

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

September 4, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Aznoff, Ethan Crawford, Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Howard Katz, Bill Merriman, Susan Posten, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Chris Strand, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Heyden, Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Mary Watkins, and Terri Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Bo Du, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Walter Liang, former Senior Services Board Member; Steve O'Donnell, American Preparedness

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 am by Chair Rasnack. Roll was taken and all members were present with the exception of Beverly Heyden, Peg Jones, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Mary Watkins, and Terri Wilson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Guest Walter Liang announced that the 31st Annual Senior Services Soiree is to be held on Saturday, November 1st at the Museum of Flight at 6:00 p.m. He wanted to invite everyone to the fundraising event and handed out invitations to all BNOA members. Please RSVP by Friday, October 17, 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 7, 2014

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

SENIOR SERVICES OF SEATTLE PROGRAMS [PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION]

Chair Rasnack welcomed George Twiss, Vice President of Senior Services. Mr. Twiss said that he had been with Senior Services for about 4 months. He came from a business background but

has served on a lot of different boards and had served two terms on the Senior Services Board. He is currently the head of Business Development for Senior Services.

Senior Services is a non-profit that promotes positive aging for thousands of elders. They have support programs like Information & Assistance (I & A), Meals on Wheels, and Transportation Services; and seven senior centers that offer opportunities for older adults to gather, share meals and keep fit.

The first of 78 million baby boomers turned 65 in 2011. By 2030, one in three Americans will be over the age of 50 and the 65+ population will double to 72 million.

Seniors Services' goal is to be the premier non-profit agency in the Pacific Northwest serving the current and future needs of adults as they age in their communities; with the objective to ensure that, as adults age, services are available, accessible and delivered in a manner focused on equity and social justice. They serve nearly 70,000 people across King County. Of those they serve: 64% are low or very low income, half are 75 years of age or older, one-quarter are people of color, three-quarters are women, and more than half live outside of Seattle.

Some of the services provided by Senior Services: 1) Information and Assistance – trained staff help older adults and their family members, friends and caregivers find the right path. They use a database of 7,000+ resources to help more than 5,000 King County residents find the services they need; 2) Meals on Wheels – homebound seniors receive nutritious meals from caring volunteers and staff (served nearly 390,000 meals to 2,166 homebound seniors last year); 3) Transportation – professional dispatchers and volunteers provide seniors and adults with disabilities with transportation to medical and other essential appointments, senior centers, and other locations where they can interact with neighbors and friends (served more than 6,200 riders with nearly 146,000 one-way rides last year); 4) Senior Centers – members connect to their communities and remain active, taking classes, sharing meals and socializing; 5) Volunteers – from meal delivery to transportation, consumer rights advising to supporting senior centers (nearly 3,400 volunteered a total of 260,275 hours last year); and 6) Other Services (Community Dining, Project Enhance, Caregiver Advocates, Senior Rights and Assistance, Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA), Minor Home Repair).

Senior Services needs to increase the visibility of the challenges of aging and get people, community and business involved. It also needs to enhance traditional fundraising activities and develop a source of earned income to fund the mission. A few ideas are to expand 1) current services (“medallion” level for handyman or IT services), 2) license salesforce applications (license programs that can be offered at other areas/around the state), and 3) advertising sales on transportation vehicles. Senior Services might look at another completely different, unrelated business to fund the mission.

Mr. Crawford commented that it would be great to start a medallion level service program in which people pay a monthly fee to have all kinds of services available to them, like handyman and IT services. Ms. Thompson concurred, saying that it would be great to have these kinds of services available. Ms. Thompson added that she had some trouble getting information from Senior I & A, to which Mr. Twiss said he would follow-up with her at a later date.

Information & Assistance is a great resource but there are other great resources such as the Puget Sound Business Journal, Choice Guide, DSHS or the Dept. of Health. Ms. Strand said that she thought that the resources available through Senior Services I & A was pretty extensive and complete when she used the service.

Mr. Crawford said it would be great if Senior Services would enhance the eastside connection. Mr. Twiss said that this is difficult to do because Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland have senior centers run through its respective cities. Ms. Seltzer said that Aging & Disability Services has really started a push on “regionalism.” Federal funding is cut and the wave of older adults has started increasing, so these services need to be funded. All of the county-wide agencies that deal with senior services/issues should band together. Mr. Twiss said it has been difficult to get everyone together. There is currently not a county-wide entity available.

