

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES

September 3, 2015
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Aznoff, Jullie Gray, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Arnold Kern, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Cahill, Ethan Crawford, Jeanne Grote, Hannah Kimball, and Mary Watkins

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter, Parks & Community Services Department

GUESTS: Debbie Wirtz, Nursing Student; FengLing Cheng

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by Chair Rasnack. Roll was taken and all members were present with the exception of Bill Cahill, Ethan Crawford, Jeanne Grote, Hannah Kimball, and Mary Watkins.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS – None.

Mr. Lassiter stated that we are looking for new BNOA members. It is important to attend the meetings so that we have a quorum. Two people, Bill Cahill and Mary Watkins, resigned. With twelve members we need to have eight people for a quorum. The nominating committee is Howard Katz, Berta Seltzer, and Beverly Heyden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 6, 2015

There was a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

CHALLENGES OF ENTERING AND REMAINING IN THE WORKFORCE FOR AGING ADULTS [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]

Ms. O'Reilly said that they are currently working on the Human Services Needs Update and we are looking at trends and services in different areas. We look at specific populations. We are doing some research on employment. She handed out "Data on Employment/Economic Status

Related to Older Adults”. She said she will give a few employment facts and then Ed Smith, Employment Specialist from WorkFirst & Shawnita Jones, Employment Specialist from Bellevue Goodwill can tell what they are currently seeing in the older adult employment area.

It is true that some older adults are having a hard time making ends meet by just being on social security. Some of their stocks have lost value and so they are looking for work part-time to make ends meet. People are needing long-term care services. If you can't qualify for Medicaid they can't make ends meet. People are also staying in current jobs longer because the cost-of-living is going up and they can't afford to retire. Older adults typically face a longer search for a new job than younger workers – 49 weeks compared with 32.9 weeks for the younger unemployed in July 2013. Older job seekers are disproportionately represented amongst the long term unemployed. So, what resources are available and what are some of the challenges faced by older adults when looking for employment? What has been successful when older adults have looked for employment? We talked with the speakers about how BNOA can be active with their programs and in the area of older adult employment.

Ed Smith, Employment Specialist at Bellevue Goodwill, said he works with both men and women who are looking for employment. We have a regular providers meeting that talks about what programs are available. Mr. Smith handed out a couple of handouts (BFE&T: Basic Food Employment and Training brochure; list of the programs available for employment at YWCA, and a list of agencies and colleges that participate in employment training and assistance). He said there is the Community Jobs Program that will place workers in part-time paid intern positions for six months. People are able to train in a new area/position. He said there are a number of challenges working with older adults to get employment. Older adults are frustrated that they have been very successful in previous employment and have lots of experience but can't find a job. Companies won't look at you because they think they have to pay a higher rate, there is a younger demographic, etc.

When working with older adults on employment we take their old information and include in in their summary of skills and don't always do the chronology completely. They develop a more functional resume. You can highlight skills, places worked, and eliminate the chronology completely at times. Sometimes people need to reinvent themselves or take a lower position than they have worked in the past. If you take a lower level position you can possibly work your way up in the company. It is very powerful to network and look at old connections. You can move back to what you did before and be more innovative with your approach. Networking and using social media effectively is a very good tool. It is very important that older workers keep up with the current contemporary lingo. You can do this by perusing LinkedIn profiles and familiarize yourself with everything current.

There are classes in social media and embracing social media. There are also focus groups to help people invent themselves also. I try to encourage people to have several backup plans. Be innovative with your job search. You can also volunteer so that you are in the game, keeping your skills up . . . and this possibly will turn into a paid position. It is easier to get hired if you have a job, even an unpaid job.

Mr. Megargel said that he works with home care for seniors and it would be great to have older adults work with them. He asked what percentage of older adults that want to work part-time. Mr. Smith indicated that they emphasize full-time positions mostly.

