

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
MINUTES

June 4, 2015  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-121

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Aznoff, Bill Cahill, Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Howard Katz, Arnold Kern, Hannah Kimball, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Mary Watkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Heyden, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Janet Zielasko

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter & Alex O'Reilly, Parks & Community Services Department

GUESTS: Harisa Paco, Amanda Lewis & Linda Haugen, Aging Wisdom; Mindy Garner, Elder More Alliance; Kelley Goetz, Constituent Services Liaison for Congressman Reichert's office; Kathy Ivarson & Rich Thomas, Kirkland Senior Council; Patrick Chiarelli, District Representative for Representative Adam Smith's office

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Rasnack. Roll was taken and all members were present with the exception of Beverly Heyden, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, and Janet Zielasko.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 7, 2015**

Ms. Seltzer said that on p. 6 the information in the minutes under the "Aging and Disability Services" report should be deleted. Ms. Grote indicated that on p. 5 under "Transportation and Housing Committee in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph it should be Janet Lewine instead of Janet Levinger. Mr. Aznoff said on p. 5 his name is spelled incorrectly. There was a motion to approve the minutes with the changes indicated. The motion was seconded. The minutes with the changes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Katz asked if Kelley Goetz from Congressman Reichart's office could give an update on hospital observation. Ms. Goetz said that the Notice Act was passed in the House in March in

which hospitals have to inform patients what status they are in. The Notice Act is currently in the Senate and she is not sure of the current status.

## **ELDER ABUSE AND SCAMS [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]**

Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecuting Attorney said that he has been with the prosecuting attorney's office for 30 years and the elected prosecutor for the last 8 years. Fourteen years ago a specialty division was created in the office for crimes against the elderly. The dynamics of these kind of cases are so different from others. He introduced Page Ulrey who heads up this division. He also introduced Ellie the office dog. She goes with them often when they meet with victims and Ellie is a good icebreaker and has provided great service to their group. Mr. Satterberg said that our work in law enforcement is only as good as the community response. There are a lot of people that take advantage of the trust of the elderly. This causes much shame to these victims as they are vulnerable and have placed a trust in someone. These incidents go unreported a lot of the time because these victims feel like others will think they shouldn't live on their own. There is a lot of crime/abuse that happens within the family.

Page Ulrey said that she prosecutes these crimes against the elderly and she also does a lot of training to make others are aware of how to spot abuse. She said that they are currently prosecuting a case in Bellevue where a contractor scammed three vulnerable older women out of \$400,000. He befriended them and gained their trust and agreed to do contracting work for them. The first woman he promised to do a renovation for her house. He never did a renovation but she gave him \$189,000. It wasn't found until her family was settling her accounts after her death and they saw the checks written to him. The first woman believed in him and had introduced him to two other women. The next woman gave him \$130,000 as a loan to invest in his company. This case was reported to the Bellevue Police. The third victim was an 89 year old woman who also loaned the person \$108,000 for his business. She felt so stupid and shamed that she had fallen for this scam. Shame is such a recurring theme in these cases. Reports from the three women were sent to the prosecuting attorney's office. He was arrested and charged with nine counts of felony theft and he is now serving 50 months in prison. In this case, they got his bank records to see how he was spending the victim's money. He spent their money on motorcycles, gambling, and a lavish lifestyle. All of the money was gone. He was working a full-time job at this time but as yet has not paid one penny back to the victims. He was ordered to pay restitution back.

Only one in twenty-three cases of elder abuse is ever reported. Only one in forty-four cases of financial abuse is reported. They formed the special elder abuse division to prosecute these cases but also so they could try to get these cases to be reported and brought to court. They also train first responders to recognize elder abuse & report it. It is important to have people know what elder abuse is and improve the systemic response.

Ms. Ulrey said that the Elder Abuse Council was formed from people from all over the County. They meet one time a month and it has been going for 13 years. We would like to improve how we are responding to these cases. A specialized unit is needed because these cases are very complicated. We need specialized prosecutors that know how to recognize and know about

capacity issues (dementia, etc.), undue influence, guardianships, trusts & wills. The cases of physical abuse are very complex. We need specialized prosecutors to work with law enforcement and to also talk to victims to advise them on what they should do. We also need a point person in the community to help detectives investigate. As said before, this unit is needed to go out and train the community . . . the doctors, law enforcement, bankers, etc. We need to work together to handle these cases properly. It takes collaboration to prosecute these cases.

