

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

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August 21, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Members Present – Brenda Charles-Edwards, Chair; Janice Davis; Paul Mitchell, Mattie Taplin (Emeritus)

Absent – Benjamin Abe, Tricia Diamond, Ina Howell, Dr. Brenda Jackson, Claudette Thomas, Cynthia Winters

Guests – Maggie Harger, Hopelink; Eudora Lawry-Carter, Center for MultiCultural Health

ADS Staff – Brent Butler, Cathy Knight, Karen Winston

I. Opening Questions

Brenda started the meeting by asking everyone, where is your favorite vacation destination? Locations mentioned included: Colville Indian reservation; Maui; the Midwest with family; Kenya's Indian Ocean; St Thomas Virgin Island; Whidbey Island; Deer Harbor; Oregon coast; and Puerto Vallarta.

II. MCAAE Chair Update

- Brenda reported on a letter from AARP CEO Joann Jenkins who sent a letter to President Trump in response to his comments regarding the elimination of current dedicated funding for Social Security. Brenda also encouraged everyone to be sure to vote.
- The Central Area Senior Center and the Southeast Seattle Senior Center are both in need of volunteers to help with delivering meals. Brenda encouraged members to consider helping. It would be a good opportunity to increase MCAAE visibility. Cathy added that this issue started early during the pandemic, when centers first experienced the loss of volunteers. She added that this will be a need for some time. Karen will forward the link to members.

III. ADS and COVID-19 Updates

Cathy provided the following updates

Federal

- Congress has still not agreed on another stimulus package. The House passed a \$3 trillion package; the Senate passed a \$1 trillion package. So, the Senate and House have still not come to an agreement. AAAs continue advocacy with state congressional delegation for state and local assistance. We remain hopeful that a new agreement will be adopted before November.
- An increased federal match could minimize budget cuts at the state level and reduce service impacts to poor, vulnerable adults on Medicaid.

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State

- State legislators are still hopeful that we will get some relief. There is still a possibility of a special session of the Washington State legislature.
- In terms of the funding for programs and services that could be impacted by the budget, no decisions will be made until the next legislative session begins in January 2021.
- AAAs are focusing on increased advocacy and are collecting stories so that legislators will understand the importance of programs and services, and what the impact will be if programs are cut. A broad range of organizations (e.g., AARP, SEIU, nursing homes, etc.) are also working together on this.

Local

- Submittal of the MCAAE letter and participation in the budget engagement session occurred at the right time. It was good that concerns about elder abuse were raised.
- HSD staff are working to present recommendations to the Mayor's Office, and the City Budget Office about the possibility of moving safety programs (e.g., 10 domestic violence advocate positions) to the Human Services Department (HSD).
- Some City Councilmembers feel strongly about creating a whole new community safety department versus transferring positions to HSD.
- ADS is still working to identify fiscal resources for an African American Elders Program (AAEP) nurse.

COVID-19

- King County is still in phase two and doing okay holding there despite new COVID-19 outbreaks among clients and workers in long-term care facilities, group homes and supported living programs for developmentally disabled adults.
- We continue to follow Public Health guidelines (e.g., wear masks, wash hands, and maintain social distancing).
- ADS staff are still working remotely and continue to provide resources for clients.
- ADS serves over 12,000 clients in King County. To date, there have been 20 deaths among clients, compared to the overall deaths (60%) that occurred in nursing homes.

Age Friendly

- Brent reported on a recent presentation he made at the Seattle Design Festival, along with a member from the Seattle Planning Commission, and local architect Donald King.
- Age Friendly has organized a three-part series on LGBTQ+2S issues. Brent is currently working on part three, and trying to secure Jericho Brown, a Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry, as the guest speaker.
- Age Friendly is also working with the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Office of Housing, and the Office of Planning and Community Development to refine a Geographic Information System (GIS) map that identifies where older adults are located and matching this information with the location of service providers and areas with above average COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths. The goal is to identify needs and support organizations to address those needs.

IV. Committee Reports

African Immigrant Outreach

- Brent reported on behalf of Dr. Abe. They are reaching out to organizations to identify the needs of African descent elders. They will report back on their findings.

Grandparent's Day Planning Committee

- Brenda reported on the plans for the 2020 Grandparents Day event. The partners are the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM), AARP, and ADS. Grandparents Day is nationally recognized on the Sunday after Labor Day – September 13, from 2-4 p.m. The keynote will be Alesia Cannady, Executive Director of Women United. There will also be entertainment and games. [Registration](#) is required. Participants can watch on Zoom or call-in. The event is being publicized on social media, the museum's website, and an article is included in the September issue for [AgeWise](#). Brenda and the museum's Executive Director will also give a presentation on the online program Close to Home, on Thursday, September 10, at 10:30 a.m. Paul offered to post the flyer on the Breakfast Group website, and Brent offered to email it to the African Descent Caucus. Karen will email the flyer to them.

Advocacy for African American Elders Program (AAEP) Nurse

- Mattie and Karen had a meeting with Cathy Knight, to learn about the strategies HSD/ADS is pursuing to identify funding for an AAEP nurse.
- Mattie also met with the AAEP manager, Margaret Boddie. The program has shifted in the types of clients they currently serve. Clients are living longer, so they are older, and many of their caregivers are age 70 and older.
- The program serves about 150 clients.
- About one third need assistance with managing medications. A nurse could help with med management.
- In the past two months, six clients have died. It is not known if their deaths were due to COVID-19.
- AAEP program data is uploaded to ADS monthly. Cathy suggested taking a closer look at the program data, to help build a case for the need for a nurse. Karen will ask the ADS staff who manages the contract for more information.

Holiday Planning Committee – No report.

Property Tax Assistance Committee – No report

V. Community Reports

- Maggie Harger reported that Hopelink recently convened a King County coalition meeting and discussed the shortage of volunteers, specifically volunteer drivers, but clients are still being served.
- Maggie also added that the Transportation Navigators Project is on hold, due to the pandemic. Mattie submitted paperwork to become a navigator, but it is also on hold.

- Eudora Carter, Center for MultiCultural Health (CMCH), reported that her agency had an information table at the Mount Zion Grocery Store, on August 21. There was a good supply of food, including meat, milk, produce, etc. The grocery store is offered every third Friday at Mount Zion, in the rear parking lot.
- CMCH also provides a Food Drive Thru. The next one is Friday, August 28, at the Emerald City 7th Day Adventist Church, on 25th & Columbia. They provide produce and shelf-stable food.

VI. September Meeting Agenda

- September is Falls Prevention Month. Mary Pat O’Leary, RN, and ADS planner covers falls prevention. Karen will ask if she is available to give a presentation.

Brenda closed the meeting with expressions of gratitude that everyone is healthy and encouraged everyone to continue to wear a mask and stay safe.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m.