

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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May 17, 2019

Members Present – Brenda Charles-Edwards, Ina Howell; Dr. Brenda Jackson; Claudette Thomas; Paul Mitchell; Mattie Taplin; Cynthia Winters

Excused – Benjamin Abe; Tricia Diamond

Guests – Terique Scott, Balance Our Tax Code

ADS Staff – Sariga Santhosh, Karen Winston

I. Update: MCAAE Appointments

Karen reported that the Mayor approved the five individuals whose names were submitted in 2018, including: Janice Davis; Tricia Diamond; Sandra Miles; Claudette Thomas; and Cynthia Winters (Re-appointment).

II. ADS Director's Report

Cathy was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Karen provided the Director's Report. The state legislative session ended late April and included several wins for ADS Advisory Council and MCAAE's [priorities](#).

Legislation - The following bills passed and have been signed or are awaiting signature by the Governor.

- **Long-Term Care Trust Act** - The first public long-term care insurance benefit in the nation. Creates a long-term care benefit for everyone who works/contributes three of six years. Contributions start in 2020. Per W4A, the Trust Act has the potential to reshape Washington's LTC system as much as Washington's adoption of Medicaid waivers in the 1980's.
- [SB 5160](#) will provide **Property Tax Relief** for Seniors, Veterans, and people with disabilities. The bill will base eligibility for the Property Tax Exemption Program on county median household income, rather than the statewide median. This will help homeowners living in high cost regions such as King County.
- The [Hearing Aid Consumer Protection Bill](#) (SB 5210) will ensure that consumers get the information they need to make informed decisions about hearing aid technologies.

State Budget

- **Housing Trust Fund** - \$175 Million is provided for Affordable Housing Projects in the capital budget.
- The **Dementia Action Collaborative** proposal received over \$1M - full funding for three of their four requests: 1) Dissemination of best practices to primary care through Project Echo at the UW, \$482K ; 2) Expand public information and

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education using evidence-based public health messaging around brain health, warning signs of dementia and value of early diagnosis, \$300K; and 3) Early legal and advance care planning, \$233K. The request for to Develop Dementia Care Specialist Program and direct services (\$4.3M) was not funded.

- **Long Term Care Case Management Program will receive an increase of \$1.7M**, recognizing the impact of mental illness on the complexity of managing cases. This translates into a about 1% rate increase. W4A and local AAAs are appreciative of the increase, however, they are disappointed that it was much less than the amount in the Governor’s proposed budget (\$7.2M).

In addition to the above priorities, other budget wins for the Aging Network include:

- An increase of \$1.5M for Adult Day Health
- Additional funding for Kinship Caregiver Programs - \$200,000 for kinship care legal aid coordinator; \$500,000 to expand Kinship Care Support Program; and \$468,000 for Tribal Navigators.

For more details, this is a [link to the final operating budget](#) - see pages 272-278 for DSHS Long Term Care section. Also, an [analysis from the Washington Budget & Policy Center](#) may be of interest – a comparison of current and pre-recession spending. Finally, Karen reminded members that it’s great time to [reach out to your legislators](#) to thank them for their hard work during this session.

III. Balance Our Tax Code (BOTC)

Terique Scott, BOTC Outreach Director, provided an overview of the BOTC. Washington’s tax code is the most upside down in the country. In Washington, those making the least pay 18% or more of their income towards state and local taxes, while the wealthiest pay only 3% or less. Terique encouraged everyone to work together to balance our tax code so that all communities thrive.

Capital Gains – A capital gain is the profit an individual receives from the sale of a financial asset. Currently, Washingtonians receive a tax break on the profits they make from the sale of high-end capital assets. This tax break contributes to our state having the most upside-down tax code. Removing the tax break on capital gains would help flip the tax code while providing more revenue to our state for key programs that help communities thrive.

Terique ended with a short video about BOTC and encouraged the MCAAE to join the coalition. Joining the coalition would require participating in monthly conference calls with other statewide professional groups who also support the initiative. The coalition is hoping to have a ballot measure in the fall 2019.

IV. MCAAE and NAAM Grandparent Day Planning

The executive director of the Northwest African American Museum, LaNesha DeBardelaben, joined the meeting to discuss partnering with the MCAAE for Grandparents Day, nationally recognized on the 2nd Sunday in September. This year the date is September 8, 2019. LaNesha began by describing a Grandparents Day event she helped organize in Detroit, MI., at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. That event included several intergenerational activities, storytelling, drumming, fitness activities, a resource fair, and local entertainment.

LaNesha asked MCAAE members to partner with NAAM to help create a similar event and be the lead with planning it. Members were interested in partnering but had concerns about limited time to plan before September. A short discussion followed about possibly organizing a reception and a short program at the museum, however, Karen was asked to send an email to all members for further discussion and vote.

V. June Meeting Agenda (Location – NAAM)

- Beth Boram, Deputy Development Director, Beacon Development Group
- Brenda Charles Edwards – Screening: ‘Speaking of Dying’
- Juneteenth Celebration Potluck
 - Deviled Eggs – Brenda
 - Wings – Karen
 - Greens – Dr. Jackson
 - Cake – Cynthia
 - Veggies – Mattie
 - Watermelon - Claudette

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 19.