

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES**

May 2nd, 2019
8:30-10:30am

North Bellevue Community Center

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gazel Tan, Diana Thompson, Hannah Kimball, Christy Stangland, George Twiss, Bob Megargel, Beverly Heyden, Janet Zielasko, Michelle Trimble, Janet Jelleff, Jeanne Grote
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jullie Gray, Lauren Emery, Desiree Leigh, Phyllis Smilen, Robert Lee, Bill Merriman, Judy Dowling, Berta Seltzer
- STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Lassiter/Bellevue Parks & Community Services
- GUESTS:** Joanne Gainen – Eastside Neighbors Network
Steve Peck – Office of Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Ariel Belo – Human Speech & Deaf Center
- 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:** One clarification identified to April 4th, 2019 BNOA meeting minutes. Minutes approved as written with clarification on the term “DAC” (Dementia Action Collaborative).

Note: Steve Peck from the Office of Deaf & Hard of Hearing presented a quick explanation of the Portable Room Looping Kit that was installed for today's meeting. It amplifies sound for those people who have a hearing aid with a t-coil switch so that person in the room can hear better. This equipment can be borrowed on a first-come-first-serve basis at any time, contact Ariel with the Human Speech & Deaf Center when needed. Ariel is trained to set-up the equipment for you, Steve is also available to help. It takes approximately 30-45 minutes to set-up the Portable Room Looping System. It typically works best in a room that is under 500 square feet.

Public Comment: Joanne Gainen with Eastside Neighbors Network brought their May Calendar and some brochures and bookmarks meant for Older Adults who would like to remain in their home longer and take part in social activities.

Human Services Update: Christy Stangland reported on an Affordable Housing Event in May that the Board is putting together. More information to come. Additionally, the Eastside has

created the “Community Counts Committee” to connect with hard to reach groups around the census. The census is going to be distributed primarily electronically, which could pose a concern for the Aging Adult population. A postcard will be sent with login information to access the census 3x before a full paper copy is sent of the census. Aging Adult representatives are needed. Update on the Transportation work BNOA & Human Services Forum worked on with King County Metro is the Community Van will be pursued.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:

Maureen Roat – Tenant Law Center, Senior Staff Attorney, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington – ***Discussion on aging adult housing legal issues.***

The Tenant Law Center at Catholic Community Services of Western Washington is a non-profit law firm that provides ongoing legal representation to low-income and senior tenants in King County. TLC helps senior renters stabilize their housing by providing legal assistance for evictions, rental subsidy terminations, and reasonable accommodation requests for those with disabilities. TLC focuses on negotiated resolutions that preserve tenant housing, preserve subsidies, or allow for relocation to suitable housing without the stigma of eviction. TLC can also sometimes provide legal advice or limited representation to seniors for a range of other landlord-tenant issues.

A summary of services Maureen described, and the Tenant Law Center can offer are related to:

- **Housing Stability**

The mission of the Tenant Law Center is to reduce homelessness by preventing illegal and unnecessary evictions. TLC assists vulnerable tenants in our community by focusing on negotiated resolutions that preserve tenant housing, preserve subsidies, or allow for relocation to suitable housing without the stigma of eviction.

- **Providing Services for Seniors**

We provide seniors age 55+ free legal assistance for evictions, rental subsidy terminations, and reasonable accommodation requests for those with disabilities. We also provide free legal advice and limited representation for a range of other landlord-tenant issues.

- **Getting Help**

Evictions from private, public, or subsidized housing: If you have received an eviction notice, it is important that you do not ignore it. Eviction timelines are very short and having an eviction on your record damages your ability to rent in the future. Getting help early in the process can often resolve the issue before you end up in court.

- **Subsidy Terminations:** If you have a Section 8 voucher or live in a property that has lower rent because of a subsidy and receive notice that you are being terminated from

the assistance, we can help. There are often short deadlines to challenge a termination and you need to respond timely to the notice to preserve your rights.

- **Reasonable Accommodation Requests to Preserve Tenancy or Subsidy:** If you receive an eviction notice, notice to comply or vacate, or subsidy termination notice, and have a disability, we may be able to develop a reasonable accommodation plan that would resolve those issues going forward and preserve the tenancy or subsidy.
- **General Legal Advice:** If you're experiencing other landlord-tenant issues that could jeopardize your housing, we may be able assist you. Our attorneys provide counsel and advice as well as limited representation for seniors, preventing minor issues from escalating to eviction.

For more information visit <https://ccsww.org/get-help/specialized-services/tenant-law-center/>.

For Maureen Roat's full presentation visit the [Bellevue Network on Aging](#) web page.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advocacy Committee *(reported by Diana Thompson)*

Raising the threshold to qualify for the senior property tax exemption, Senate bill 5160 has passed the legislature, and will go into effect in 2020 if signed by the governor.

Long Term Care Trust Act, HB 1087 has passed the house and the Senate. The Long-Term Care Benefit will be financed by a payroll tax.

The Dementia Action Collaborative had asked for a five and a half million in new funding to deal with multiple challenges of dementia. About \$500,000, for disseminating dementia care best practices to primary care practitioners, was included in the agreed budget of the House and Senate. An additional \$533,000 was included in the agreed house and senate budget for other specified items. These things take time, next year the legislature hopefully will give more money.

The advocacy committee is committing to learning more on Universal Design and deciding whether to recommend having this concept incorporated in new housing projects.

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

May is Older American Month. George Twiss will present a proclamation on May 20th. May 14th there is an event at the YMCA.

May 14th is the Library Resource Fair.

May 16th Bellevue Farmers Market opens.

An additional piece of marketing is needed for the Bellevue Farmers Market posters to advertise Senior Day.

Outreach will discuss and collaborate on the 2020 Census Project Engagement.

Jeannie and Gazel attended the Town Hall 6th County District meeting on Affordable Housing.

Transportation & Housing Committee *(no report)*

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative *(no report)*

Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council *(no report)*

Washington Senior Lobby *(reported by Diana Thompson)*

The meeting was pre-budget, so the focus was on the Long-Term Care Trust Act passing (and has since passed).

An assessor spoke from Olympia and he was talking about the bills that were in contention at that time for passing.

NEW BUSINESS *(no report)*

It was decided a Term Limit discussion needs to be the main topic at an upcoming meeting with a facilitator. Dan Lassiter will work to arrange July's meeting to include a facilitator and reach a decision on term limits.

STAFF REPORT *(reported by Dan Lassiter)*

Next BNOA Meeting is scheduled June 6, 2019 at 8:30am. The scheduled presenter is Sammi Hopkins – King County Long-term Care Ombudsman, speaking on aging abuse awareness. June 17th 8pm the BNOA's Diana Thompson will receive the World Senior Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation at City of Bellevue Council. BNOA members are needed at the meeting in support.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am