

Mayor's Council 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

July 16, 2021

Members Present – Dr. Benjamin Abe, Interim Chair, Dr. Brenda Jackson

Members (Appointment Pending) – Charlotte Antoine,

Members Absent – Paul Mitchell, Claudette Thomas, Sheila Mary, Paula Williams, Pamela Williams

Guest – Margaret Boddie, Program Manager, African American Elders Program

ADS Staff – Karen Winston

I. Aging and Disability Services

Karen opened the retreat with an overview of ADS for the new members whose appointments are pending.

- ADS is an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) mandated through the Older Americans Act. There are 13 AAA's in the Washington state and of over 600 throughout the country. ADS is the AAA for King County.
- Our mission is to develop a community that promotes quality of life, independence and choice for older people and adults with disabilities in King County.
- ADS serves about 25% of the state's older adult population.
- We also have a 21-member Advisory Council in partnership with King County
- All AAA's are mandated through the Older Americans Act to serve priority populations. This includes older individuals with greatest economic need and social need, limited English speaking, communities of color, older people in rural areas, frail older adults, adults with disabilities, and unpaid caregivers age 18+.
- ADS provides Medicaid long-term care to clients age 18+.
- Our 2020 budget was \$67 million.
- Total ADS staff – 201. Due to our funding, ADS is required to serve individuals county-wide. We also have a satellite Case Management Program Office in south King County.
- The total number of older adults served in King Co. for 2020 was 51,235 (unduplicated).

II. African American Elders Program.

Karen shared a short [digital story](#) about how the AAEP was first created. Margaret provided an overview of the clients served and the current program status.

- Several AAEP clients are age 90 and older. They are living longer, but not getting any better.
- AAEP clients may not be the poorest in the community, but they do not know where to turn when they are no longer able to care for themselves.

Co-sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

- Referrals to the AAEP come from the community, including churches, discharge planners, medical providers, etc.
- Many of the referrals are for people 80 years of age and older.
- Most referrals come from Seattle, southeast Seattle, and Skyway.
- Because many AAEP clients are so frail, a nurse is needed for the program. The program used to have one, but lost funding to maintain the nurse.

AAEP Program Needs

- The program needs additional staff – case managers (2) and a nurse.
- CCS is currently seeking to fill those positions, full-time and/or part-time.
- Margaret is particularly interested in hiring people who have experience working with vulnerable older adults from BIPOC communities.
- The majority of AAEP clients have been vaccinated, however, for those who refused to be vaccinated, staff will be required to wear masks.

III. Discussion: Identifying the Needs of Older African Americans

Members will discuss their perspectives on needs, trends, and issues facing older adults.

1. AAEP Needs

- Nurse
- Social Workers (2)

2. Help for hoarders

3. Advocate to **require apartment property owner to maintain their properties**, especially where older adults reside.

4. Older adults **should have a voice**; older adults have wisdom and a lot to contribute to society.

5. Address social **isolation**.

6. **Housing** that is viable.

- Outreach about available home repair programs
- Promote accessory dwelling units
- Promote new accessible housing for older adults who own their own property (Dept. of Construction & Inspection)
- Creating multiple options is key.

7. **Alzheimer's/dementia** – Outreach

- Education – What does it mean to take better care of our brains?
- Karen shared the new Dementia Action Collaborative brief, called the **African American Action Brief on Alzheimer's** - <https://bit.ly/3xVcU6k>

8. **Caregiver abuse** – Experienced by family abusers.

9. Older adults with **addictions** (alcohol and mixing w/meds).

Next Steps

The retreat discussion will continue at the August meeting with members who were not able to attend the retreat.

IV. Mayoral Candidates Forum

Karen reported that the Puget Sound Alliance for Retirement Action (PSARA) would like to partner with the MCAAE on a mayoral candidate's forum. The virtual event would be held some time during the last week of July. Currently, there are 15 individuals running for the position. Members approved and thought it was a good idea! Dr. Abe agreed to give opening remarks at the forum.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday July 16, 2021**.