Mr. Merriman asked if someone on social security can only make so much otherwise it compromises their social security? Ms. O'Reilly said that once you get to your retirement age you do not have a cap.

Mr. Smith said that Redmond WorkSource has lots of good classes. You can establish a good portfolio. At the YMCA they have basic computer classes, but at WorkSource they have social media workshops also that you can attend. Go to the WorkSource website and you can see all of the classes available. They also have a mature workers group that meets. There are classes available at Bellevue College and Lake WA VocTech that you can take. With some programs, you can qualify to get these classes for free. Ms. O'Reilly said that the COB Human Services funds a Bellevue College contract "BCC Women's Center/Center for Career Connections (used to be called Displaced Homemakers Program) and they work with employment consultants.

Ms. O'Reilly asked what the average wage was for the older workers in the jobs they found? Mr. Smith said that the average wage is \$10-15 mostly, but he has placed others in better paying jobs also. He also indicated that there is a WorkSource office in the Northgate area also.

Mr. Merriman asked if they work closely with churches. Mr. Smith said that they do work with churches and they are trying to establish more outreach with other organization and it would be very beneficial to establish more connections with churches. For the people with health care skills, he indicated they are working with Evergreen and Swedish.

Mr. Aznoff asked if they ever go into senior communities and do employment training? Mr. Smith indicated that they do have a Title 5 case manager at the YMCA and the program is full. We do not currently do training in senior communities but it would be a good thing.

Ms. Rasnack asked if there are eligibility guidelines for the programs? Mr. Smith indicated that there are eligibility guidelines in place for each program (for example, to qualify for the Community Jobs Program you have to be on TANF, etc.)

Mr. Megargel said he had found the statistic on his phone that indicated that 81% of seniors would like to work part-time. He said he has a home care business and it would be great to get more seniors working in this area, but the State of Washington now requires that home care workers have 82 hours of training in the first six months.

Mr. Smith said that even if it isn't formal training that you have you can go to **Care.com** and give your skills and possibly find work.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bellevue Network on Aging
September 3, 2015

Page 3

Memory care (reported by Mr. Aznoff)

Ms. Grote talked with Mr. Crawford about the last Alzheimer's meeting and he said there was low attendance and there was great disappointment that there wasn't any music. Ms. Thompson has graciously volunteered to provide music for the October event. But maybe we can look to groups at North Bellevue to help us with music and games. The next Alzheimer's café will be Tuesday, September 22nd at Tutta Bella at Crossroads at 3-5pm. Bellevue YMCA is creating a list of those assisting with the Alzheimer's café. We need to start this month working with the group more.

The next Ad Hoc meeting was scheduled at Brookdale at 10am with Mary Watkins hosting on September 16th, but with Ms. Watkins resigning from the BNOA this meeting is cancelled. We want to build our goals for the group. People attending the Alzheimer's Cafe are asking for resource information, so that is a super goal for us. Sarah Baker is working to recreate Resource Guide (she interned at Bellevue/Kirkland) with Evergreen Hospital help. We used to have one but Overlake stopped doing it. We talked about Bellevue helping with the printing cost last month. We also want to work with other sources to help. We will look at goals at our next meeting.

Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Mr. Aznoff)

We did not hold meeting in August due to everyone having vacation or commitments (Network members and City of Bellevue staff). The next meeting will be on Monday, September 28th at 9am at City Hall. We have a speaker from Bellevue Police Dept. Officer Scott Montgomery who will be giving us advise and an update on safe driving, walking and bus riding in Bellevue. He is open to questions about the Police Dept. as well. We had a speaker like this several years ago and well received. We may want to work on a safety guide for seniors crossing intersections, new yellow lights, timing of lights, new traffic challenges in our city and area, etc. We may need to change the meeting to North Bellevue in the future with the parking issues at city hall.

Ms. Grote attended the King County Mobility Meeting in August. There were lots of good information and she will share it at the next meeting. Mark Manuel gave us an update on what his new staff is doing to help the community with housing, transportation and diversity challenges in Bellevue.

