

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
MINUTES**

January 3rd, 2019
8:30-10:30am

North Bellevue Community Center

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Janet Jelleff, Gazel Tan, Judy Dowling, Desiree Leigh, Diana Thompson, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Beverly Heyden, Berta Seltzer, Phyllis Smilen, Christy Stangland, Janet Zielasko, Robert Lee, Michelle Trimble,
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** George Twiss, Bill Merriman, Bob Megargel, Lauren Emery, Peggy Foster
- STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Lassiter/Bellevue Parks & Community Services
- GUESTS:** Debbie Lacey/Presentation and Discussion Facilitator
- 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:** No changes identified to December 6th, 2018 BNOA meeting minutes. Minutes approved as written.

2018 COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS/CHALLENGES:

Advocacy Committee *(reported by Diana Thompson)*

ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

1. **GENERAL:** The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) has a Joint Advocacy Committee with the Kirkland Senior Council (KSC). We advocate on behalf of seniors at the local, state and federal level. We have been meeting the first Monday of the month at 8:30 A.M. at Merrill Gardens in Kirkland.
2. **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:** Each year the advocacy committee develops a local, state and federal legislative agenda. We are attaching our proposed 2019 Federal and State legislative agenda, which the BNOA and KSC will soon vote on. The Eastside Human Services

Forum (EHSF), whose membership includes Eastside governmental entities, school districts, hospitals and health Care Agencies, generally adopts some items from of our state and federal agenda. A representative of the BNOA/KSC advocacy committee usually attends their advocacy meetings.

Although we have not yet developed a 2019 local agenda, we are concerned about: supporting accessibility in public buildings for all members of the community, supporting affordable housing and other concepts, which will make housing more accessible for older adults, AND promoting policies for transportation that increase mobility and create livable communities for older adults.

At our monthly meetings members are often brought up to date on and discuss federal and state issues affecting seniors.

3. **SENIOR LOBBY DAY:** Each year on Senior Lobby Day members of multiple senior organizations go to Olympia: a) to attend interesting lectures on issues affecting seniors AND b) to meet with their legislators. Prior to the 2018 Senior Lobby Day we created a handout, to give to legislators. Unfortunately, as it snowed on the 2018 Senior Lobby Day, only one BNOA member participated. She attended lectures and met with some legislators or their assistants from the 41st and 48th Districts.
4. **ATTENDANCE AT PROPERTY TAX FORUM:** One member attended a Kirkland public forum on Seniors & Property Taxes in March.
5. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** We spent our April meeting discussing affordable housing in Bellevue and Kirkland, with an emphasis on affordable housing for seniors.
6. **MEETING WITH SENATOR DHINGRA:** In July we met with Senator Dhingra and discussed affordable and accessible housing for seniors, including the huge increase in property taxes and the negative impact of current state law on condominium construction. She is very concerned about these issues.
7. **GUEST SPEAKER:** In July we had a guest speaker Shelly Park, who spoke about co-housing.
8. **MEETING WITH SENATOR MURRAY'S OFFICE:** In August 2018 we met with Stasha Espinosa, a legislative assistant of Senator Patty Murray and discussed our federal agenda. Stasha was interested in our desire to eliminate the cap on the amount of income which is subject to social security tax and wondered whether we had income figures for King County and Washington. Following the meeting we secured income information from Gwen Rosseau of the City of Bellevue and emailed it to Stasha. She was appreciative of the information and connected us with a person in Senator Cantwell's office, who has agreed to meet with us.
9. **SMART 911 and Other Emergency Contacts:**
 - a. Smart911 is or was a supplemental data service in King County that allowed persons to create a safety profile that could be seen on line by emergency responders when you call 9-1-1. Smart 911 has never covered Kirkland or Bellevue. In early 2018 an advocacy committee member contacted Scott Sotebeer of Norcom to determine when 911 was to be extended to Bellevue and Kirkland. She was informed that there were no plans to extend it to Bellevue and Kirkland, that Smart 911 is not secure and is considered obsolete, and that the county is working on the next generation of 911.

