

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

February 4th, 2021

North Bellevue Community Center via Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gazel Tan, Gina Johnson, Hannah Kimball, Janet Jelleff, Paul Bradley, Desiree Leigh, Diana Thompson, Abigail Brown, Linda Forshaw, Phyllis Smilen, Berta Seltzer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Heyden, Bill Merriman, Judy Stenberg, Mary Fredeen, Catherine Wong,

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Christy Stangland, Bellevue Parks & Community Services
Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

GUESTS: Cathy Iverson, Kirkland Senior Council

PRESENTER(S): Tony Leahy (CENTS); **“Senior Money – Financial Self Defense for Senior Citizens”**

RECORDING SECRETARY: Betty Lee

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Gazel Tan and the roll call taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January minutes were approved.

EAST SIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM: *(Christy)*

- The group is going through reconfiguration and working with a consultant to possibly restructure the board and omit the workgroup. Christy will pass on more info as available.
- Released RFP for CSBG funding and received quite a few applicants and will be reviewing them at next meeting.
- Christy will be starting Human Services news update and will reach out to Dan and Gazel to see if there are areas that BNOA will like to be included in.

PRESENTATION *(Tony Leahy, Executive Director of Consumer Education and Training Services, CENTS)*

CENTS is a non-profit organization that provides financial classes, counseling, and legal services to help people improve their financial health. Mr. Leahy has designed consumer education programs for high school students (Debt Slapped), senior citizens (Senior Money), cancer patients (Financial Coaching for Cancer), people who have experienced incarceration (Money Steps), and working adults (Money Sense).

He is the chair of the Outreach and Education subgroup of the Washington Attorney General Student Loan Work Group working on issues related to student loans. He received his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law and his B.F.A. from the University of Southern California.

“Senior Money – Financial Self Defense for Senior Citizens”

1 in 5 seniors has been taken advantage of financially. 1 in 20, reported that they had been financially exploited in their later years. If a new disease struck the same percentage of older Americans “a public health crisis would likely be declared.” Many of the crimes against senior citizens and the elderly go unreported due to embarrassment and/or a fear of losing independence.

Agenda:

- Identity theft and defenses
- “Robo” calls and how to respond
- Imposter scams
- Phishing scams
- “Quick strike” scams
- The 3 stages of fraud
- High persuasion scams
- Investment fraud
- General defense tactics
- What to do if you are victimized
- Planning for the aging process
- Prevent elder abuse
- Protect a loved one

Tony has provided a power point located on the resources site of the [BNOA web page](#) covering details of financial exploitations and what to do about them. Tony presented a very helpful resource guide with phone numbers and web addresses that will assist the public reporting the abuse, stop fraudulent attempts, and find support to rebuild your financial integrity. The CENTS Resource document is also located on the BNOA web page under resources and can be used and shared as needed.

For additional information:

Email CENTS: info@centsprogram.org or tony@centsprogram.org

Visit <https://centsprogram.org> or <http://seniormoneyproject.org> for more information.

- ❖ Gazel suggested BNOA members further discuss in each committee on how to use and distribute this information to help protect the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE: *(Diana)*

1. Diana proposed adding a 5th item to the BNOA state legislative agenda, WA HB1218, that supports legislation to improve health, safety, and quality of life in resident in long term care facilities. Diana emphasized the importance of ombudsmen and need for patient advocates. She also discussed concerns of social isolation which leads to declining physical and mental health. Diana called for motion to support the legislation. A motion was made, voted, and passed.

2. Diana proposed not to support the housing legislative bill that will allow multiple unrelated people to live together on a property because it's contrary to city of Bellevue ordinates. Hannah suggested Dan to check with the city lobbying group and find out if this is something they're already discussing, and Dan agreed. BNOA will have no position on this bill for now and will wait for Dan to report back on the city's position.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE: *(Janet)*

1. Committee is continuing to reach people to build an information tree. Paul is in contact with Bellevue Presbyterian. Janet has talked with some churches and some don't have websites and have offered to hand out flyers when in-person services return.
1. Farmer's Market Senior Day – It is a lot of work to put together and there's no guarantee at this time it will happen, so will try to contact the coordinators to possibly allow BNOA to place resource flyers on a weekly basis.
2. Hoping to add CENTS article to the March edition.
3. Still delivering Neighborhood News – 385 this month.
4. Christy Stangland requested a meeting for brainstorming with the outreach committee on best practices and creative ways to get the Consumer Survey out to the community especially due to no in-person services this time. Gazel invited Christy to attend the next outreach committee meeting on 2/18 8:30am to discuss this.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING: *(Hannah & Phyllis)*

1. Last meeting had low attendance so there will be another meeting to elect the chair and complete the workplan.
2. Judy volunteered to lead the transportation portion but was unable to attend the first meeting of the year. Hannah will continue to attend and monitor Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative, monitor housing issues, and report back to the committee.
3. Phyllis reported eviction moratorium has saved housing crises but will eventually expire and something needs to be done. Phyllis will continue to monitor other cities and countries to see what can be done in our city for fair housing.
4. Christy requested Alex to be invited to the next committee meeting to receive feedback on 1590 funding and hear thoughts on older adult priorities. City of Bellevue has decided to self-administer the \$9 million fund which will be prioritized for affordable housing and mental health.

COMMUNITY REPORTS: *(Gazel)*

Gazel suggested skipping community reports due to lack of time. Dan sent out several opportunities for community events and meetings so please pick one or more to attend and report back at the next monthly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: (*Dan*)

D'Anna is no longer on BNOA. There are currently 2 voting positions open on BNOA and according to the BNOA bylaws liaisons are able to fill these positions. Motion moved to nominate two liaison members Gina Johnson and Linda Forshaw to be voting members. Dan will send out a private vote over email and announce the results.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am