Advocacy Committee (reported by Ms. Thompson)

Ms. Thompson stated that the Notice Bill passed the House and the Senate and was signed. It will go into effect on August 2016. People on observation status for 24 hours will be given written and oral notice.

The Legislative Forum has been changed to December 2nd. Please put it on your calendar. It will be held in Kirkland City Hall from 4:00-6:00.

There are two things to vote on:

The first thing is . . . starting in July 2016, United Way will focus on homelessness, stabilizing families and ensuring that youth graduate. They will be cutting many programs for older adults. What will be impacted is senior centers and adult day services and health and wellness programs for older adults and people with disabilities. The following are not expected to be funded starting in July 2016: oral health care; people living with chronic illness who need help to maintain optimum health; people with physical, cognitive and/or developmental disabilities that need help for independent productive lives; help older adults maintain optimal physical, mental and emotion health as they age; and persons with progressive illness and/or to live as fully as possible. There is \$1.76 million in funding at stake.

Do we want to support efforts of the Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services to get more senior programs funded (e.g. op ed, letters to editors and other appropriate organizations, etc.)? The Advocacy Committee says “yes”.

Ms. Seltzer said that United Way is a sponsor of the Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services, which creates a dilemma. Ms. Rasnack said that there seems to be a trend towards this shift in funding. Ms. O’Reilly said she will forward to the BNOA members the rationale that United Way is giving to this shift in funding. There have been many people at community meetings that have tried to make a case not to cut these funds for a growing population. They were told that if older adults fall into the new funding categories that they would have services. United Way has been asked for a list of agencies that will be affected by these funding cuts because the cities will be asked for more funds from these unfunded agencies. Ms. O’Reilly said that the City of Bellevue Human Services staff will be meeting to try to figure out how they will be able to address these funding cuts and the increased funding that will be asked by agencies. The Eastside Human Services Forum will be starting to discuss this also. Ms. Zielasko said that she heard at a meeting that United Way will be switching up their company funding campaigns also.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to “Support the efforts of the Seattle-King County Advisory Council of Aging and Disability Services to get more programs that assist seniors to be funded by United Way by such means as joining in letters they write, op ed’s they write, etc.” The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

The second item to vote on is . . . the Totem Lake Senior Housing – Phase II. The Kirkland Senior Council asked us to write three letters in support of the Totem Lake Phase II senior housing proposed to be built in Kirkland in which Imaging Housing is the coordinator of this project. There will be 25 studio apartments, 60 one bedroom and 5 two bedrooms homes (91 units total). The housing will be affordable to seniors with 30%, 40% and 60% of area median income. Twenty of the units will be for formerly homeless seniors. The project will have a full-time Resident Support Specialist to meet needs of seniors who will live there. They already have commitments for 78% of the funding. If they receive these grants, the project will be fully funded. The three letters of support they are asking us to write are: 1) to ARCH – they have

already committed \$875,000 and will be asked for \$225,000 more, 2) to the Housing Trust Fund – requesting \$3 million, 3) to King County – requesting \$2.4 million.

The Advocacy Committee was in favor of this project but felt that more information was needed. The information was provided and so Ms. Thompson would like to make a motion for the BNOA to write these three letters mentioned supporting Totem Lake Senior Housing Project funding. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was supported unanimously.

Ms. Thompson then asked who would write the three letters? She said that she could write the letter for the Advocacy Committee, Ms. Grote could write the letter for the Housing Committee, and Ms. Rasnack could write the letter of support from the BNOA. It was decided that she would draft the letters for each to sign.

Ms. Thompson indicated that she will be gone for the Legislative Forum, which is now scheduled for December 2 at Kirkland City Hall, and so will be able to do a lot of the planning for it.