Mr. Katz commented that Senior Services should have information and resources available for the children of older adults that could be accessed by calling a central, well-known number like 411 or 211; possibly a new phone number that is staffed 24/7 for people who need answers for senior issues. Mr. Twiss replied that funding a new number and 24/7 staff is very difficult, especially with Senior Services’ current program funding status/challenges. He said if the medallion level services are set up, then there might be increased funding. Ms. Thompson said she likes Mr. Katz’s idea and suggested that perhaps some corporation might want to fund the idea.

Ms. Zielasko commented that if agencies are dealing with funding struggles, agencies need to make sure the focus stays on the programs and missions instead of being redirected. Mr. Twiss replied that they are very mission-sensitive and work to balance both issues. Ms. Strand said that Senior Care Coalition does fundraising efforts and, if they knew Senior Services needed funds, they could possibly direct some of those funds to them. Many of these networking groups might be able to help if Senior Services lets them know its needs.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee (reported by Jeanne Grote)

BNOA had information tables at several good events in the last month. The Orca Mobile Unit at NBCC was very successful. The Bellevue Farmers Market is on September 11th at the Presbyterian Church. The Chinese Information & Service Center resource fair is on September 4 (today) at NBCC. Fall Prevention flyers have been and will be handed out at all of these events. There will be resource table opportunities at the Aging & Disability Services (ADS) Legislative Forum on September 29th at 12:45 pm at NBCC and at Bellevue Essentials on October 23rd from 5:30-7:30 at Bellevue City Hall.

The BNOA PowerPoint and resource sheets have been updated.

There are two goals for the outreach committee: 1) increase eastside business connections and offerings for the Gold (Discount) Cards and 2) increasing eastside opportunities for family/caregiver support and those with memory loss. Ms. Thompson said the Gold Card Bellevue Network on Aging

applications need to be given to business. Ms. Du could send the application out to network members, with the intention that members will approach at least three eastside businesses. Mr. Merriman suggested contacting the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and everyone liked the idea.

On the second goal, many network members have checked out several classes/groups available in other (Seattle) areas. Ms. Gray mentioned that she made contact with the Frye Art Museum about its "Here and Now Program." Mary Jane Knecht, Manager of Creative Aging Programs, is happy to present to the network but because she does not drive, Ms. Gray is worried about her travel hardship and suggested that members and a Bellevue Art Museum contact could carpool to the Frye Art Museum to meet her and "shadow" one of their programs, as a small group. This initial meeting might help to determine if this is something that the whole network might be interested in and get a panel presentation on similar programs scheduled for the future. Ms. Du will put out a notice of when the meeting will be and see who can possibly attend.

Mr. Crawford said that on October 8-9, there is a "Working Together for Elder-Friendly Futures" conference at University of Washington, where BNOA might want to sponsor a resource table. Ms. Thompson said that BNOA did have a booth last year and the two members who attended were able to sit in on invaluable workshops. Last year's booth cost was \$500, which included admission for 2 people, and this year's fee is \$1,000. Ms. Du will look into this.

Transportation/Housing Committee (reported by Jeanne Grote)

There was no committee meeting for August. The ORCA Mobile event at NBCC was on August 22nd. The ARCH webpages will be updated. Elder abuse, senior transportation and upcoming Metro schedule and fee changes were discussed at the King County Mobility Coalition meeting on September 19th. The Seattle Public Library is hosting a workshop on Mobility & Universal Design on September 9th. Bellevue Cares program received a grant to cover its transportation.

Advocacy Committee (reported by Diana Thompson)

BNOA is co-sponsoring the ADS Legislative Forum on September 29th at North Bellevue Community Center at 12:45pm. RSVP and attendance are highly recommended. ADS does not currently have a complete list of who will be attending, but reminders to candidates will be sent out immediately.

Ms. Strand and Ms. Carolyn Kelso completed the Medical Observation handout and it is available for distribution. Ms. Strand, Ms. Kelso and Ms. Thompson will meet with Rep. Judy Clibborn about Medical Observation on September 10th and Rep. Clibborn will then bring the discussed information to the health committee.

