

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

June 3rd, 2021

North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

8:30am – 10:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gazel Tan, Gina Johnson, Hannah Kimball, Janet Jelleff, Beverly Heyden, Diana Thompson, Berta Seltzer, Mary Fredeen, Catherine Wong.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Merriman, Paul Bradley, Desiree Leigh, Abigail Brown, Linda Forshaw, Phyllis Smilen.

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

GUESTS: Susan Caruso, Silver Glen

PRESENTER(S): Natasha Grossman, Bellevue Fire CARES

RECORDING SECRETARY: Betty Lee, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Susan Caruso urging community to visit Silver Glen and spread the word that it is a wonderful place to live – currently 5 units available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 2021 minutes approved.

HUMAN SERVICES: *(Christy Stangland)*

- New hire: Donna Adair, home repair loan specialist.
- Behavioral health and housing RFP released and due Friday 6/4, available online on the Human Services website.
- Additional funding from Amazon – Tony Esparza working with Amazon to determine best use of funds.

PRESENTATION: *Natasha Grossman, Program Manager, Bellevue Fire CARES (Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services)*

- Goal of Bellevue Fire CARES is to connect residents with the right services at the right time and advocating for them throughout a time of crises. Program started in 2012 as a partnership between police and fire trying to address high utilizers of 911 system that had repetitive call-in reasons and/or non-emergency. Justifications for FireCares:
 - Building relationships and trust with individuals,
 - Meeting residents where they are,
 - Connect them with the services they need.
- Student Advocates make up the Fire Cares team- The system works with 8-10 university's Master of Social Work students for 6 months to a year. Fire fighters and police officers make online referrals to the students.
 - Current – 14 students from 3 universities
 - Historically – 73 students from 9 universities
 - 7 to 24 months spent with Bellevue.
 - Come with varying levels of expertise and background.
 - All have Bachelors or Masters Degrees.
 - Two of three CARES 1 Professions are former students advocates.
- CARES = Early prevention and intervention includes:
 - Referral
 - Home visit
 - Service Coordination
 - Support

Referrals have been increasing over the years. Continued visit during Covid and had a definite increase in referrals. FireCares delivered food for Hopelink to keep up with the high demand due to Covid10 pandemic.

- Mobile integrated health funding 2020
 - King county EMS Levy includes \$4 million for MIH
 - Increased budget for CARES
 - Increased in CARES1 in-service hours
 - Grow student program and provide more professional development for MSW students.
- New pilot program: Police are looking at different ways to respond when they respond to a call and see someone who clearly have needs but have very few options to help them.
 - Model 1: Two police officers in unmarked car in plain clothes respond to priority 3 & 4 calls; not violent, dangerous, or threatening.
 - Model 2: Officer in plain clothes works with a social worker in CARES 101 unit on visits.
 - Model 3: Current model, CARES 101 co-response.
- ❖ Questions and discussions:
 - Is fire or police department the only way to get assistance from these programs?

- Yes.
- How can BNOA get involved?
 - Natasha will send info to Dan to get connected.
- CARES is overall program and CARES101 (professional social workers) is a unit.
- CARES is funded by 25% of city's general budget and 75% from county budget.
- Does FireCares have equipment for fall prevention programs?
 - Yes, but encouraging people to use the fall prevention program so that they physical therapists can recommend the appropriate product.
- Welfare checks – police will knock on the door but will not force entry unless they have good reasons to believe someone is in trouble/danger. It is a voluntary program so unless people open the door and are willing, there's nothing police or CARES can do for them.
- What kind of services are provided/referred to older adults through CARES?
 - Adult Protective Services(APS) referrals
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Hope Link
 - Find caregivers referrals and intake process
 - Mental health services
 - Fall prevention program
 - Social support
 - Medic alert
- Is there a language support?
 - Language line or student interpreter.
- Does CARES recruit volunteers?
 - No-only through the internship program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Members were asked to read the following committee report minutes before the meeting for discussion:

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

- ❖ No minutes are attached because committee hasn't had their monthly meeting yet.
- ❖ BNOA needed clarification on the federal agenda and discussed modifying item #4 and #5.
- ❖ The Advocacy Committee is proposing to revise item #4 to read: *Expand Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing. Take action, as needed, to ensure the issuance of regulations required by section 709 of PL 115-52 known as the over the counter hearing aids act.*
Advocacy committee moved motion to accept the revised version of item #4 as stated above and eliminate item #5. Item #1,2, and 3 will remain as written.

BNOA voted and passed the revised federal agenda.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES:

BNOA debuted at the Bellevue Farmers market, understandably, it was a bit slow. One lesson learned: put fewer materials out on the table.

Dan will print bookmarks to add to the handout rotation, and will look around NBCC for some swag. A summary of current scams being leveraged against older adults may be a useful addition to our outreach materials.

We need a Neighborhood News article for July, will be due by June 15. Where can we have more outreach tables? Diana will get in touch with Cheri Pamer of YMCA. How about malls, Crossroads Farmers Market, outside grocery stores? When will KCLS/COB resource fairs resume? Would it be feasible to place our outreach materials at public health venues, Chamber of Commerce info table, and again at NBCC? Perhaps make up packets to be placed in ER waiting, BDA, include a flyer in It's Your City, use Next Door (few if any administrative hurdles there).