- b. Smart Phones: A committee member discovered and reported that on Samsung and I phones, one can add medical information which can be accessed by 911 responders, even if the phone is locked.
- 1. **CANDIDATES FORUM:** On September 28th, at the North Bellevue Community Center, our advocacy committee, together with many other senior organizations including AARP and Aging and Disability Services, hosted a candidate's forum. At the forum the candidates were given information and answered questions on issues that are important to seniors.
- 10. **SENIOR LOBBY FALL CONFERENCE:** On October 11th two members of the BNOA together with two or three members of the KSC attended the Senior Lobby Fall Conference to learn more about issues affecting seniors and proposed legislation.
- 11. **FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:** At our November 2018 meeting we discussed what should be included in our 2019 federal and state legislative agendas. We reached a conclusion and will make recommendations to the KSC and BNOA
- 12. **FUTURE ACTIVITY:** We plan to draft and recommend a 2019 local legislative agenda. In addition, we want to develop a new handout for seniors focusing on Medicare Observation Status and hospital discharges. Finally, some BNOA and KSC members will attend Senior Lobby Day in Olympia and meet with legislators or their assistants in February 2019.

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

BNOA OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2018 REPORT

OUTREACH INFORMATION/RESOURCES:

1. Finalized the BNOA PowerPoint presentation and presented at Newport Church in January, then revised presentation based on feedback from participants.
2. Completed training session on using PowerPoint to Outreach Committee Members.
3. Updated the BNOA Aging Adult Resources List - validated resource information and updated with additional categories for aging adult services.
4. Translated the Vial of Life instructions into Mandarin and Russian and gathered program flyers representing a variety of languages as available (fall prevention, emergency preparedness, and resident's rights in long term care).

OUTREACH EVENTS OF WHICH BNOA PARTICIPATED:

1. Overlake Hospital Active Senior Fair.
2. Elder Abuse Awareness Day - Diana Thompson received the proclamation at City Council meeting and delivered her presentation on the subject with local examples of reported abuse.
3. City of Bellevue-King County Library System (KCLS) Quarterly Resource Fair.
4. Crossroads Farmers Market.

5. Strawberry Festival – This event is geared to families with many activities for children. Outreach Committee recommended that BNOA discontinue participation in 2019. Approved by BNOA members.
6. Bellevue Farmers Market Aging Adult Day – recruited 7 organizations with a focus on aging adult services and concerns to participate at Aging Adult Day at the Market.
7. Annual Senior Health Fair developed by Chinese Information Service Center (CISC) at City of Bellevue Parks & Community Department’s North Bellevue Community Center (NBCC).
8. India Association of Western Washington (IAWW) Health Fair at Bellevue Parks & Community Department’s North Bellevue Community Center (NBCC)
9. Monthly participation at Alzheimer's Café located at Tutta Bella of Bellevue.
10. Kirkland’s Volunteer Fair
11. PSA on Bellevue TV on Hospital Observation.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS:

1. King County Metro Transportation Survey – assisted in reaching out to community for input from seniors.
2. Attended the Bellevue Human Services Commission meetings with BNOA Transportation and Housing Committee members to review aging adult transportation options.
3. Bellevue Network on Aging, North Bellevue Community Center, Momentia; Patriots Glen and Old Friends Club formed an informal partnership – working to provide activities on the eastside for aging adults and adults living with disabilities.
4. Bellevue Farmers Market – organized Annual Aging Adult Day at the Market.

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

BNOA TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT

TRANSPORTATION:

2. Lobbied at Human Services Commission, Eastside Easy Rider Coalition (EERC), Bellevue Transportation Department, and various transportation workshops to expand transportation options and accessibility for older adults in the City of Bellevue.
3. Partnered with Bellevue Human Services Commission and METRO to survey and collect Bellevue senior transportation needs information, participated in a series of four meetings, identified possible options, and will meet in early 2019 to further explore the four transportation options and possible funding mechanisms.
4. Supported EERC in their grant request process by writing a Bellevue Network on Aging letter supporting the grant request which would be used for transit training and improved access for Bellevue aging adults.
5. Attended regular EERC 2018 meetings to continue advancing/developing transportation options for aging adults.

