

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

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Meeting Summary

April 20, 2018

Members Present – Brenda Charles Edwards, Chair, Tricia Diamond (Appointment pending), Cynthia Winters, Mattie Taplin, Emeritus

Absent – Dr. Brenda Jackson, Janice Davis (Appointment pending), Ken Conley (Appointment pending), Noris Daniel (Appointment pending), Claudette Thomas (Appointment pending), Jim Watkins

HSD/ADS Staff – Brent Butler, Age Friendly Manager, Karen Winston

I. Prep for Meeting with Mayor Durkan – Dominique Stephens was out ill. This item was tabled for a future meeting.

II. March 23 Retreat Summary – Members reviewed the retreat meeting summary. A question was asked about the difference between affordable and low-income housing. Brent Butler, the City's new Age Friendly Manager, led a discussion about how housing is determined affordable, including income limits for the Seattle/Bellevue metropolitan areas. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2HZy9e>. HUD publishes annual income limits based on household size that are used to determine the maximum household income. Once household income is determined, it is compared to HUD's income limit for that household size. If the income for that household size is at 50% of the median or less based on the chart, that household will count towards the 25% low-income set-aside.

The MCAAE is planning to specifically advocate for low-income housing vs. affordable housing. They would also like to target older adults living in the Central District (CD) who may be struggling to age in place.

III. Housing Advocacy Strategies – Members then discussed potential strategies for advocating for low-income housing, including the following:

- Convene a discussion with nonprofit housing developers.
- Mattie offered to contact Linda Taylor, Housing Director, Urban League.
- Brent offered to reach out the George Staggers, Owner, Central Area Community Development Association.
- Karen suggested Deborah Atkinson, a retired banker and now a real estate agent, who could address predatory lenders and banking scams.

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- Brent recommended collaborating with a church in the CD on a **Housing Clinic**. This could be an informational forum that would include vendors who provide housing and supportive housing services, including housing maintenance, elder law and life estates, financial literacy, protection against scams and predatory lenders, etc. Vendors could also include: Catholic Community Services, Urban League, Elder Law attorney(s), and organizations representing the East African community.
- To be discussed further at the May meeting.

IV. May Meeting – At the retreat in March, Karen was asked to gather housing-related information for review. ADS staff have been asked to present the information at the May meeting, including the following:

- Number of African American homeowners at-risk of losing their homes, due to high property taxes
- Number of 60+ African Americans per King County jurisdictions
- Number of African American homeless (Seattle and King Co.)
- Maps showing the decrease of African Americans living in Seattle’s Central District
- Protection from property fraud schemes

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Friday, Friday, May 18, 2018.