

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County
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August 19, 2019
Central Area Senior Center

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

Excused – Rev. Janice Davis; Tricia Diamond; Ina Howell

Guests – Margaret Boddie, AAEP; Barbara Winbush, AAEP

ADS Staff – Maria Langlais, ADS Strategic Advisor; Karen Winston, MCAAE Liaison

I. **ADS Director's Report** - ADS strategic planner, Maria Langlais provided the following report:

ADS Advisory Council

- The August 9th AC meeting included Mallory Van Abbema, Policy & Advocacy Manager – Housing Development Consortium; and Stephanie Velasco, Strategic Advisor – Office of Housing. Mallory and Stephanie discussed local affordable housing priorities and shared how advocates can support the work.
- Area Plan 2020-2023 – Two public hearings were held in Seattle and in King County on July 18 and August 5, to receive comments on the draft plan. About 55 people participated. The final draft plan is scheduled to be approved in September and is due to the State Unit on Aging October 4, 2019. The plan remains a draft until approved by the State in early January 2020.
- State Advisory Council & Senior Lobby Conference – MCAAE members were encouraged to attend one or both meetings scheduled for October 23-24, 2019, Tacoma Hotel Murano. ADS will cover conference fees. Let Karen know by the September meeting if you'd like to go. Last year, Cynthia, Ina, and Dr. Jackson attended.

Local

- Mayor Durkan is preparing a response to the 2018 MCAAE Advocating for Change Report. Members can expect to receive it before the end of the month.
- Mayor Durkan will present the 2020 City Budget in late September. Members were encouraged to participate in budget hearings. The first one is scheduled for October 2.
- Sweetened Beverage Tax Update – The outcome of the SBT and its potential impact on ADS funding, won't be known until Mayor releases her budget in September.

State

- An update re The Property Tax Exemption Program will be provided at the September meeting.

Co-sponsored by:



Federal

- Public Charge Rule - This week, the Department of Homeland Security finalized the public charge rule that dramatically expands the “public charge” immigration policy and will make it more difficult for older adults, people with disabilities, and anyone with limited income to enter the U.S. or obtain a lawful permanent resident status (green card). Under the new rule, immigration officials will consider an applicant’s use of basic needs programs, including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and housing assistance. The rule’s changes are set to take effect on October 15, 2019. Advocacy groups are working to stop implementation.
- The public comment period closed last week for the Trump Administration’s proposed changes to the rules implementing the Health Care Rights Law (Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act). More than 200,000 individuals and organizations commented. The probable harms would be to limited English proficient and LGBTQ older adults, the proposed rule would limit the ability of older adults and others to know their rights and seek redress for discrimination.

II. Grandparents Day Planning Update

- Brenda shared a draft flyer for the event. Once the time and colors are edited, the flyer will be broadly distributed.
- AARP agreed to sponsor the event and will provide \$2,500.
- Due to lack of time to coordinate, there will be no special recognition of any grandparents.
- Exhibitors will include AARP; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Center for MultiCultural Health; Aging and Disability Services, Catholic Community Services, Clean Greens, the YMCA, and the Black Genealogy Group. Mattie offered to staff the MCAAE table. Karen will try to get a banner before the event.
- There will be a brief program and will include a speaker, Dr. LaShawnDa Pittman, whose research focuses on grandparent caregiving—also called kinship care.
- The event is from 2 to 5 p.m. and will include a reception.

III. Other Discussion Items

- The African American Elders Program (AAEP) manager, Margaret Boddie reported that two African American churches are looking into developing low-income housing for older adults in the Central District.
- Margaret also advocated on behalf of the frail older adults served by the AAEP. She encouraged MCAAE members to continue to advocate on behalf of the clients and needs of the program. The program is still in need of a nurse to assist clients with their medications and chronic conditions.

IV. September Meeting Agenda (Location – Liberty Bank Building)

- Tour of LBB
- Capitol Housing Presentation
- ROOTS Celebration Report
- Grandparent Day Report

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 20, at the Liberty Bank Building.