6. Throughout year, also participated in other transportation-focused activities, including. American with Disabilities Act (ADA) focus group, Ride2 Shuttle open house, Coffee-Talk transportation workshops, Puget Sound Regional Commission (PSRC) Vision 2050, and a community transportation summit.

HOUSING:

1. Updated the A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) website for 2018 affordable senior housing options on the Eastside.
2. Throughout the year also participated in other affordable housing activities, including ARCH Housing 101, SHARE/WHEEL presentation on homelessness, Lunch-n-Learn at IMAGINE Housing, Eastside Neighbors Network on the village living concept, an opioid crisis workshop, and the Legislative Age Wave Forum.

PROPOSED 2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA DISCUSSION AND VOTE

1. Support adequate funding for the Older Americans Act, a program that funds critical services which promote the health and independence of older adults. Support and maintain SHIP and other programs which benefit older adults.
2. Advocate for legislation, which amends the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital stay requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.
3. Eliminate the income cap on Social Security to secure the long-term solvency of the system.
4. Oppose changes to Medicare that could result in cuts to benefits, increased costs for beneficiaries, modified eligibility requirements, and/ or reduced coverage for older Americans. Expand Medicare benefits to include dental, vision and hearing. Support action which will reduce the price paid for drugs by Medicare and Medicare beneficiaries.
5. Oppose changes to Medicaid that could result in cuts to benefits, increased eligibility requirements, and/or less federal funds for Washington State Medicaid.

2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA VOTED AS APPROVED

PROPOSED 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA DISCUSSION AND VOTE

1. Increase the qualifying income thresholds for the property tax exemption and deferral programs for older adults and persons with disabilities. Support legislation that addresses affordable housing and fully funds the Housing Trust Fund.

Berta – as it is now, there is no accounting for what an individual or family may have in the bank. I find it difficult for a person's total assets not be included in the qualifying of this tax exemption.

Also, it seems there are 2 separate things being mentioned in this first item. One being the exemption the other being the housing trust fund.

Diana – the reason for this combination is because they both have to do with housing. At this point any separation of this item will have to go back to the Kirkland for approval.

Berta – can support the second half of this item, but she cannot support the first as written.

Michelle – supports the item as written. It is fair. It shouldn't matter how much money you have in savings. People are leaving the City of Bellevue because they can't afford the income taxes regardless of what they have sitting in the bank. Savings is for things that come up like hospital bills, long term care, remodel their homes to accommodate for aging needs etc.

*Diana requests a motion for Item #1 to be approved as written (and not broken into 2 pieces)
– VOTED AS APPROVED*

Diana requests a motion for Item #1 to be included in the 2019 State Agenda – VOTED AS APPROVED

2. Create a Long-Term Care benefit for seniors to help pay for long-term services and supports, which would be funded by a mandatory payroll tax and benefit persons who meet required vesting and eligibility requirements.

VOTED AS APPROVED

3. Provide funding for prevention and early diagnosis of dementia and for planning, capacity, infrastructure, and supports to meet the needs of persons with dementia and their families.

VOTED AS APPROVED

4. Support legislation that requires Hearing Health Care Professionals to provide patients/clients with information on the availability and benefits of telecoils and Bluetooth prior to the selection and fitting of hearing aids.

Diana – there was a survey in New Mexico that showed first time users were told by their hearing professional about telecoils 1/3rd of the time. Hearing aids are expensive and when a person is making their decision on which to buy, they should be given all the facts about all the options, including telecoils.

Berta – telecoils mislead people to believe there is more out there than actually is available through telecoil. In my experience with my audiologist, I had more than enough information already to try and absorb about hearing aids in their most general form. There are very few places in our area that provide looping services. It would appear there is a lot of false hope to people that a lot of problems will be solved with the telecoil. I would be more in favor of educating the organizations that have looping/the telecoil and let them pass this on to their users.

