

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

December 19 2025 – 2:00–3:30pm
Grace United Methodist Church, 722 30th Ave

Members: Pamela Williams, Claudette Thomas, Tiffany Toms, Charlotte Antoine, Benjamin Abe, Calvin Lassiter

Members Absent: Crystal Dawkins, Deborah O'Neal, Hiwot Zewdie, Paul Mitchel,

ADS Staff: Michael Adusah, Eldad Mekuria, Stevie Elliott, Dinah Stephens

Guests: Debroah Hughes, Joy Hunt, Francesca Eluhu

Summary: The meeting began with a potluck to celebrate the season and honor Vice Chair Miss Charlotte's service to this Commission and the community as a whole. Staff provided updates, and the meeting adjourned after the approval of the November minutes as presented and the unanimous nomination of Miss Tiffany Toms as the new Vice Chair.

Key Discussion Points:

1. Special Acknowledgement: Vice Chair Ms. Charlotte Antoine
2. MCAAE Priorities Discussion: Staff discussed the commission's goals providing updates on priorities including Housing, Caregiving, Nutrition Services, and Social Connectivity.
 - a. Housing: Staff are pursuing strategies for increasing equity by streamlining property tax exemptions with the Assessor's Office and ensuring SDOT levy funds are used effectively. The goal is to make applications easier to navigate by removing barriers. Council is interested in simplifying other applications, as well (ex: SHA).
 - b. Caregiving: Staff are pursuing efforts to encourage employers to better support their employees who are also family caregivers; in part, this direction was influenced by the MCAAE-hosted African American Caregiver Forum. Council members are also interested in leveraging Medicare's GUIDE benefits to improve resources for those providing care.
 - c. Nutrition: The commission is interested in planning site visits to local centers to evaluate food quality and services.
 - d. Social Connectivity: Staff are in conversation with PCs for People, a service that provides affordable refurbished devices, internet services, and technical training to low-income individuals. There may be opportunity to collaborate with the council in 2026.
 - e. Commission moved to approve list of MCAAE priorities as defined. Motion passed.
3. AAEP Update: Tubman Center for Health and Healing will be the new organization to operate the AAEP program; transition from CCS is expected to be complete by end of 2026.

4. ADS Advocacy Council Update: January is a short session. Michael noted that advocacy is vital for this session. This year's focus is on health-homes. A single-day field trip to the Capital is being planned for January 20-22.
5. Vice Chair: Tiffany Toms was nominated to be appointed for the position of Vice Chair of the MCAAE. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Steps: Council reminded staff of the need to update the MCAAE website for currency and to direct community member to beneficial resources.

Next Meeting; January 16, 2026