, and beautiful artwork created by local artists.



Right to Left: MCAAE members Benjamin Abe, Claudette Thomas, Dr. Brenda Jackson, Brenda Charles-Edwards, Paul Mitchell, Karen Winston, ADS, and Brent Butler, Age Friendly Seattle.

II. ADS Director's Report – Karen provided the following report on behalf of ADS director, Cathy Knight:

- The Mayor's proposed 2020 Seattle budget will be released on September 23 and we anticipate she'll be giving a speech the same day. (the info hasn't been released publicly, but we've been told there will be an event somewhere in community). Typically, these events are invite-only but are broadcast live on Seattle Channel. We'll share more info as it becomes available.
- The City Council will then begin their review and will host two public hearings, on October 3 and 22, both at 5:30 in Council Chambers. On September 26, HSD Director will present to City Council on the Mayor's proposed budget for HSD. We'll send more information as it becomes available. Things to monitor/advocate for during the process.
- No AC meeting in October. Instead there are the two meetings in Tacoma on Oct. 23 & 24. Members were asked to sign-up if interested. Transportation is available.
- Information was also shared about the W4A 2020 legislative priorities and other issues ADS will be supporting, including: 1) Case management rate increase; 2) Funding to support

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transitions work; 3) Personal Needs Allowance; and increased funding for continued implementation of the WA State Alzheimer's Plan.

- Lastly, Cathy Knight is scheduled to present the Area Plan to the King County Council's Human Services Committee on October 15. We will send an invite once the agenda is released and would love to have MCAAE members in the audience! The County's Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy has potential to positively impact the issue areas that are of concern to MCAAE.

III. Age Friendly Update

- Age Friendly Seattle Action Plan – Brent reported on a goal he is currently working on.
Goal 7.1: Develop strategies to reach more older adults who lack access to services;
Action 7.1d: Engage with health care providers to increase identification of social needs and utilization of community resources to support older patients in managing their health and health care.

Specifically, he discussed information about HIV/AIDS among older African Descent people and Blacks. About 49 percent of all HIV cases are African American. Among those newly diagnosed, 17 to 20 percent are age 50 and older. The largest increase is among foreign born heterosexual Blacks. Stigma towards the disease prevents many from getting tested early, and many older people are not aware that Medicare Wellness includes HIV and Hepatitis testing. Brent asked MCAAE members to consider adding the issue to the 2020 workplan. He offered to reach out to the Anti-Stigma Working Group for a presentation at the October meeting.

- All people should have access to affordable health care and community services that help them live safely and with dignity. Age Friendly Seattle supports coordination and promotion of services to help meet the needs of older adults and caregivers.
- Lastly, Brent reported that the Seattle Human Services Dept. African Descent Caucus (ADC) is interested in partnering on future MCAAE events. He asked about collaborating on an event for Black History Month 2020.

IV. Grandparents Day Debrief

- Brenda reported that the Grandparents Celebration on September 8th was excellent! About 80 parents, grandparents, and children attended. It was great to partner with AARP, NAAM, and HSD/ADS. Members would like to plan the event again for next year.

V. October 18th Meeting Agenda (Location – Southeast Seattle Senior Center)

- HIV Anti-Stigma Working Group Presentation
- Update: Property Tax changes and outreach
- Update: HSD African Descent – Planning for Black History Month
- Holiday Meet-n-Greet Reception Planning
- **NOTE:** Members voted to cancel the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 18, at the Southeast Seattle Senior Center.