

# Mayor's Council on African American Elders

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

July 15, 2016

**Members Present** – Dr. Brenda Jackson, Dr. LaShawnDa Pittman, Mattie Taplin

**Members Excused** – Marsha Andrews, Susan Millender

**ADS Staff** – Andrea Yip, Karen Winston

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### I. Member Check-ins

- Brenda reported that Leschi Elementary School is working with homeless children. She is also working with the Career Bridge Program and working with women who were formerly incarcerated.
- Brenda will forward information that many older people are unaware of about how to prevent garnishment of Social Security checks.
- Mattie reminded staff to update the MCAAE brochure. The information is needed for outreach and recruitment.
- Karen reported that the Mayor's Boards & Commission Administrator forwarded a resume from Agelon Ashby, who is interested in being appointed to the MCAAE. Karen will invite her to the August meeting.
- Mattie asked that all future MCAAE meeting materials be sent to Dian Ferguson, CASC Director.

### II. Even Me Documentary

Karen reported that she is partnering with African Americans Reach & Teach Health (AARTH) on a grant proposal to Gilead Sciences, to host a screening of the Even Me documentary about older adults living with HIV/AIDS. The screening will be held in March 2017.

### III. ADS Updates

Andrea Yip, ADS Planning Supervisor, provided the following report.

#### Age-Friendly Communities

ADS is working to achieve an age-friendly designation in conjunction with the City of Seattle. Age-friendly cities or communities is a framework to address environmental, economic and social factors that influence health and well-being of older adults. The criteria was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP supports a network of communities/cities in the U.S. Portland and New York were the first cities in the

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U.S. to achieve the WHO Age Friendly designation and, in Washington State, Puyallup was the first city. Andrea shared a checklist of essential age-friendly features and encouraged MCAAE members to have a role in suggesting changes and in implementing and monitoring improvements over time.

#### Homelessness

- Mayor Murray recently created a new Office on Homelessness within the Human Services Department (HSD) in order to combine all staff, currently working on homeless issues, into one division.
- The Mayor also directed the creation of a navigation service center for homeless individuals without shelter to receive the customized support they need to move from the streets back into permanent homes. The service center will be modeled on the San Francisco Navigation Center, the first of its kind, dormitory-style living facility that provides people living outside with shower, bathroom, laundry and dining facilities, a place to store their belongings, as well as round-the-clock case management, mental and behavioral health services, and connections to benefit programs and housing, all in one location. Andrea recommended inviting Jess Chow, Lead Navigation Center Staff, to a future meeting to discuss how MCAAE members can be involved.

#### **IV. Presentation: Kinship Caregivers**

LaShawnDa presented information about her research on kinship caregivers.

- Nationwide, only 6% of kinship caregiver receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). About 10% are receiving in Seattle.
- Washington State requires the use of the caregiver's income to determine eligibility, which is a significant barrier. LaShawnDa will be meeting with Hilary Hauptman on August 8 to discuss changing the requirement.
- The Seattle Human Services Department, Aging and Disability Services currently funds the Kinship Collaboration Coordinator and the Kinship Navigator. Both positions work to reduce physical and emotional stress experienced by kinship caregivers.
- The Seattle Human Services Coalition, 2017-2018 Budget Recommendation Portfolio included support for kinship caregivers. Recommended actions involved: 1) Expand support for agencies and caregivers in King Co.; 2) Provide one-6 week Powerful Tool for Caregivers class per year specifically for kinship caregivers in King Co.; 3) Provide on-6 week Chronic Disease Self-Management Program workshop per year for kinship caregivers in King Co.; 4) Provide respite activities for caregivers by funding children's activities, such as during the workshops described above; 5) Fully fund kinship support groups; 6) Hire a consultant to work with caregivers and partner agencies on a kinship center/Treehouse model for kinship families; 7) Fund a second 1.0 FTE Kinship Navigator for Seattle. LaShawnDa will draft a letter of support, on behalf of the MCAAE, in support of these items.
- LaShawnDa's current research involves developing a kinship intervention. She is planning focus groups during the fall with kinship caregivers, and is open to receiving questions from ADS.

- Based on her research from Chicago, kinship caregiver needs are: 1) Lack of knowledge about available resources; 2) Legal; 3) Grandparent health issues; 4) Barriers to qualify for services, especially for caregivers who are not part of a nuclear family; 5) Resources and support.
- How can the MCAAE be involved? – Assist with outreach for focus groups, and assist with getting information out to the community through social media.

#### **V. August Meeting**

Agenda items:

- Review draft advocacy letter re the City of Seattle budget items for kinship caregivers.
- Kinship follow-up re questions for focus groups.
- Office on Homelessness update. (Tentative)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.