

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

2020 Accomplishments

The MCAAE was created in 1995, by former Mayor Norman B. Rice, to promote a better quality of life for African American elders in Seattle by advocating for accessible, culturally appropriate, comprehensive services with a focus on the isolated, frail, and low-income. We achieve our mission by informing the Seattle mayor and other government leaders about the unique needs of older African Americans; advocating for changes in policies, practices, and programs; educating the public; and encouraging and sponsoring research to address unmet needs and gaps in services. Visit our website at: seattle.gov/mcaae

Month	Activity	Outcome
January	Annual MCAAE Retreat	Created 2020 advocacy items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase MCAAE visibility • Property Tax (promote & assist where possible) • Advocate for AAEP registered nurse • Build connections with immigrant African community
March	MCAAE Shifted to Virtual Platform Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, monthly meetings shifted to Zoom virtual platform. ADS director began providing monthly reports on local efforts to address the needs of older adults during the pandemic (local, state, and federal)	Members began receiving information and monthly updates on local, state, and federal legislation and activities related to COVID-19.
April	COVID-19 Disparities Awareness Members became aware of and raised concerns about news reporting disparate COVID-19 death rates among African Americans (locally and nationally)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King County Race & Ethnicity Summary, https://bit.ly/3chGJ6y 2. What the COVID-19 Pandemic Means for Black Americans, https://bit.ly/2yRhbyY 3. Poor, Older Black Americans Are an Afterthought in the COVID-19 Crisis, https://bit.ly/2yRGvF4
May	COVID-19 Local Data Review Epidemiologist Sargis Pogojans, MPH, Communicable Disease & Epidemiology, Public Health – Seattle & King County, presented available COVID-19 data by race and ethnicity.	Members sent letters to local and state policy makers expressing concerns about COVID-19 disparities and its impact on Black/Brown communities and requested more accurate counts and protection for older adults.
July & August	Defunding the Seattle Police Department Following the tragic death of George Floyd, members began discussing what defunding the Seattle Police Department (SPD) would look like and potential impacts on the safety of older adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member sent letters to Seattle City Councilmembers expressing concerns about defunding the Seattle Police Department. • Members participated in a budget engagement session with Mayor Durkan's staff and provided feedback on her proposed SPD budget

Mayor's Council on African American Elders 2020 Accomplishments

Month	Activity	Outcome
September	<p>Grandparent Day Celebration</p> <p>Falls Prevention Month</p>	<p>Grandparents Day celebrated Sept. 13th included a virtual event in partnership with AARP, the Northwest African American Museum, and Aging and Disability Services. Alesia Cannady was the guest speaker. About 30 grandparents and grandkids participated in the fun and interactive event.</p> <p>A Falls Prevention Presentation was provided by physical therapist, Senayet Woldermariam, and ADS planner, Mary Pat O'Leary.</p>
October	<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Tara Bostock, Health Communication Lead, Washington State Dept of Health (DOH) COVID-19 Community Engagement Taskforce facilitated a focus group discussion on COVID-19 vaccine distribution planning.</p> <p>No Cuts to Long-Term Care</p>	<p>Through a focus group discussion, members shared thoughts about a COVID vaccine and commented on the DOH draft distribution plan and BIPOC communities.</p> <p>Members joined statewide advocacy groups and submitted a letter to the Governor, urging him to not to adopt proposed cuts to long-term care services and supports for older adults in the next State biennium budget.</p>
November	<p>King County COVID-19 Update Anne Shields, COVID-19 Mitigation & Recovery Branch, Public Health – Seattle & King County, presented the latest COVID-19 data for King County.</p> <p>King County Property Tax Exemptions</p>	<p>Members reviewed the latest COVID-19 data for King County and its impact on BIPOC communities.</p> <p>Members participated in meetings with the King County Assessor's Office and provided input on how the tax exemption website could be more user-friendly.</p>
December	Annual MCAAE Holiday Meet-n-Greet	

Additional Community Involvement

Close to Home Episode 6 - 6/11/2020

Creative Aging: Radio, Recipes & Notary Services

Featured guest: MCAAE chair, Brenda Charles Edwards

Close to Home Episode 14 - 9/3/2020

R.O.O.T.S. Family Picnic Celebration

Featured guests: MCAAE member Paul Mitchell and William Lowe

Close to Home Episode 15 - 9/10/2020

Traffic Safety & Grandparents Day Preview

Featured guests: Brenda Charles Edwards & LaNesha DeBardelaben, NAAM

Close to Home Episode 18 - 10/8/2020

Seattle's African Descent Population Partnerships

Featured guests: Dr. Benjamin Abe & Paul Kimani

Find **Close to Home** videos on YouTube at bit.ly/3moSPzK