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Date: April 8, 2008
To: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board
From: Cathy VonWald, Community Services Supervisor
Subject: Bellevue Network On Aging
(Informational - Board input requested)

This Management Brief provides the Park Board with an update on the recent activities of the Bellevue Network On Aging.

BACKGROUND

In 2004, Parks & Community Services staff completed the Senior Service Review Project. The purpose of this project was to:

- Assess the social, recreation, education, and human service programs provided to seniors in Bellevue by all providers.
- Identify gaps in service.
- Retool the services provided by Bellevue Parks & Community Services.
- Better meet the needs of current and future seniors in Bellevue.

The result of this project was the Vision 2009 document, identifying strategies and recommendations for serving older adults in the next five years. Strategy 5 called for development of the Bellevue Network On Aging by consolidating the two site-specific (North and South Bellevue Senior) program advisory boards, and creating a group whose reach is broader and deeper into the community.

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING WORK PLAN

The Network held its first retreat in September 2006. Three committees were formed to develop a focus and work plan for 2007 in the areas of transportation, housing, and support services available to older adults in Bellevue.

Tonight's presentation is information only. You will receive a report on the Network's 2007 Goals and Accomplishments and an overview of their 2008 Work Plan. We welcome your input on the work plan and suggestions for areas of emphasis for the Network moving forward.

You are invited to join any of the regular meetings of the Network on the first Thursday of each month, 8:30am-10:30am at Bellevue City Hall.



Bellevue Park & Community Services **Network On Aging**

Purpose

The purpose of the Bellevue Network on Aging is to support the mission of Aging Services in Bellevue through effective and systematic outreach, regional collaboration, and community involvement with a unified voice.

Mission Statement

The Bellevue Network On Aging is dedicated to healthy aging in our community by promoting awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions.

Goals/Strategies

- Communicate older adults needs and provide a forum for that communication
- Strengthen community outreach to inform and connect older adults with the necessary resources
- Create a unified voice for older adults
- Create an environment that makes Bellevue a livable community where older adults have the ability to age in place.
- Gain respect and knowledge of older adults in Bellevue
- Create a regional approach to serving older adults

2007 Goals & Accomplishments

The focus of the Network On Aging's efforts in 2007 was outreach to older adults, with emphasis on:

1. Facilitating information and assistance to older adults and their providers that encompassed a wide range of topics, including but not limited to housing, employment, transportation, wellness, socialization, nutrition, mental health, etc.
2. Simplifying access to information.
3. Investigating ways to provide personalized, relevant assistance.

Transportation Committee

Chair: Gary Dickerman

Members: Berta Seltzer, Catherine Brallier, Dwayne Dilley

2007 Goals

1. Actively participate in the EZ Rider Collaborative.
 - Assist in compiling survey data
 - Assist in conducting focus groups
 - Assist in implementing EZ Rider initiatives
2. Assist with the Human Services Needs Assessment through Community Conversations.

2007 Accomplishments

1. The Transportation Committee gathered information and attended meetings of various City initiatives such as Light Rail Best Practices, Bel-Red Corridor Study, Ped-Bike Plan, Great Streets project, and Transportation Commission.
2. Actively participated in the Eastside EZ Rider Collaborative:
 - a. Assisted in compiling survey data
 - b. Assisted in conducting focus groups
 - c. Assisted in planning and developing EZ Rider initiatives such as the Bus Buddy Program, and Dial-A-Ride Project in cooperation with Hopelink
3. Support the City of Bellevue in advancing the Downtown Circulator project to serve older adults who live in the Downtown neighborhood.
4. Met with City and County elected officials to present the Eastside EZ Rider Collaborative mission, goals and projects.
5. Assist with the Human Services Needs Assessment through Community Conversations at Bellevue Square and Crossroads Bellevue.

Support Services Committee

Chair: Christina Coulter

Members: Jim Messner, Howard Katz, Diana Thompson, Eileen Putter, Lynne Robinson

2007 Goals

1. Partner with Overlake Hospital to produce the “Home, Sweet, Home” resource fair.
2. Research and recommend new methods to get information and assistance information to highest needs older adults.
3. Assist with the Human Services Needs Assessment through Community Conversations.

