

BNOA Minutes

August 4, 2016

8:30am

Bellevue City Hall

Room 1E-113

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Bob Megargel, Eileen Rasnack, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko, Hannah Kimball, Berta Seltzer, Sandy Jones, Judy Dowling, Arnold Kern, Linda Whitehead

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Dalglish,

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Recorded session transcribed by Vicki Barrett, Parks & Community Services

Meeting was called to order by Ethan Crawford.

Public Comments: No response

Review of the 7/7/16 meeting minutes: No questions. Comment from Judy Dowling saying she was here at this meeting but marked as absent.

The adjusted minutes were called for approval by Ethan Crawford and was motioned by Berta Seltzer for approval and seconded by Beverly Heyden. The minutes were all approved.

Alex O'Reilly with Human Services was introduced by Ethan Crawford. She presented on the Human Services Needs Update.

The next update will begin end of this 2016. Alex had handouts which were a summary with information on all the needs update (highpoints) as well as the chapter on older adults. (please see the power point on BNOA web page)

First page/slide are photos of people to keep in mind why they do the report, wanting to improve the people's lives in the Bellevue community. Each year they contact their agencies to send them photos of their clients. On the back of the executive summary is a list of other agencies who benefit from Human Services funds, approximately 40 agencies. Some of these agencies have several contracts with the City of Bellevue because they are large; Hopelink has 3-4 contracts with the City such as the food bank, ESL & employment training. Human Services funds agencies that assist the needs in the community from infants to seniors.

Second page/slide are popping up for a variety of different populations/communities that seem to come up no matter who they talk with. Some of the common themes from all populations that were brought up were; community conversation, provider & consumer serves (on-line). Need for affordable housing, employment (better pay or full-time as not to work more than 1 job), and substance abuse for youth & adults, mental health issues are also a big concern, transportation access issues, diversity brings up the need for more responsive services & dialog throughout the community about the differences. Alex suggested having this team come back and give an update. Some of the issues they are working on as part of their plan are cultural competence, public safety, education, economic development & civic engagement.

Third page/slide on older adults, Alex mentioned highlights and asked for input/impressions from the board on these topics such as long-term care services and reports about a third of them will need long term care & paying for those costs. The City of Bellevue does not provide the services but rather contract these out to other organizations. Annually, the City receives a demographic report from these agencies which includes the ages being served. As an example, homeless shelter for women, (Sophia Way), the median age is 50. The Needs Update also mentions that more seniors are staying in the work force longer due to the recession, medical expenses, non-defined pension plans, the economy, cost of living, increased age for Social Security eligibility, and devalued investments. American Community Survey reported that 61% of the seniors in Bellevue pay one third or more of their

income on housing. The theory is that if you spend 1/3 on housing, then you have 2/3 to spend on other bills & food and other necessities. When you pay more than 30% of your income on housing you are more likely to run into problems to support yourself and have enough to pay for other needs. If people are spending 50-60% or more of their income on housing, they are in danger of becoming homeless. Alex will check to if these figures are before or after taxes & if utilities are included or not. Transportation is still an issue for seniors, for medical needs as well as basic needs such as socialization. Alzheimer's/dementia is increasing with the increase with the age wave, which also increases needs that go along with that.

The topic of long term, (assisted living) care offered by insurance companies was brought up. Several board members discussed this and their own personal experience. More and more companies are no longer offering long term care or have increased fees.

Alex continued with other highlights. The needs for caregivers and family members giving respite care and the costs associated. The annual savings to the state & other organizations for family caregivers providing the services compared to formal institutions is in the billions of dollars. This is not just for older adults, but also for people with major disabilities. These caregivers are not reimbursed, but we can assist with some financial support, free or reduced fee services.

Hopelink food bank, (Bellevue) was asked what were/are the ages of their clients. They reported that almost 1/4 of their participants in 2014 were 55 and over and this trend is increasing a couple of points each year. They were also asked their clients country of origin or spoken language. The higher percentage are immigrants from Asian countries and former Soviet Union. Also, over the last couple years there have been an increase in those born in the United States than in previous years. Hopelink is noticing more people that are US residents are needing the food bank services. These trends are telling of the increase of the population needs and that the funding needs to match this in order to meet these needs. It was reported that an average of 75 requests come in each month for assistance and only 25 of those can be assisted. Those whose needs cannot be met are put on waitlists. Funding changes for supporting agencies were discussed by BNOA members, asking why the focus has changed.

She continued with the needs of the city's Diversity Plan. Looking at racial diversity in Bellevue for those 65+, there is still a greater percentage of

white/Caucasians. There is even still a larger percentage of families in Bellevue with young children.

Also, the number of older adults that are being cared for by their adult children has increased. Affordable dental care is also an increasing need.

