

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

April 2, 2026. 8:30am - noon

MEMBERS' PRESENT: Beth Hanley, Anne Rittenhouse, Eleanor Lee, Guang-an Wu, Roxi Wilson, Hannah Kimball, John DePalma, Julie Hart, Madhu Kachru, Andrea Kline, Suresh Velagapudi, Kari Marino,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kan Liang, Chelcy Flores, Bhavana Pahwa, Elaine White, Shilpa Mehta,

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter -Community Services Supervisor
Christy Stangland-Bellevue Human Services

GUESTS: Megan Ramsy-KC Women's Advisory Board, Alex Tsimmerman,

PRESENTER(S):

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene Services Representative – Ben Studley
City of Bellevue Parks & Community Services Older Adult Plan– Focus Group

RECORDING SECRETARY: Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Vice-chair Beth Hanley

Approval of MINUTES: Minutes approved for March 2026 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Alex Tsimmerman- Complained about the City of Bellevue government concerning livability.

Presentation:

Ben Studley with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene.

Ben attended the BNOA meeting to mostly field questions from BNOA.

Q: Any changes on the Federal level that need discussion or awareness to older adults at a local level?

A: Yes. Funding that was cut including government positions are not likely to return which slows down the processing of paperwork, funding requests, and getting call-backs to older adult customers. This affects getting information on social security for older adults. Congresswoman DelBene is attending subcommittees to get real information and give real information that she can provide by collecting a voice from the older adult population in the area.

If you want to visit her office, it is now in Bellevue across the street from Bellevue City Hall in the 520 building.

Ben indicated that the best thing older adults of Bellevue can do is tell the stories of older adults working to live with the reduced funding and services and how it affects them.

Also, Ben talked about a Voter system re-vamping. Older adults are not recognized and are having issues receiving their 1099 forms and COLA documentation, and that is a danger.

Bellevue PCS Older Adult Recreation Plan Focus Group

The group was asked six questions about the needs of Bellevue older adults and recreation. Excellent input was received from the group. Three BNOA members on the Ad hoc committee for the Plan wrote out comments that will be input in the future surveys.

Human Services Needs Update – Christy Stangland

Christy reports that funding application submission ends April 4th. Currently 85 agencies have applied but the vast majority typically come at the last minute. She is expecting over 200 agencies to apply for funds. 6.4 million dollars will be allotted to successful agencies. The BNOA can expect a presentation to be delivered to the Human Services Commission later in 2026 on the top needs of older adults.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Members were asked to read the committee reports before the meeting for discussion and due to time restraints were skipped this month.

Advocacy: No meeting was held in April of 2026.

Housing & Transportation: On April 14th a BNOA group outing has been arranged with Erin Funk at Hopelink to tour the new light-rail system. They are not going to the airport but will go to Seattle to Redmond.

Anne has asked someone to lead the next H&T committee meeting as she will be out of town. Shilpa agreed to lead the discussion that has been laid out on the agenda.

Outreach: Andrea reported the Farmers Market dates for Crossroads, but the Bellevue Farmers Market will be backed off and if still occurring will include joining for Older Adults Day in September.

The Chinese Information Services is holding a Health Fair in June at NBCC and a call for helpers was given out. Former member Gazel Tan will volunteer but needs some other members to join her.

Andrea gave a reminder to the team to send in the updates assigned them for updating the BNOA Resource Guide.

Officer Daly's Avoid Scams presentation reportedly went very well with over 50 people in attendance. After the presentation, the officers stayed while small groups came to talk about their individual concerns. KCVSHSL helped sponsor the event with snacks and beverages. Some feedback included participants wishing there had been hand out flyers on Scam Information instead of being directed to look at a web page belonging to the Bellevue Police.

The group would like to arrange a Coffee with a Cop session in the second half of the year.

Ad hoc committees:

Celebration Committee has decided on Tuesday October 21st for the event. A large room has been reserved at city hall from 4p – 6p.

Older Adult Recreation Plan for Bellevue: Today the BNOA were the first to answer questions as a focus group that will be used in developing the updated Older Adult Recreation Plan. Up to ten other focus groups will be held throughout the city and a written survey will be provided at the community center and cultural groups in partnership with the city of Bellevue. The plan is to

finish that project by end of August, arrange findings in September and make new goals for the PCS to work on. Then off to PCS for vetting and input and finally to print.

Guan-an has taken responsibility to get the BNOA information repository in place and members trained on how to use it and will create a simple how-to sheet for members to use.

NEW BUSINESS:

The volunteer background checks were again discussed and packets handed out to those in attendance. Questions were asked including:

- why do councilmembers not need to provide background checks?
- why does the PCS need to have people's social security numbers and what is done with them when check is complete?
- Can fingerprints work instead of social security numbers?
- why are credit checks run as part of the background check? If someone has had a frozen credit because of a fraud situation, the company is not going to get anything from the request.
- why are there no alternatives, such as a current passport?

Dan is taking the concerns to Jen Newton and will bring replies to the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30a

Next meeting is May 7th, 2026. Presenters: Alma Plasenola of King County Library Older Adult Services.