Some folks have suggested that, like the Hearing Loss sticker for Vials of Life, we also have a Dementia sticker available for them.

Diana will accept proclamation for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 14.

Next Outreach meeting will be on June 17, 2021.

❖ Mary and Janet re-did the bags with up-to-date info. Catherine updated CISC info.

Still have openings for farmer's market table, please let Janet know if you'd like to sign up.

Looking for additional outlets to distribute information.

BNOA at Farmer's market got a box in the Neighborhood News, suggested putting AARP Scam Alert phone number for next month.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION MINUTES:

Continued discussion as to how we can most effectively move forward on strategizing/lobbying for senior affordable housing on the eastside.

Efforts at city level have not been successful; our eastside cities are aware of the HUGE mixed middle income housing shortage, but significant results are not appearing, especially in housing targeted for fixed-income/low-income seniors who simply cannot afford astronomically priced senior living facilities, apartments, and houses. Is this an exercise in futility?

It was reported that the City of Kirkland had changed zoning to allow ADU, DADU and duplex/triplex structures in single-family neighborhoods, with the following building application results: 25 applications for ADU, 24 granted; 24 applications for DADU cottage housing, 1 granted; 2 or 3 applications for the duplex/triplex option, 0 granted.

When builders don't want to include affordable housing units in their projects, they are allowed to just put money in the Housing Trust Fund? Do they contribute dollars equivalent to the amount it would cost to build affordable units? Where do the Housing Trust Fund dollars go? Who benefits? How many affordable units per year does this funding produce?

Should we be aiming our efforts at the King County level? Would publicity help, e.g. an article by the FYI Guy in the Seattle Times?

Should we start publicizing the issue in The Urbanist? Reaon.com? Next Door? Bellevue Patch? Where does Chamber of Commerce stand on this issue? Who is our City Council housing champion? Can Claudia Balducci help?

Phyllis volunteered to contact Gene Balk at Seattle Times. Hannah will contact Chris at DASH (organization re-developing Evergreen Court and Glendale Apartments into new affordable housing) to see if he'd be willing to present at BNOA. Hannah will mail ARCH senior housing info to committee members for annual update.

Absent any volunteers to serve as committee chair, Gazel has graciously offered to facilitate the H&T meetings for a while.

Next meeting will be June 23, 2021.

- ❖ Kirkland Senior Council is interested in continuing to participate. Committee discussing to look at Housing from a different perspective at a more regional level because a lot of the parameters are being set at the King County level. Next meeting will be focused on how to achieve this and what type of information needs to be gathered. Kathy is gathering information on Kirkland.
- ❖ Phyllis is contacting FYI Guy Gene Balk regarding Housing to see if there's an interest writing an article.
- ❖ Access starting up again by requested scheduling.
- ❖ Bus schedules available on newly updated Find a Ride website.
- ❖ Puget Sound Energy is partnered with Algona Pacific and they have new electric community vans.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS:

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Hannah)

- ❖ Bellevue essentials alumni group was supposed to have a discussion with COB's homeless outreach manager Stephanie Martinez but this has been rescheduled to June 15th.
- ❖ Next EERC meeting is 7/27 – will be another neighborhood outreach discussion.
- ❖ Puget Sound Regional Council sent out a survey about “how to come up with more affordable housing in neighborhoods” – Hannah emailed concerns regarding the survey and waiting back to hear from them.

Aging and Disability Services and WA Senior Lobby (Diana)

- ❖ Diana advising BNOA members to apply to be on the Aging and Disability Services Committee or attend a meeting – on Zoom 2nd Friday of the month. Advocacy committee meets 10:00-11:30, regular meeting 12:00-2:00. Will start meeting in person in January 2022 in Seattle. BNOA members voiced their concern for Aging and Disability Services being heavily Seattle centric and not being more broadly spread across the region. Christy Stangland commented we need more representation at the table to not be forgotten. Additionally, you need to be aware of funding sources as they become available and apply to receive the funding. Christy suggested pulling resources in the East King County and reaching out to them to find out what they do and where the gaps are.

- ❖ Gazel will be representing the eastside for Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy for a 3-year commitment and will have more awareness of funding opportunities and agencies.
- ❖ There's constant concern that funds are not getting to the older adults and there's no one to administer them. Gazel did request the city to fund a staffed position for senior services.
- ❖ Catherine Wong shared that Seattle's Aging and Disability Services has a program called Community Living Connections which hosts quarterly meetings and invite different agencies to attend and discuss ADS issues. She will forward meeting information to BNOA.

COMMUNITY MEETING REPORTS:

- ❖ Diana spoke about a program on the radio where you could submit information and have it aired – suggesting putting together a clip on senior issues to be aired on the radio.

NEW BUSINESS: *(Dan)*

- ❖ It was decided a year ago to keep July open, without a presentation, to come together as a group to discuss about committees and special issues and realigning the committees. Suggesting possibly bringing Tanya back to discuss who our eastside providers are and how we can connect with them.
- ❖ Diana will be receiving World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation on June 14th.
- ❖ Hired Michelle Lee as the new Program Coordinator for North Bellevue Community Center. Gazel asked her to be introduced at one of our meetings.
- ❖ Proposing to bring Tanya McGhee in July to speak about providers on the eastside and how better to represent that, how they would work to make sure they are getting funding from the county to service the eastside, and give an overview of how they've done during Covid and have a Q&A session.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47am