Alex then reported that the preliminary recommendations have been made by the Human Services Commission. When they reconvene in September they will review it one more time. They will take their final recommendation to City Council for approval. They have approximately 3.3 million dollars from the General Fund that they spend yearly and about \$700,000 from Community Development Block Grant which primarily goes to the home repair program. Then in January 2017 they will have their new contracts for the services that are awarded funding.

In conclusion, she then asked the board what they think are the top issues for 2016 & 2017 and how the other city departments can be proactive in these issues.

Howard mentioned the homeless and Sound Transit. Saying that he's seen people living in the tunnels right now and will have to find other places to live once the project is completed. Alex responded saying that this is their own jurisdiction, but that the City has its own staff person/outreach worker that has been contracted through Congregations for the Homeless, one of the homeless service providers for single adult men. If you have concerns, you can call or email Alex and she will forward the information to him. She mentioned that he works very close with the Bellevue Police Department.

A board member mentioned affordable housing and transportation. Managing and creating services for those with dementia as well as matching diversity/cultural needs.

Ethan mentioned keeping people in aging in place, recommended looking at Habitat for Humanity. They are shifting their focus to helping people age in place. He would like to see the city partner with them or combine efforts.

A board member asked how much the COB spends on these services each year relating to the increasing tax revenue. Alex responded saying they have a COLA increase that is built into their allocations, approximately 3.3% this year. Alex was then asked why they don't get the same percentage increase as the tax increase & if not where does the money go. She said that they get an increase from the General Fund depending on the population, (per capita). She will check into this and report

back to the board. She suggested asking Doug Sanner, Parks Fiscal Manager to attend BNOA meeting and present on this.

Alex was then asked if there was any way that the BNOA can become a part of or provide input on the budget process. She said that the public involvement includes a phone &/or on-line survey and that there are public hearings as well.

New Business: Ethan then mentioned that before the break Dianna has something that needs a vote under new business. Howard recommended they vote before the break. Ethan agreed.

Dianne Thompson sent a letter to board members for review and approval that the advocacy committee drafted. The letter is to Federal Congress regarding SHIBA Program and continuing their support. Currently it is half funded by the Federal Government and half funded by the State Government. The House voted to continue the funding for this program giving 52 million nationwide with 1 million for the State of Washington, however the Senate voted against this. The letter is asking them to continue to fund at the Federal level a program called the SHIP program. Dianne made a motion that the letter be approved for sending. It was seconded by Howard Katz. No opposition, all approved, motion was passed.

BREAK

Meeting was reconvened after break by Ethan Crawford

Ethan mentioned a letter that was sent to Dan Lassiter from Chaplin Robert Dagleish, BNOA Member who has been having a hard time getting to the meetings. He has resigned from the network with apologies.

This brought up the topic of lack of participation on their committees. A poll was taken by Ethan, asking board members if they are happy with their current assigned committee or not. Most said that they are happy with their assigned committee(s).

Dan has come up with a BNOA recruitment poster for looking at new members. Ethan suggested a discussion for voting members, to perhaps having the board meetings every-other month and the committee meetings on the alternate months.

Howard responded that not every committee has participation issues and used Kirkland as an example.

Dianna responded saying committees should meet every month in order to accomplish something.

Dan read the committee requirements that members signed. Regarding attendance for regular meetings; it is expected of every board member to make every effort to attend monthly meetings in their entirety as established by the network. An excused attendance may be granted if the Chair or Vice Chair is notified prior to the meeting. An excused absence is one where the board has been notified. Termination: a network member may be terminated by resignation letter or by unexcused absence of 4 regular or 4 committee meetings per calendar year. The Chair or Vice Chair can excuse members from any regular meetings.

A board member mentioned selecting issues to work on saying if you don't have an issue that feels like you can make progress and you feel that your time isn't being used wisely, you might make a commitment for something else that you feel you can contribute to. If you aren't running your meetings efficiently may be another reason why participation is low. It also may be helpful to partner with other cities such as Kirkland so that you can collaboratively work on the issues in the committees.

Hannah brought up perhaps an action plan to measure progress and work accomplished. She also mentioned that at the retreat, it should be clear to everyone their role and what was expected of them.

Dan spoke on his role with the board. The COB created the board, supplies the meeting space, meeting structure, and arranges getting speakers for the meetings. That is where the city's role ends. He is feeling a lack of contribution from other members finding other political connections and getting information to and from the public. He said that he would talk to the Park Board and see what other connections he can get. It was suggested to ask Council what they think are important topics for the board to work on. Dan said he would address this. Dan brought up an example of networking with the public & media and brought up the recent newspaper article was brought up where Julie was quoted. The BNOA was recognized in this article as well.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30am