

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES**

May 3rd, 2018

Meeting Location: Hidden Valley Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue

8:30-10:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hannah Kimball, Judy Dowling, Gazel Tan, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko, Beverly Heyden, Lauren Emery, Ethan Crawford, Phyllis Smilen, Peggy Foster, Arlene Cheng, George Twiss, Howard Katz, Berta Seltzer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jullie Gray, Desiree Leigh, Jeanne Grote, Linda Whitehead, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Lassiter/Bellevue Parks & Community Services, Christy Stangland, Human Service

GUESTS:

Debbie Lacey – Co-founder and Executive Director of the Eastside Refugee & Immigrant Coalition

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Abby Burdick/Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Hannah Kimball and roll call taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Correct Janet Levine last name spelling to Janet Lewine. *April 5th meeting minutes not approved. Diana Thompson to send further changes to Dan Lassiter to approve at June 7th meeting.*

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:

Debbie Lacey - Co-Founder and Executive Director of the [Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition](#). *“Creating Eastside Inclusive Communities”*

Self-Introduction: Debbie Lacy co-founded ERIC in 2002 while she was the Director of Outreach at Youth Eastside Services in Bellevue, WA. Debbie led the grassroots coalition through its formation and initiated a community needs assessment for Eastside immigrants which resulted in the Eastside Cultural Navigator Program. At the end of 2015, Debbie stepped into full-time leadership for ERIC as its Executive Director.

Debbie has a Masters of Social Work from the University of Maryland with a background in clinical psychology, social psychology research, race relations, and intercultural competency.

The Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC) formed in January 2002 after over 20 local health and social service providers gathered to address gaps in service delivery for our immigrant and refugee communities. ERIC is a grassroots coalition and its members include people working in social services, health services, legal advocacy, counseling and referral programs, ESL programs, and area schools. There are also representatives from the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond, faith communities, and volunteer organizations.

ERIC has served as a resource for providers and other community members who work with immigrant and refugee populations in East King County. ERIC fosters networking at meetings and organizes free educational forums where people gather to gain knowledge about culturally competent practices, as well as share challenges and successes in responding to community needs.

Beyond collaboration and education, ERIC has launched projects to address the needs of immigrants and refugees. One such project was Helpful Connections, a multilingual resource guide for immigrants and refugees living in East King County.

In 2005, ERIC sponsored a series of focus groups, meetings, and individual interviews to seek input from immigrant and refugee clients, providers, immigrants and refugees not using services, educators, funders, and legal/social justice experts. A final report of that project, called Community Perspectives, listed a variety of short- and long-term ideas for improving access and cultural competence.

From that process, the Eastside Cultural Navigator Program was piloted in 2006. Bilingual/bicultural staff provide drop-in assistance at the Together Center in Redmond, and at the Bellevue Mini City Hall in the Crossroads area. The program is managed by the Chinese Information and Service Center.

In 2015, ERIC expanded its mission to be an agent for social change in East King County. In 2016, ERIC became a Welcoming America member and uses the Welcoming Framework to guide its strategies.

For Debbie Lacey's Full Presentation, visit the [Bellevue Network on Aging Webpage](#).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Outreach, Education & Diversity Committee *(reported Gazel Tan)*

At the last committee meeting a lot of time was spent on the Momentia partnership and attempting to plan an Eastside event with Patriots Glenn. A public venue is needed to host this event.

Several events are coming up (volunteers & participation needed):

May 8th – Human Services Commission Meeting with King County Metro on Proposed Solutions

May 22nd – [Bellevue Library Community Resource Fair](#)

June 5th – [Crossroads Farmers Market](#)

June 23rd & 24th – [Bellevue Strawberry Festival](#)

Judy will be receiving a Proclamation by City of Bellevue Council for Affordable Housing May 14th.

Diana will be doing the Proclamation for World Elder Abuse Awareness June 4th.

(Diana) indicated that it is worth noting that The Jewish Family Services has a free Caretaker Program. Consider acquiring a caretaker program brochure and translating ALL materials into multiple languages for outreach and education.

Transportation & Housing Committee *(reported by Judy Dowling)*

May 8th – Human Services Meeting

May 17th – Housing & Transportation Meeting

ARCH Housing website corrections have been submitted to Janet Lewine.

A new idea is to organize a “moving” forum for Seniors. “SOFA” is interested in connecting and providing the same service. Eldercare Alliance is possibly another resource that may get involved.

Advocacy Committee *(reported by Diana Thompson)*

There will be a Candidates Forum in September or October, more information TBD.

Diana is possibly getting appointed to the Advisory Council for Aging and Disability Services.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORTS:

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative *(reported by Hannah Kimball & guest Anna Loffing)*

Penny Lara with King County Metro presented at the last meeting on how to create inclusive campaigns in public transportation. May 29th is the next meeting at Kirkland City Hall – First Transit will present.

Eastside Human Services Forum *(reported by Christy Stangland)*

There was a high-level presentation on the Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy just summarizing the opportunities that are approaching, there is an RFP around Senior Centers. This group should be thinking about effective uses of this levy and sharing those ideas especially as it relates to cultural diversity and inclusiveness.

An Eastside Needs Update has been identified as a current need/to-do item.

Timebank of Puget Sound *(no report)*

Aging & Disability Services *(no report)*

Senior Lobby *(reported by Diana Thompson)*

W4A is the State Area Agency on Aging and under that is 13 smaller area agencies in different counties. The State now has their tentative legislative agenda for next year. There is still time to add things.

NEW BUSINESS

May 9th is the Giving Big event, and it may be its' last year.

Staff Report *(reported by Dan Lassiter)*

The presentation for next month's meeting is the Bellevue Network on Aging presentation. Gazel will lead the execution of the presentation.

May 14th – 18th is Affordable Housing week.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.