Outreach & Diversity Committee (reported by Mr. Aznoff)

Ms. Grote reported via her notes that she attended a meeting Mark Manuel set up for her with the President and Marketing Director of Indian Association of Western Washington on August 20th. She gave them information about the Bellevue Network on Aging and our committees. She also gave them an application and information to join the Network board. Ms. Grote attended their meeting at North Bellevue CC. The group is growing and very important outreach for us and in reaching out to diversity.

Reminder of the Leadership Gathering at Bellevue City Hall on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30-8pm. It is being sponsored by the Bellevue Neighborhood groups. Ms. Grote plans to attend the meeting for BNOA recruiting and outreach.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORTS

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (reported by Ms. Grote)

Ms. Grote reported via email that there was no meeting in August due to staff changes and they are waiting to hear on the September meeting.

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

Ms. O'Reilly said the EHSF will be doing their Annual Meeting in December, and they haven't decided on a topic yet. She will keep the group posted on information regarding siloed funding . . . trend towards going this way.

Aging & Disability Services (reported by Ms. Seltzer)

Ms. Seltzer said that the four year area plan and the discretionary budget for 2016 are on their final approval step now. Staff are compiling all of the comments received. It appears that both of these items will be approved by the Council and move on to the State.

Timebank (reported by Ms. Grote)

Ms. Grote reported via email that they are planning a potluck for Thursday, September 10th at Kirkland Methodist at 6:30. She is happy to send you more information. They sponsored a series of music events for kids at Marina ark this summer. They alternate their monthly meetings between North Bellevue CC, Kirkland area and Redmond City Hall every second Thursday.

Washington Senior Lobby (reported by Ms. Thompson)

Ms. Thompson said Washington Citizens Lobby will be supporting HR 1571. Medicaid does not cover hearing. They are currently looking at what it costs the State of Washington if they do cover hearing aids.

Staff Report/Upcoming Agenda Items

Mr. Lassiter read the emails from Mary Watkins and Bill Cahill in regard to their resignation from BNOA. Mr. Lassiter said that he just put out a press release regarding filling the BNOA vacancies. There are four members that they will need for sure. The Nominating Committee (Mr. Katz, Ms. Seltzer, Jeanne Grote and Ms. Heyden) will review the applications in October and bring to the Board in November. We really need to get the BNOA information out to the community. We need to make an effort to recruit. It was brought up that members could go before the City Council during the public comment period. They could possibly talk with the coordinator of the Bellevue Essentials class and see if they can talk with them about the vacancies. Someone else indicated that Cultural Conversations would be another good place to announce the vacancies and talk a little about the BNOA. Their next meeting is September 29th from 1:00-2:30 and Ms. O'Reilly said she would go and have the BNOA flyer and make an announcement about the vacancies. Ms. Thompson said that Jewish Family Service has a lot of programs for seniors and Bellevue College has classes/programs for seniors, so these might be some other good places to recruit. Mr. Kern said that he belongs to the senior group Telos and he could bring some flyers and brochures. Mr. Lassiter said that he would send the application and flyer out to the group to use for their recruitment. Everyone can send the flyer out to groups/people.

Mr. Lassiter said that at the next meeting they will have Natasha Grossman regarding their program on Fall Prevention. He is hoping to get Mr. Sullivan from ARCH to speak to the group soon. It was also mentioned that the new area plan on aging is out in draft and available now. It might be a good time to go over ADS' priorities and see if we want to work with them. It would also help us to come up with a work plan in December.

Mr. Katz said that Sound Transit is not paying attention to the need of older adults at the hospital station. He is wondering whether the City of Bellevue is going to work on this issue? Wind and station security are two of the issues. It was asked what could be done at this point? Aren't all of the details set pretty much already? Mr. Katz said it might help to go to the Sound Transit monthly meetings, contact transportation people via email to see if they can assist, check in to the possibility of a shuttle. The Police will be presenting at the next Transportation meeting, so he will check with them to see if Police will be dealing with the security issue.

New Business

The next meeting is October 1, 2015, 8:30am-10:30am.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.