A lot of neglect cases are unprosecuted. Ms. Ulrey said their office was one of the first offices to start prosecuting these cases. She said they are on the forefront with these cases and have made a lot of headway towards prosecuting these cases. By prosecuting these cases we have learned a lot about them and how to prosecute them.

The Elder Abuse Council is working on a number of projects. They are working with Cornell Medical School on developing a tool to screen out neglect and measure the capacity of victims. We are implementing this tool in Washington State. The tool is a questionnaire that asks victims about the abuse/neglect issue to see if the elder understands what the problem is and figure out whether they have the capacity to know what is going on.

Scam artists get very friendly with victims and then they take their money and leave. Victims experience shame and embarrassment and oftentimes become sick. Financial cases are as lethal as assault cases with a victim's health.

There is a Bill that has been drafted to create a crime of theft from an older adult and would increase the jail time for those committing these crimes and it would increase the statute of limitations for prosecuting these cases. The Bill didn't make it through this year but they are hopeful that it will be redrafted and put through next year. Ms. Thompson asked if she knew what changes would be made to the Bill. Ms. Ulrey said she didn't know what the changes would be. Ms. Gray said to let the BNOA know what they can do to help . . . send a letter, contact their representative, etc. It would be great to establish a partnership to work on these sort of issues. We will make sure everyone has our contact information so we can work together.

Ms. Ulrey said that doing a lot of training on how to recognize neglect is vital. She just recently went out and talked with ACCESS bus drivers and has talked with bank tellers and others that come into contact with older adults. She said that they had a previous case in which a bank teller reported to the police that an older adult was coming into the bank with a young person several times and removing money from their account. In cases like this people should call the police.

Ms. Ulrey recently helped draft and put together a National Prosecutors Training Course to improve the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse across the country. This is the best training that is available for prosecutors on how to handle & prosecute these cases.

They are also working with Cornell Medical School on physical abuse. This is so people can recognize/learn what assault and abuse injuries look like. This helps the doctors to know what to look for.

They are also working on a Data Collection project with DOJ to provide good tools to understand these elder abuse cases better.

There really needs to be dedicated detectives in all police departments that work with these cases. This would create better coordination between Adult Protection Services (APS), follow through, increase in reporting incidents, and increase in laws protecting this population.

Mr. Katz said there is legal abuse going on. One case was an elderly person with dementia who was repeatedly being contacted by a legal charity to give donations. He also explained what “hospital observation” was and how people were being scammed this way. Ms. Uhley said that the charity taking advantage of someone with dementia case could be prosecuted.

Ms. Uhley said that anyone from the group is welcome to attend the Elder Abuse Council meetings.

Mr. Aznoff asked if there is anything that they can do to be proactive to stop these scams before they happen? Ms. Uhley said that most of the victims are isolated. Until we deal with isolation this will continue to happen. She said that 88% of the victims are affiliated with a church and she just recently met a woman who trains religious groups to recognize abuse. We need to connect with churches and community groups and said she is happy to attend any meetings to do a training for them.

Ms. Kern asked if there is one place where all of the elder abuse data is collected, so someone could call to see if someone has been a reported abuser? Ms. Uhley said that APS collects all of the information.

Ms. Watkins said that we always see child abuse cases in the news and we need to see more of the elder abuse cases in the news to get it in the public eye and educate the public. Ms. Uhley said she was just recently interviewed by Suzanna Frame who is doing a story on elder abuse.

Ms. Uhley said that you can always contact her with questions at 206-477-1943 or Daniel Satterberg, King County Prosecuting Attorney at 206-477-1200 (dan.satterberg@kingcounty.gov).

## **BREAK**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Memory care** (reported by Mr. Crawford)

Mr. Crawford showed the group the poster for the Alzheimer Café at Tutta Bella in Bellevue. They had their first meeting in May in which he and Ms. Grote attended. It will be the fourth Tuesday of every month at Tutta Bella. He sent around a signup sheet to attend the next one.

Our group will continue to meet. The next meeting is Thursday, July 16 @ 10:00 am at Brookdale Bellevue (15241 NE 20<sup>th</sup> St.).

Ms. Thompson asked about the expanding offerings at NBCC for people with beginning dementia. Is this being looked in to? Mr. Lassiter said that he will talk to them and follow-up on this issue. Ms. Thompson told him that they had visited the Fry Museum that has a dementia group and it would be great to meet with Bellevue Art Museum to see if they could possibly do that also. We could possibly talk with them and connect them with the Fry Museum. It would also be good to have tours available at NBCC for those with dementia and their caregivers. All good ideas.