Jullie – the opposition I have to this is not an opposition to informing people and supporting people from getting information about telecoils. I absolutely support the concept of looping and sharing information with people. My opposition is to be legislating what healthcare professionals say to their patients especially when we know this is an evolving technology. When something is legislated it's hard to remove from the law. I am a healthcare professional as well as a small business owner and it's very very difficult to oversee and implement this type of legislation as a business owner. I don't feel that the hearing loss association has worked hard enough yet in talking to the professional associations and encouraging more education for healthcare professionals. I absolutely oppose in telling healthcare professionals what they are required to tell their patients. It's difficult or impossible to regulate and we don't understand what the penalties would be in failing to do so and if the penalty would be to lose your medical license etc. . . there is just so much more to understand.

Hannah – I have several friends who have started wearing hearing aids over the past 5-8 years and not one of them went to an audiologist, they went to a hearing aid store, went through the testing, were presented options and purchased what they preferred. Maybe that is the more logical place for people to get the information they need, and if the technology is changing so rapidly and we move more towards “over-the-counter” concept, won't this really end up being more of a “do-it-yourself” process of selection?

Diana – we are not here to protect the Audiologist or the hearing specialist. As the Bellevue Network on Ageing, we are here to protect Aging Adults who would like to hear better.

Janet Z. – it was mentioned that 70% of the hearing aids now have telecoils in them. So, if 70% come standard or telecoil is available, that is quite a bit overall. Also, to clarify, telecoils are helpful to people in large settings, not when at home or in intimate social settings etc. the telecoil does not play a role, correct?

Diana – the telecoil can help on the telephone and when watching TV.

Dan – there are systems to help loop small areas like an office space lobby, or a small table etc.

Berta – are we supporting legislation that has not yet been introduced?

Diana – the legislature doesn't start until January 14th and there was a pre-filing. This bill has not been pre-filed, but I do have a copy of what was drafted but the last time I checked, it had not been filed.

Judy requests a motion for Item #4 to be included in the 2019 State Agenda – VOTED AS OPPOSED

5. Preserve Washington Long-Term-Care Infrastructure and increase support for services that enable adults to remain in their homes and in the community, such as Case Management.

VOTED AS APPROVED

2019 COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

Advocacy Committee

- ✓ Diana Thompson – Chair

Secretary TBD

- ✓ Howard Katz
- ✓ Jeanne Grote
- ✓ Jullie Gray
- ✓ Robert Lee
- ✓ Janet Jelleff
- ✓ Christy Stangland
- ✓ Desiree Leigh (*guest*)
- ✓ Phillis Smilen (*guest*)

Outreach Committee

Chair - TBD

- ✓ Hannah – Secretary
- ✓ George Twiss
- ✓ Diana Thompson
- ✓ Desiree Leigh
- ✓ Gazel Tan
- ✓ Jeanne Grote
- ✓ Michele Trimble
- ✓ Janet Zielasko
- ✓ Judy Dowling

Transportation/Housing Committee

- ✓ Phillis Smilen – Chair

Secretary TBD

- ✓ Robert Lee
- ✓ Christy Stangland
- ✓ Berta Seltzer
- ✓ Beverly Heyden
- ✓ Hannah Kimball

ADHOC – Bellevue Ageing Plan

- ✓ Gazel Tan
- ✓ Howard Katz
- ✓ Judy Dowling
- ✓ Phillis Smilen
- ✓ Hannah Kimball

2019 BNOA ANNUAL WORKPLAN GOALS

Advocacy

1. Identify local advocacy goals and issues
2. Continue to focus on State and Federal Legislative Agendas
3. Consider having a legislative forum

Outreach

1. Continue outreach event from 2018
2. Review distributed information/finish resource list
3. Proclamations

Transportation/Housing

1. Support Transportation summit
2. ARCH updates
3. Field Trip

ADJOURN