

COAA MEETING MINUTES

The following minutes are taken as the COAA/ MOAA and the public input was reported.

May 1, 2019	6: 00 PM	MAYOR’S OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6th Floor
Meeting called by	Interim Chair Margaret Kamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm		
Secretary	Secretary Etayenesh Asfaw		
Attendees	<u>MOAA:</u> Deputy Director Aly Kaba, Language Access Coordinator Gelila Getaneh, and Community Outreach Specialist Thierry Tchenko, Grant Administrator Queen Alike <u>Commissioners:</u> Etayenesh Asfaw, Richmond Danso, Carmen Eliam, Hellen Fissihaie, Margaret Kamara, Noel Karl Lebondzo Gandou, Theodore Ngatchou, Yodit Shibru <u>Aspiring Commissioner:</u> Marie Waguybou <u>MPD -</u> Salah Czapary with the MPD office of Volunteer Coordinator. See attendance list		
AGENDA			
Introduction	Acting Chair Kamara welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
MOAA Updates & Announcements	MOAA hosted Women in Tech event and Ms. Gelila Getaneh reported the event was successful and the office hopes to have a follow up event. There were over 200 attendees. Mayor Bowser met with the Mayor of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which is a sister city to Washington DC. The Language access award was provided to Leo (DPR) Diversity and Language		

<p>Presentations were made by two of the grantees of the FY19 MOAA African Community Grant:</p>	<p>Access coordinator and Elizabeth who is with the Ethiopian Community Center.</p> <p>An announcement was made that MOAA & MOIPIA are giving cultural competency training which will be rolled out to all agencies to address issues faced by African communities.</p> <p>Ms. Queen Alike, MOAA's Grant Administrator talked about the grant program and presented the grant recipients.</p> <p>Grantees presentation:</p> <p>HBI-DC Hepatitis B prevention program to prevent liver cancer among African and Asian communities. They do outreach at religious institutions and shops. They tested over 200 people and assist those that are underinsured or have no insurance to get treatment.</p> <p>Multicultural institution provide language program and has been getting grants since the inception of the program. They have a community interpreter training to get people certified and assist in translation services. They will host training and provide professional development Friday, May 12 and June 13th – July 8th. More information at www.mcsdc.org</p> <p>Winta Teferi, Ethiopian Community Center Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Ethiopian Community Center (ECC). The ECC is a 40-year-old organization-serving Ethiopian immigrant in DMV. ECC is known for its ESL program to help people speak English. There is also a youth program to provide academic and cultural programming at DPR sites. There are complicated issues to navigate and ECC wants to increase parent interaction and engagement with children. They are also developing a program to address sexual assault in a cultural context, and they want to build the domestic violence component. ECC is working to ensure that African low wage immigrants are aware of their rights in working within DC. They received grants to increase awareness of workers information on rights. They also see a need to help with mental and psychological needs of the community. A challenge they face is a capacity issue to provide information to immigrants and outreach to the community. They are recruiting their board and are expanding their reach.</p> <p>Commissioner Fissilhaie mentioned ACT is working on informing workers about their</p>
--	--

rights and legal services.

Grantees work together to provide resources and to provide the right information to people especially for legal services. There are also partnerships with free and reduced cost services translation.

Tiwanne Field Coleman, Diversity Program Coordinator, National Security Agency, is here from Fort Meade to talk about career opportunities, which are over 2200 for FY 2019 and approximately 2100 in FY 2020. They hire for high school, gifted and talented in Stokes, tuition assistance, paid internship. Job opportunities are in business, STEM, business, foreign languages and other careers. The agency allows movement within the organization and the agency will provide training and resources. The website is intelligencecarrers.gov/nsa The NSA is not using the USA JOBS. They encourage a strong resume with keywords to be submitted on the website. US Citizenship is required. They are open to assisting with resume writing. The clearance process is handled by NSA and takes 6-8 months. Prior to the clearance process a conditional job offer is made and a form will be sent and processing will begin prior to a final job offer. The location of the jobs in this region is Fort Meade, MD.

Even if the dialect is not shown on the website, an application should be sent, and NSA provides a language test. Ms. Fields Coleman offered her email address if anyone has any questions tmfiel2@nsa.gov She will respond to email inquiries.

The Commission will follow up.

a. MPD Update

Salah Czapary with the MPD office of Volunteer Coordinator talked about the volunteer program and a Community Engagement Academy to allow interested community members to be involved with MPD. There are 60 active domestic violence coordinators. There is also a ride along and a citizen's academy. There is also a special liaison unit working with the different communities. One of the priorities is ensuring safety at religious institutions. There are opportunities for volunteers to get involved with MPD. Graduates of the programs can stay connected

	<p>with the program and serve as a resource to the MPD to make connections.</p> <p>Commissioner Lebondzo Gandou is participating in the Community Engagement Academy and highly encourages everyone to participate in the program.</p> <p>For more information reach out to salah.czapary@dc.gov</p> <p>Chair Kamara congratulated the office and the grantees for the work they are doing and offered to help the office.</p>
--	---

**COAA
Announcements**

Chair Kamara gave an overview of the COAA priorities and strategic goals. The main points are The Commission of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs' focus for 2019 is to help level the playing field to ensure that Africans are leveraging the resources available to them. The critical areas of focus are improved language access to increase employment opportunities.

Vice Chair Fissahaie gave an overview of the priorities, which is a lack of information about resources within the African community. There is also a need to focus on Immigration which is a timely issue in the current times. The community also waits too long to get Healthcare and we need to get the programs to the community. There is also a problem with Housing in the city and we want to focus on providing those resources. The commission wants to go the communities in need within the wards. The goal is to work with multiple agencies to gather information and provide resources similar to Department of Parks and Recreation. The need to bring resources to one place to have information.

Commissioner Eliam spoke about proposed programming-MOAA/COAA Open House in September 2019; an event that could help bring more public awareness of the Office, its services, and the Commission to the people of the District.

Commissioner Yodit mentioned that entrepreneurship would be a good focus. Her office in partnership with SBA are putting together an event on May 13 9am-12pm and invited panelists will talk about procurement opportunities through USAID, MCC, and Department of Commerce. May is World Trade Month and series of webinars are planned

<p>Public Comments</p>	<p>Public Comments: Vice Chair Fissihaie opened the meeting for public comments.</p> <p>Margaret from NIH talked about a study to recruit healthy black African men and women for a study to understand diabetes.</p> <p>Dr. Williams, a PI from NIH is to focus on immigrant health and diabetes study and wants to understand the community and do outreach. There are jobs listed are nih.gov faustine.williams@nih.gov</p> <p>The researchers in the lab also presented about the diabetes issue in Africa and the lack of prevention. They want more participation in the program to get their research on diabetes off the ground.</p> <p>B.A Cockburn, has a program in South Africa for the youth and is working on a SEED charter boarding school. She is interested in providing STEM information for students. She is also aware of a DC bar grant opportunity to African immigrants and will provide that information when it is available.</p> <p>Ibilola Owoyele, Senior Associate at Chemonics, was working in Benin and returned to Washington DC and wants to get involved with the office.</p>
<p>Adjourned</p>	<p>8:02 pm.</p>