

Mayor's Commission 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
206-684-0706 • TTY 206-684-0274 • FAX 206-684-0689
Website: www.seattle.gov/MCAAE

October 17 2025 – 2:00–3:30pm
Grace United Methodist Church, 722 30th Ave

Members: Pamela Williams, Claudette Thomas, Paul Mitchel, Tiffany Toms, Charlotte Antoine, Benjamin Abe

Members Absent: Crystal Dawkins, Deborah O'Neal, Benjamin Abe, Hiwot Zewdie, Calvin Lassiter

ADS Staff: Michael Adusah, Eldad Mekuria, Stevie Elliott, Mary Pearson, Jacqueline Cobbs

Guests: Debroah Hughes, Joy Hunt, Francesca Eluhu, Teya Williams, Lois Martin

Summary: The meeting began with a presentation from the Black Home Initiative, followed by an overview of the current AAEP program and agency transition plans. Finally, the meeting adjourned after the approval of the September minutes as presented. [?](#)

Key Discussion Points:

1. The presentation centered on the Black Home Initiative (BHI) project team's work to sustain existing Black homeowners in Seattle, particularly within the Central District, focusing heavily on property tax reform as a primary intervention against displacement.
 - Proposed Tax Reform Package: The BHI project team, after a year of consultation and research, developed a package of legislative and research proposals to address displacement:
 - o Legislative Proposals (Expand Access & Streamline)
 - o Interventions (Support & Outreach)
 - o Research Proposal

Recommendations for MCAAE Support: Build support for the importance of tax relief.

- Provide feedback on the proposal: The council can suggest edits or improvements to the current proposal to help it better fit the community's needs.
 - Advocate for the proposal: If the council supports the plan, the BHI would appreciate advocating for it, including letting the mayor know about their support.
 - Connect with legislators/Build relationships: The speakers recognize that advocacy will be an ongoing effort and suggest connecting with legislators. They may also need people to come and testify in the future.
2. AAEP is currently administered by Catholic Community Services (CCS) but faces challenges including a \$930k budget, 119 clients, and three vacant key positions.
 - Transition: The plan is to transition the AAEP's administration to a new, Black-owned agency by July 1st next year to ensure culturally competent leadership, with the core goal of maintaining service continuity for all clients.

- New Agency Criteria: The search for a new partner requires expertise in serving African American elders, proven capacity to manage the \$1 million program, and existing qualification and experience with Medicaid funding and compliance.
- Next Steps: The process involves the council providing feedback on criteria, sending Letters of Interest to pre-qualified Black-owned organizations, and holding discussions with candidates starting mid-November.

Next Meeting; November 21, 2025