


Mayor's Council on African American Elders

2021 Highlights & Accomplishments

Visit our website for more information at

www.seattle.gov/mcaae

Month	Topic	Outcome										
January	MCAAE Commissioners	<p>During 1st Quarter 2021, the commission welcomed the following individuals, while several other members were re-appointed. (New appointments pending):</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>New Appointments</u></td> <td><u>Re-Appointments</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlotte Antoine</td> <td>Dr. Omara Abe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sheila Mary</td> <td>Dr. Brenda Jackson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pamela Williams</td> <td>Paul Mitchell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paula Williams</td> <td>Claudette Thomas</td> </tr> </table>	<u>New Appointments</u>	<u>Re-Appointments</u>	Charlotte Antoine	Dr. Omara Abe	Sheila Mary	Dr. Brenda Jackson	Pamela Williams	Paul Mitchell	Paula Williams	Claudette Thomas
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February	Black History Month	<p>King County Councilman Girmay Zahilay was the guest speaker for Black History Month. Councilman Zahilay represents District 2 for King County. He discussed many pandemic challenges experienced during 2020, including many accomplishments.</p>										
March	COVID Vaccine Focus Group Follow-Up	<p>In October 2020, the WA Department of Health (DOH) led a vaccine distribution focus group with MCAAE members. DOH returned in March to give an update on vaccine distribution efforts. Also, a DOH Equity and Social Justice Consultant reviewed activities and community engagement involving African American communities.</p>										
	<p>Vaccine Outreach</p> <p>MCAAE member, Dr. Brenda Jackson volunteering at an Urban League Vaccine Pop-Up Clinic.</p> 	<p>During 2nd Quarter, MCAAE members assisted ADS staff and Aging Network providers with outreach efforts to BIPOC older adults to help with scheduling vaccine appointments.</p>										
April	Remote Cognitive Study	<p>Dr. Debby Tsuang, Director of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center, at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, discussed the Remote Cog Study, an optimal remote assessment of cognitive aging and mental health in older African Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members helped disseminate information about the study that would ultimately provide access to telehealth.</p>										

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May	Interim ADS Director, Mary Mitchell	Members welcomed Mary Mitchell in her new role as the interim director and learned about her background and 29-year career with the City of Seattle.
June	Vaccination Efforts and Strategies in African American Communities	Zyna Bakari, Public Health Liaison and Executive Assistant to President & CEO Michelle Merriweather, presented information about the Urban League's vaccine efforts in BIPOC communities. She shared a culturally relevant report about historical medical trauma to address hesitancy in getting vaccinated. The report is available online at: https://urbanleague.org/black-health-matters/
July	Mayoral Candidates Forum	A virtual Mayoral Candidates Forum was held July 29, in partnership with the Puget Sound Alliance for Retirement Action. Six individuals running for mayor participated. Dr. Abe provided opening remarks, and Brenda Charles-Edward, a former MCAAE, was the emcee.
September	Grandparent's Day Celebration	In partnership with the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM), AARP, and Aging and Disability Services, the MCAAE observed the 3 rd Annual Grandparent's Day Celebration, that featured Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, guest speaker, and the NAAM African American Cultural Ensemble (ACE).
October	Safe and Thriving Communities	Members met with the new HSD Safe and Thriving Communities division director, Rex Brown, and learned about his vision/goals for the new division.
November	Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program	Members received information about the purpose/function of the King County LTCOP.
	Nursing Staff Position Approved in the City of Seattle 2022 Budget	For many years, MCAAE members have advocated for nursing staff to support the African American Elders Program's clients. The position was included in the mayor's budget and adopted by the Seattle City Council.
	YBG Health Care	MCAAE and ADS Advisory Council co-signed on a letter for YBG Healthcare in support of the development of a Black-owned Hospice organization in King County. The letter was submitted to the WA Department of Health in early December.

Annual Events: [Memory Sunday](#) – Observed on the 2nd Sunday in June for Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

[Annual African American Caregivers Forum: Legacy of Love](#) – Held in November during National Family Caregivers Awareness Month.