

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
Mailing Address: PO Box 34215, Seattle WA 98124-4215
Office Address: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, 51st Floor
(206)684-0660 * TTY (206)684-0274 * FAX (206)684-0689
Website Address: www.seattle.gov/MCAAE

Meeting Summary

May 20, 2014

Present: Rev. Don Davis, Susan Millender, Mattie Taplin

Guests: Marsha Andrews, Dian Ferguson, Paula Houston, Dr. Brenda Jackson, Collette Robinson

ADS Staff: Maureen Linehan, Rowena Rye

- I. Interim Chair Rev. Don Davis welcomed members, candidates for MCAAE membership and guest speakers. Maureen Linehan, Interim Director of Aging and Disability Services, provided an overview of the Older Americans Act and an historical perspective on Aging Services in Seattle and King County. She described the role of AAAs (area Agencies on Aging, and the funding stream to non-profit programs. Paula Houston, Senior Services CEO, next provided an overview of programs and services at Senior Services. The city has funded Senior Services since 1967, and currently provides 52% of its funding. Its' remaining revenue is provided through foundation grants and individual donors. Paula referenced the additional funding to Seattle senior centers in 2013-2014 to hire social workers, and the difference it can make to senior center members who may need assistance. Brenda commented that there is need for a senior center downtown. Marsha asked whether senior centers can have homeless seniors overnight.

- II. Maureen shared with the group that she will be meeting with Mayor Murray and briefing him on the managed care rollout. She noted again the ½ million dollar loss of funding that resulted from the sequester, and the State's funding formula used to determine allocations to AAAs, and the higher rates of growth in senior populations in other counties, e.g., Spokane and Clark that may impact King County's funding. On a positive note, Maureen told the group about the World Health Organization's initiative to encourage aging-friendly cities, and referenced the funding in New York, and now Portland, OR to create safe, walkable neighborhoods through the development of infrastructure to accomplish these enhancements. ADS, along with community partners will be meeting with Sound Cities to discuss future funding.

- III. The group discussed the need for a center that would provide a welcoming environment for homeless elders in downtown Seattle where they could receive homecare-like services that they cannot be provided in senior centers.
- IV. Maureen referenced the funding for the African American Elders program, noting that the program had a long waiting list, and that funding had been flat for several years. She suggested to the council that they may want to meet with Mayor Murray over the summer as this is when the mayor develops his budget. ADS can help with any needed data on healthcare disparities and needs in the African American community.
- V. Following up on the discussion about a center for homeless elders, Dian referenced a recent meeting with the Impact Group of Metrocenter YMCA where she learned that they have about 15,000 sq. ft. of empty space that has been vacant for a while.
- VI. A discussion followed about what the center would look like and what supports would be available for the homeless at the center, what funding might be available, and whether the Downtown Chamber of Commerce would be in support of a center downtown for homeless elders.
- VII. Next steps: Prepare a report to the Mayor and get on his calendar over the summer to identify areas of need identified by the council. Also schedule with City Council Members. Maureen suggested CMs Clark, Rasmussen and O'Brien.

The meeting was adjourned.

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