

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

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Meeting Summary

March 18, 2014

Present: Rev. Don Davis, Mattie Taplin

Excused: Susan Millender

Guests: Marsha Andrews, Dr. Norward Brooks, Dr. Brenda Jackson, Dr. LaShawnDa Pittman, Collette Robinson

ADS Staff: Rowena Rye

- I. Interim Chair Rev. Don Davis welcomed members, and the candidates for MCAAE membership, and asked that each person introduce themselves. After introductions were made he asked Rowena to provide an overview of the work of the MCAAE.

- II. Rowena briefly shared the history of the MCAAE and how the work had evolved over time. The group discussed the need for an updated needs assessment and engaging the community to identify unmet needs, gaps in services, how mainstream programs were serving the community. Engaging the churches was identified as a high priority. Rev. Jackson expressed concerns about people who are homeless and shared with the group that Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church had prioritized working to improve the conditions of Seattle's homeless, and the importance of including them in the needs assessment. The support for grandparents raising grandchildren was also identified to include in a needs assessment. Overall, the group expressed their readiness to begin working to address the concerns of the African American community.

- III. Dr. Pittman had questions about the methodology utilized in the 2004 African American Elders Needs Assessment. Rowena briefly outlined the development of a steering committee with community stakeholders and the development of questionnaires to be used in focus groups, in interviews with recommended key

community informants, and in a web-based survey, as well as mail-outs for those who were not on-line. She pointed out that although the council may want to borrow from the work done 10 years ago, that it will also have fresh approaches and ideas. Members and candidates requested copies of the 2004 survey to be forwarded by email.

- IV. Rev. Don introduced the group to Susan L. Taylor, former Editor-in-Chief of *Essence* magazine who was speaking at a fundraiser at The Central that evening. Ms. Taylor who was there to assist with fundraising for children and youth programs also expressed her interest in the well-being of African American Elders, and thanked the group for their work.

The meeting was adjourned.

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