

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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Meeting Summary

Friday, January 15, 2016
Seattle Municipal Tower

Members Present – Marsha Andrews, Susan Millender, Mattie Taplin

Members Excused – Dr. Brenda Jackson, Dr. LaShawnDa Pittman

ADS Staff – Karen Winston, Andrea Yip

I. Director's Report

ADS planning unit supervisor, Andrea Yip, provided the Director's Report. Either she or Maureen Linehan, ADS Director, will attend monthly meetings to provide updates. Andrea began by asking members what information and updates they would like to receive. Responses included: Advocacy; ADS Advisory Council guest speaker information and presentations; Request for Funding Processes (RFPs); Area Plan updates; and information related to affordable housing. Andrea suggested MCAAE may also want to do site visits (aka – secret shoppers) to ADS programs. The feedback and insights would be very useful.

Andrea also reported on two 2016 RFP processes. The first, scheduled to be released February 26, is for a case management provider for east King County. ADS is looking for providers who are able to serve a diverse group of older adults including Russians, Southeast Asians, etc. The turn-around time will be short – all proposals will be due on March 1, with new contracts in place by June.

The second RFP is for health promotion. ADS is seeking evidence-based health promotion models, such as chronic disease self-management education (CDSME), falls prevention, etc. A planning team has been meeting to determine the best use of the limited funding. The RFP is scheduled to be released in July. Available funding: \$150,000.

II. 2016 Proposed Slate of Officers

Member proposed the following slate of officers for 2016. Confirmation will be decided at the February meeting.

- Marsha Andrews, Chair
- Mattie Taplin, Vice Chair

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:

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III. MCAAE Survey Summary

Karen conducted an informal survey of MCAAE members. The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback on 2015 activities and on the 2016 work plan. The survey summary is as follows:

1 What did you like most in 2015 about the MCAAE?

- I liked the way ADS kept the MCAAE informed of the Community Living Connections program and other ADS news and activities.
- I liked how we got right to the heart of our advocacy on behalf of African American elders, focusing on homelessness, kinship care and restoring the kinship center at CASC.
- Meeting with the Mayor and City Council members.
- The 2015 MCAAE Report we developed and our meeting with the Mayor.
- I liked the way the MCAAE organized and spoke with elected officials. I learned a lot from our meeting the Mayor Murray.
- I liked being able to work on my passion and ministry.

2 Was there anything you wanted to work on but didn't get a chance to?

- Would like to have worked on a community needs assessment.
- Inviting representatives from other African American groups and organization.
- More visibility for the MCAAE. The community needs to know who we are.
- We never got a chance to visit existing homeless shelters in order to learn and advocate.
- We had a good process for determining our goals and working to accomplish them.

3 Is there anything you would have done differently?

- More visibility for the MCAAE
- More community outreach and education
- More structured agendas
- More follow-up
- Different advocacy strategies
- More accountability from the Mayor and City Council
- Wished we had reached out to the people on the MCAAE who only attended one meeting.

4 What issues would you like the MCAAE to address in 2016?

- Homelessness and advocating for more affordable housing
- Assist seniors with navigating resources to secure affordable housing
- Mental health, Alzheimer's and dementia (outreach & education, esp. in south King County)
- Increase visibility for the MCAAE through more community involvement in areas where African Americans are concentrated.
- Hold our monthly meetings in the community and invite people to come and voice their concerns.
- The health and well-being of African American elders – I would like to examine public health data to determine what the MCAAE should focus on.
- Continue to address the same three concerns in 2016. We need to finish what we started!

5 What groups would you like the MCAAE to partner or collaborate with?

Churches

- Churches need more information about the aging network, especially the smaller ones
- Not sure about partnerships with churches
- Yes, but it depends on which ones
- We should focus on churches that already have senior care ministries

Other groups/organizations to partner with?

- Kent Black Action Commission
- NAACP
- Urban League
- WA. State Commission on African American Affairs
- ADS Advisory Council
- Alzheimer's Association
- Public Health Seattle-King County
- SHA and KCHA

6 How many hours per month can you devote to MCAAE?

- Weekends (up to 4 hours)
- No weekdays, unless we extend the regular meeting hours
- Up to 2 hours per week
- Up to 8 to 10 hours per month
- Whatever it takes to get the job done

7 Comments re the 2016 MCAAE retreat

Two members voted for **half day** (4 hrs.); Two members voted for **full day** (6-7 hrs.)

Suggested Locations:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Central Area Senior Center | • Community Center |
| • Southeast Seattle Senior Center | • Luther's Table (by Renton H.S.) |
| • Seattle Municipal Tower | • Seattle or King County Libraries |
| • Tabernacle Baptist Church | • Mattie's house |

What would you like to focus on at the retreat?

- a) Team-building is important, but should not take up too much time
- b) Community outreach planning
- c) Advocacy
- d) Other:
 - Review MCAAE Manual
 - More emphasis on MCAAE member's commitment
 - More information re the community needs and what it takes to make things happen (protocol)
 - Develop a work plan for 2016

8 Other comments

- Some MCAAE members never rec'd an official appointment letter from the Mayor.
- Prefers not to have ADS managers at every meeting. Sometimes we need to talk/plan among ourselves. Meeting feel different when ADS managers are present.
- We need to focus on recruiting more men to be appointed to the MCAAE.
- More involvement with the African American Elders Program in order to advocate better on their behalf.
- Possible guest speakers for future meetings:
 - Former mayor Norm Rice
 - Seattle Police Dept. – Officer Cookie to discuss ways to build trust and improve communication among African American community members
 - Margaret Boddie, AAEP Manager
- We need more discussion about building relationships with the Mayor and the Seattle Human Services Department Director, and perhaps meeting with them on a regular basis.

IV. 2016 MCAAE Retreat

Members voted to tentatively schedule the retreat for Saturday, February 27, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Beacon Hill Library. Karen will reserve it if available. The tentative agenda will include:

- Teambuilding
- Report on
- Determine follow-up activities re 2015 focus areas
- Brainstorming 2016 focus areas, goals & activities
- Prioritize focus areas for 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.