

# Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County  
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## Retreat Summary

January 17, 2020

**Members Present** – Brenda Charles-Edwards, Zelda Foxall (Advisory Councilmember);  
Mattie Taplin (Emeritus); Cynthia Winters

**Absent** – Benjamin Abe; Tricia Diamond; Ina Howell; Dr. Brenda Jackson; Paul Mitchell;  
Claudette Thomas

**ADS Staff** –Cathy Knight, Sariga Santhosh; Karen Winston

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### I. AAA Advocacy

Cathy provided an overview of legislative wins for 2019 and legislative priorities for 2020 (listed below). She encouraged members to write letters or email to their legislators, because they will no longer accept handouts during visits on Senior Lobby Day. Cathy encouraged participation in one or both upcoming lobby days:

- **W4A Lobby Day** – Thursday, January 30, 2020, and/or
- **Senior Lobby Day** – Thursday, February 20, 2020 (Note: Sign-up by Feb. 10)

### 2019 legislative wins:

1. Passage of the Long-Term Care Trust Act – The first in the nation to provide a public long-term care insurance benefit, beginning in 2022.
2. Property Tax Relief for seniors, veteran, and people with disabilities – Eligibility for the Property Tax Exemption Program will be based on county median income rather than statewide median. This will help homeowners living in high cost regions, such as King County.

### 2020 State Legislative Priorities:

Encourage legislators to protect and strengthen our communities for the future by supporting:

1. Increase funding for vital human services programs.
2. Strengthen long-term care services and supports.
3. Lower costs of lifesaving prescription drugs.

### II. 2020 Advocacy Priorities

Members began by reviewing existing priorities in their 2018 Advocating for Change Report. They then listed their priority advocacy items and focus areas for 2020.

Co-sponsored by:



<b>Priority Items</b>	<b>Votes</b>
<b>Property Tax (outreach and assistance)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with senior centers and housing providers; AAEP; Center for MultiCultural Health; and King Co.</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>
<b>Advocate for an AAEP Registered Nurse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby King County Councilman Girmay Zahilay</li> <li>Connect with Public Health – Seattle/King Co.</li> </ul>	<b>6</b>
<b>Build community with Africans and African Americans</b> Resource or Health Fair that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing (asst. with property tax applications)</li> <li>Include Edna Daigre (movement &amp; physical activity)</li> <li>Community Living Connections Network</li> <li>AARTH (HIV/AIDS education)</li> <li>Possible speaker: Marcia Arunga, Academic Dean, Evergreen College (Tacoma campus)</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>
<b>Increase MCAAE visibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member business cards</li> <li>MCAAE magnets</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>
<b>Community Presentation: Domestic Violence &amp; Elder Abuse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Betty Williams-Watson, Exec. Director Multi-Communities</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
<b>Standing Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grandparents Day – September 13, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include Zelda Foxall’s presentation</li> </ul> </li> <li>African American Caregivers Forum – November 14, 2020</li> <li>Holiday Meet-n-Greet – December 18, 2020</li> </ul>	

After brainstorming about possible advocacy focus areas and activities for 2020, members prioritized the list. Potential strategies were briefly discussed and tabled for the February meeting.

**III. February Meeting Agenda**

- Central or Southeast Senior Center
- Review and confirm 2020 work plan
- MCAAE committee assignments
- MCAAE 2020 appointment update

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 21. Location: TBD