#### **Transportation/Housing Committee** (reported by Ms. Grote)

The group's last meeting was May 18<sup>th</sup> and there were not many who were able to attend. Mr. Katz said he heard something on the radio this morning criticizing Bellevue for their lack of affordable housing. Ms. Thompson said she read the article about affordable housing today also and saw that Bellevue gives the same amount of money to ARCH that they gave in 2007. She was wondering how the city's contribution to ARCH works. Ms. O'Reilly said it would be good to have Arthur Sullivan from ARCH come and talk to the group about how the funds are requested from all of the Eastside cities. They receive money from the City of Bellevue's General Fund and also CDBG funds from the Human Services Commission.

Ms. Grote said she attended the Open House for the August Williams Place (204-111<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE – next to the Marriott) and there are 57 affordable housing apartments. She said that 350 applications were received for the apartments.

Ms. Grote said that the City Council approved the way for affordable housing in the Crossroads area and Crossroads Village is being constructed where the Top Foods used to be. There is also a SHAG housing unit that is going in next to this.

The next meeting of this group is June 23 @ 9:00 am at Bellevue City Hall.

#### **Advocacy Committee** (reported by Ms. Thompson)

We will be doing a Legislative Forum this year. We started doing it every other year because the Aging & Disability Services has a Candidate Forum that they hold every other year. We are looking to possibly have the Legislative Forum on November 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm here at Bellevue City Hall. Since there are currently parking issues at Bellevue City Hall, Ms. Thompson will check with Kirkland to see if the event can be held there and then it would possibly be held at 4:00 instead. They will ask EHSF if they can provide money for food for the event and possibly NBCC can also contribute.

The Medicare Observation Bill is dead. The Federal Bill is still in the Senate and nothing has happened.

Ms. Thompson said she is very excited to announce that Bellevue now has a Title VI administrator.

**Outreach & Diversity Committee** (reported by Ms. Grote)

The Overlake Active Senior Fair was on May 16. Thank you to those that helped out at this event. We handed out a lot of good information.

We have been contacted by the Parks & Community Services Department to have a booth at the Strawberry Festival on June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. She will send a sign-up sheet around to volunteer at the BNOA table.

Ms. Grote said she met Carol Rosi who is in charge of Cultural Conversations and she told her about the City joining “Next Door”. She said that BNOA can get their information on the site for neighborhoods.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORTS**

**Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative** (reported by Ms. Grote)

There wasn't a meeting but several went to the King County Mobility Coalition meeting. Shoreline is gearing up for light rail and they talked about where the stations would be located. Their Strategic Work Plan was discussed and there will be opportunities for us to be involved. The next meeting is in Bellevue in August and Ms. O'Reilly will let everyone know when the meeting will be.

**Eastside Human Services Forum** (reported by Ms. O'Reilly)

The Eastside Human Services Forum June event will be a breakfast on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:30am at Mercerview Community Center. The topic of the event is “The State of the Eastside Basic Needs – 10 Years of Lessons Learned in which there are three panelists: Meghan Altimore, Hopelink; John Chelminiak, Bellevue City Councilmember; Mary Leal, President of St. Madeleine Sophie Conference for St. Vincent DePaul.

**Aging & Disability Services** (reported by Ms. Seltzer)

The model of all AAA's in the country is changing and there will be a different method of providing services. There is a ten day appeal process regarding this issue and at the end the process the Director will give a statement.

**Timebank** (reported by Ms. Grote)

The next potluck is at North Bellevue Community Center on Thursday, June 11 @ 6:30.

**Washington Senior Lobby – no report.**

**Staff Report/Upcoming Agenda Items**

Mr. Crawford did a great job at the City Council meeting with the Older Americans Proclamation. Ms. Thompson will be presenting at the City Council meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> regarding World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Mr. Lassiter said that we will be advertising soon for the new BNOA members. He will be working with Mark Manuel, Cultural Diversity Coordinator to get some diverse candidates. It would be great if everyone would reach out to get some good candidates. The Father's Day Brunch is June 17<sup>th</sup> at NBCC.

**New Business – no new business.**

Bellevue City Hall will be undergoing some issues with parking in the next year with the construction of the additional City Hall parking and the Sound Transit Station. Our next BNOA meeting is at Bellevue City Hall but we might want to move our meeting location if parking becomes an issue.

The next meeting is July 2, 2015, City Hall Room 1E-121 from 8:30am-10:30am

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.