Last month, Ms. Thompson reported on a concern by a member of the Kirkland Senior Council about a proposed senior housing project. Kirkland Senior Council has written a letter to Janet Masella of the Housing Trust Fund to request that the Trust Fund help search for funds for this

project. Kirkland would like BNOA to write a similar letter. The Advocacy Committee would write a letter, pending BNOA approval.

The 102-unit senior housing facility in Kirkland is being done by non-profit Imagine Housing. If there is sufficient funds, building will start in July 2015. Ms. Kathy Iverson of the Kirkland Senior Council will send their letter to the Trust Fund this week. Ms. Thompson spoke with Janet Lewine and Art Sullivan about the letter request for this project. Both thought the letter would be fine, but Mr. Sullivan did think it was odd. Ms. Seltzer explained that ARCH is supported and funded by all of the Eastside cities for these projects, so it is not technically a City of Bellevue project, rather an ARCH project. Like the other cities, Bellevue contributes to ARCH but ARCH decides what projects the money will fund. Ms. Seltzer suggested that BNOA not write the letter because it is not a City of Bellevue project.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to vote on whether the BNOA should submit a letter to the Trust Fund supporting this housing project and the motion was seconded. A vote was taken and it was decided not to write a letter.

Ms. Thompson and Director of ADS Maureen Linehan met with Ross Hunter on behalf of the ADS Advisory Council. Mr. Hunter is very knowledgeable on the issues and informed them that without more revenue, and faced with McCleary education mandate, he lacks the ability to do what he would ideally like to do. Of the items on the ADS legislative agenda, Mr. Hunter a) did not oppose the idea of the joint legislative/executive committee continuing after its planned termination in December 2014; b) is interested in an actuarial analysis of different methods of funding LTSS coverage and said that there is tension on this issue between parties; c) agreed that APS needs specialized staff and additional staff to work on financial exploitation cases; and d) does not believe the Family Caretaker program saves the State money, thus he does not want to expand it. Ms. Thompson gave him a newly published study to look at and Ms. Linehan will contact DSHS for additional information on this.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative - no meeting.

Eastside Human Services Forum – no report.

Time Bank (reported by Jeanne Grote)

Auction was August 9th and it went very well.

Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council (Ms. Seltzer reporting)

Ms. Seltzer encouraged BNOA attendance at the Candidate Forum on September 29th.

ADS is taking an active look at “regionalism” and bringing everyone together to try to find funding since they will be receiving less Federal funding.

At the last meeting there was a presentation on homelessness and a discussion on low-income housing.

Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby (Ms. Thompson reporting)

Ms. Thompson did not attend due to being out of town. Ms. Thompson reminded everyone about the conference at the end of October.

STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (Ms. Du reporting)

Ms. Du said that the BNOA Facebook proposal finally made it on the agenda of the New Media Group. She attended the meeting and was asked questions regarding what information would be posted, who would update the site, etc. One group member's concern was that if BNOA's request got approved, other boards and commissions might want the same privilege. They will be discussing the issue and Ms. Du will let everyone know what their decision is.

Ms. Du received a few phone and email inquiries and one application for the BNOA so far. She reminded members to hand out the applications and recruitment flyers.

BNOA's next regular meeting is on October 2nd and Alan Abe of King County Medical Services will be presenting on Fall Prevention.

Ms. Thompson suggested that the Legislative Forum be added to the website. Mr. Crawford suggested that the BNOA Outreach Committee meeting should be changed to the same day at the forum, so that members can stay to help with the forum.

Ms. Thompson wondered if there would be more interest in BNOA if meetings were in the evening. Other members said that the times have never been indicated as an issue. Ms. Zielasko reminded members that the group wanted to add diversity to the group. Ms. Du said that she sent recruitment information to Cultural Diversity Coordinator Kevin Henry, Cultural Conversations coordinators Barb Tuiniga and Carol Ross, and anyone else with diverse distribution lists.

NEW BUSINESS

Visitor Steve O'Donnell from American Preparedness asked the group what the three top words were with being prepared, which are plan, food, and water. Individuals should have emergency supplies enough for more than three days, preferably be self-sustaining for one month. Senior Services received a grant from Swedish Hospital to provide their Meals on Wheels participants with emergency preparedness kits. Kits should be put behind seats inside cars and in homes with enough to sustain for 3-6 days. Emergency preparedness kits can be purchased at AmericanPreparedness.com, Costco.com, or Amazon.com.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.