



Phone: 452-7681
Date: May 12, 2009
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Cathy VonWald, Community Services Supervisor
Subject: Bellevue Network On Aging
(Information and feedback only; no official Board action is requested.)

This Management Brief provides you with an update on the recent activities and serves as the Annual report of the Bellevue Network On Aging. At your meeting, the Bellevue Network On Aging would like to offer you a presentation they have created and are showing to neighborhood associations, church groups and other interested organizations.

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 of that document 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 subcommittees 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.

Included in your packet is the Network's 2008 annual report including the 2009 Work Plan. We welcome your input on the work plan and suggestions for areas of emphasis for the Network as we move 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 Network On Aging (BNOA) Annual Report

2008 Accomplishments

Transportation Committee

Collaborated with the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative to accomplish the following:

1. Funding and implementation of Bus Buddy program - successful grant application awarded to Hopelink to implement this program. Featured on "It's Your City" in March 2009.
2. Funding and implementation of Travel Ambassador program - successful grant application awarded to Hopelink to implement this program as a community-wide resource for special needs transportation options.
3. Funding Dial A Ride program - successful grant application awarded to Hopelink to implement this program as a connector to fixed routes for special needs. Implementation expected in 2009/2010.
4. Tracked and gave public testimony on Downtown Circulator route.
5. Submitted grant request for King County Mobility Manager & Eastside Sub-regional Mobility Coordinator. Grant funding approved and awarded to Hopelink for implementation expected in 2009.

Support Services Committee

1. Developed a PowerPoint presentation about Bellevue older adults needs and resources for use in presentations to the community. At least two community associations requested and were presented the information by BNOA members.
2. Attended and distributed BNOA materials to six community fairs and gatherings throughout the year.
3. Hosted a forum of aging providers from Overlake Hospital Senior Care, Evergreen Hospital, Group Health, 211 Crisis Line, and Senior Information and Assistance to share information and resources, and coordinate the dissemination of information to older adults.
4. Co-sponsored the "Home Sweet Home Fair" at Bellevue City Hall on Saturday, November 8. The fair was titled "Strategies and Resources for Staying in Your Own Home as You Age" and featured 30 vendors and presentations including a guest speaker from Beacon Hill Village in Boston.
5. Distribution of the Vial of Life in partnership with the Medic One Foundation, Kirkland Senior Council, and Bartell Drugs.
6. Facilitated a Senior Services Gatekeeper Training at City Hall for key staff including Code Enforcement officers, Human Services staff and Neighborhood Liaisons.

Housing Committee

Letters of support to the Planning Commission and Councilmember Noble for affordable housing in the Bel-Red Corridor subarea plan.

Entire Network

1. Participation in the Eastside Human Services Forum Older Adults Stakeholders Group and the Seattle/King County Coalition on Aging.
2. Attended a Public Speaking Training- September.
3. Provided input on the City's Ped/Bike Plan.
4. BNOA was featured in articles in the region-wide "Senior Digest" and the Wilburton Hill Community Association Newsletter.
5. Letter to Governor Gregoire in support of funding for SSB 6583, which passed in 2008. This law increased the Medicaid Categorically Needy Income Level (CNIL) to 80% of the Federal Poverty Level, but was not funded. Passage of this proposal will enable the State to receive matching federal funds.
6. Attended meetings of the Kirkland Senior Council and met with representatives of the Mercer Island Senior Commission.
7. Advertised and recruited 5 new members to fill vacant Network positions.
8. Produced resource materials for the public which include a resource bookmark, 4-page list of resources, information flyer "The Network on Aging is Working for You", and a large banner for community events.

2009 Work Plan

Housing and Mobility Committee (ADVOCACY)

Continued work with the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative to implement projects and monitor the Bel-Red Corridor and other citywide planning initiatives with a focus on affordable housing for older adults.

Needs Assessment Committee (RESEARCH)

Partner with City of Bellevue to complete community conversations for the update of the Human Services Needs Assessment.

Safety and Support Committee (EDUCATION)

Community education about older adult identity theft, elder abuse, and victimization.

Entire Network

1. Focus on outreach to residents of Bellevue, including meeting and event attendance, visibility of the Network, promotion of resources, and identification of other opportunities.
2. Develop regional partnerships with other cities.
3. Track legislative issues.
4. Revisit the 2009 work plan throughout the year to track progress and possibly refocus goals.

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas;* Bellevue is a community in which 13.4% of its residents are 65 years of age and older; and
- Whereas;* Older adults in Bellevue and throughout the US are a growing population with evolving needs; and
- Whereas;* Older adults are valuable members of our society who are rich with experience and deserving of our respect; and
- Whereas;* The number of baby boomers reaching traditional retirement age continues to increase, a fact that spotlights the need for increased attention to the needs of older adults; and
- Whereas;* The older adults of today and tomorrow promise to be among the most active and engaged older adult populations in our Nation's history; and
- Whereas;* It is the responsibility of this and all communities to work together and prepare for changing older adult populations by modernizing systems and providing consumers with more control over their lives; and
- Whereas;* The President of the United States has designated the month of May as *Older Americans Month and the theme "Living Today for a Better Tomorrow"*.

*Now, therefore, I, Grant S. Degginger, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2009** as:*

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

in Bellevue, and urge all residents to take the time to honor our older adults and the professionals, family members, and people who care for them. In addition, I urge everyone to work collaboratively to strengthen the Bellevue community for its older adults in ways that recognize the changing nature of their needs, and that provide older adults with more opportunities to make informed choices about their lives. Together our efforts can improve the lives of our older adults and help pave the way for future generations.

Grant S. Degginger
Mayor