2007 Accomplishments

1. Support Services Focus Group
 - a. Hosted a focus group of agencies that provide support to older adults and information referral
 - b. Determined organization of older adult service system
 - c. Identified gaps in services and delivery
 - d. Looked at ways to make the system more “user-friendly”

2. Gatekeeper Program
 - a. Explored and gained knowledge of Gatekeeper program thru Senior Services.
 - b. Developed a plan to bring the training to citizens in Bellevue.
3. Home Sweet Home Fair
 - a. Worked with Overlake Hospital to present the Home Sweet Home Fair in November at City Hall which provided support information to older adults who choose to stay at home as they age.
4. Assisted with the Human Services Needs Assessment through Community Conversations at Bellevue Square and Crossroads Bellevue.

Housing Committee

Chair: Marjorie Todd

Members: Eve Stern, Eileen Rasnack, Stephen Lam

2007 Goals

1. Survey of housing providers in Bellevue
2. Follow up on the City of Bellevue 1988 “Housing Our Seniors” report
3. Assist with the Human Services Needs Assessment through Community Conversations.

2007 Accomplishments

1. Reviewed the City of Bellevue 1988 “Housing Our Seniors” Report. Met with City Planning staff to discuss updating the report. It was decided not to pursue that at this time as many of the recommendations have been implemented. The BNOA will continue to coordinate with Planning staff.
2. Attended a tour led by Arthur Sullivan of ARCH. Sites visited included Evergreen Court, Brandenwood, Kirkland Plaza, and St. Andrews Housing. Also in attendance were members of the Kirkland Senior Council
3. Attended “Housing, Homelessness & the Elderly” forum sponsored by Aging & Disability Services
4. Attended meeting with Bellevue Planning & Community Development staff and consultant, Bill Morton to discuss aging trends and innovative housing options
5. Assisted with the Human Services Needs Assessment through Community Conversations at Bellevue Square and Crossroads Bellevue
6. Attended the Eastside Affordable Housing Forum sponsored by the Housing Development Consortium
7. Survey of Housing providers (Assisted Living, Skilled, Adult Family Homes)
The goal of the survey was to help establish how many units were available and to better understand demand for those units, and current low-income opportunities including income qualified, subsidized and homeless. Response rate for the survey was approximately 18%.

2008 Work Plan

Transportation Committee

Chair: Gary Dickerman

Members: Berta Seltzer, Catherine Brallier, Dwayne Dilley

1. Continue work with the Eastside EZ Rider Collaborative
2. Continued support implementation of the Downtown Circulator
3. Coordinate with Hopelink to implement the Bus Buddy/Travel Ambassador pilot project.
4. Provide support for implementation of the Dial-A-Ride pilot project.

Support Services Committee

Chair: Christina Coulter

Members: Jim Messner, Howard Katz, Diana Thompson, Lynne Robinson

1. Gatekeeper Training – Bring information about the Gatekeeper program to Bellevue neighborhoods and assist in facilitating Gatekeeper presentations.
 - a. Meet with Neighborhood Associations
 - b. Develop a presentation for community groups
2. Information Sharing – Encourage the sharing of resource information across non-profits, private organizations, and government.
 - a. Focus Group with area Hospital organizations
 - b. Support 211 and Senior Information & Assistance
3. Home Sweet Home Fair – Partner with Overlake Senior Care to present the 2008 Home Sweet Home Fair.

Housing Committee

Chair: Marjorie Todd

Members: Eve Stern, Eileen Rasnack, Stephen Lam

1. Continue inventory of housing: research independent living options, availability and costs.
2. Universal Design: coordinate workshop on universal design at Home Sweet Home Fair / Promote universal design in new and existing housing.
3. Coordinate with City of Bellevue Planning Department on Bel-Red Corridor, Factoria, and other planning initiatives to recommend inclusion of Universal Design standards, development of housing for older adults, development of affordable housing, and possible inclusion of mandatory incentives for older adult housing.
4. Outreach to Non-English speaking older adults with housing information – research current publications and materials in different languages regarding housing programs and identify where translated materials are needed and where to distribute information.
5. Support BNOA work with neighborhood programs to provide resources with goal of helping older adults to remain in their homes.

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

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