

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
MINUTES**

May 2, 2013  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Conference Room 1E-120

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tomas Corsini, Jullie Gray, Beverly Heyden, Peg Jones, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Bill Merriman, Susan Posten, Eileen Rasnack, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeanne Grote, Bob Megargel, Lynne Robinson, Terri Wilson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Cathy VonWald and Alex O'Reilly, Department of Parks & Community Services,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelley Goetz, Congressman David Reichert Constituent Services Liaison; Andy Linn Nelson, Overlake Hospital Social Worker; Bob Ferguson, Attorney General; Cathy Hoover, Assistant Attorney General; Janelle Guthrie, Asst. to Attorney General Bob Ferguson

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Teri Ekstrom

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice-Chair Thompson who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Jeanne Grote, Bob Megargel, Lynne Robinson and Terri Wilson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 4, 2013**

Several edits were made to the content of the minutes. There was a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Transportation/Housing Committee** – (reported by Ms. VonWald)

At the Committees last meeting, the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed with the help of staff members Nicolas Matz and Janet Lewine (from Planning & Community Dept.). The Committee will put some bullet points together of recommendations for the Transportation Element and bring it forward to the Network for approval. The approach will be to collect all of our comments for all of the Elements of the Comprehensive Plan and forward

them to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Katz noted that on May 16<sup>th</sup> at City Hall at 5:00-7:00pm there will be a meeting discussing the Sound Transit hospital station. How will older adults get from the station safely to the hospital? This needs to be addressed at the meeting. Ms. VonWald will forward the meeting announcement to everyone when it comes out.

Ms. O'Reilly stated that there will be some downtown Bellevue livability meetings. You need to sign up for these meetings online if you would like to attend. It would be great to have the BNOA represented. Ms. VonWald sent out an e-mail to all members regarding these meetings.

b) **Advocacy Committee** (reported by Ms. Thompson)

The committee sent a letter to Governor Inslee thanking him for his funding recommendations. A date has been confirmed for this year's Legislative Forum. It will be Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Kirkland City Hall. The special Legislative session to approve the budget begins on May 13. In the regular session, there was a Long-Term Care Bill and an Adult Family Home Legislation that was passed. Other senior services depend on budget funding. Seniors did pretty well in general. The Age Wave Bill is still in the House to be passed. This Bill looks at what services are needed for older adults and what funds will be needed for the services. It has a good chance to be passed.

c) **Hospital Observation** – (reported by Ms. Thompson)

Members of the BNOA met with Congressman Adam Smith and Congressman David Reichert. The meeting with Congressman Smith was short, so in preparation, the committee sent a letter in advance about the issue of Hospital Observation Status. At the meeting with Congressman Reichert we covered Hospital Observation and funding under the Older Americans Act. Ms. Gray said that there are many issues with the proposed new regulations. More information will be coming out regarding the impact of the proposed changes and they will be sent out to the group when received.

Ms. Goetz noted that the public comment period ends June 26<sup>th</sup> and recommended the Network take the opportunity to comment. It will also be discussed at the Advocacy Committee meeting on May 6. Ms. Kimball said that in her experience, hospital bills may be reviewed by an insurance auditor and rejected. The patient could then be charged if the insurance carrier does not pay. She asked if this hospital billing issue can be included with comments on the hospital observation status. She was told by Ms. Goetz that they could also be included.

d) **Outreach Committee** – (reported by Ms. Thompson )

Ms. Thompson said that she personally does not want the Outreach Committee to fold and would be willing to switch from the Transportation/Housing Committee to join the Outreach Committee if that would be helpful. There were only three members at the last meeting but they do have a work plan. It was decided that Ms. Thompson will move to the Outreach Committee and the next meeting will be held on Monday, May 13 at Bellevue Square from 8:00-9:00am.

Immediately following that meeting at 9:30am at the Starbucks (by the elevator) will be a Community Conversation for the Human Services Needs Update, led by Alex O'Reilly.

Mr. Katz said that recently he received a health survey from the State of Washington. The study will take about one year and he recommended that we contact them regarding their findings. He will send the contact information to Ms. VonWald.

Ms. O'Reilly said that she is meeting with two people from Public Health regarding Affordable Care Act products. Public Health will have trained people meeting at different sites throughout the County letting people know what services are available and signing people up for the services. The City will be helping them find sites to do this.

Ms. Thompson stated that after the meeting with Congressman Reichert, she felt it would be nice if there was a board similar to the Network on Aging in Issaquah. Ms. Seltzer will mention it to the Mayor of Issaquah, and Ms. VonWald will reach out to the staff at Issaquah.

Ms. Katz suggested that we reach out to Mercer Island again? Ms. Grote has been attending their meetings. Ms. VonWald mentioned that she would reach out to their staff to see what the status of their group is.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS**

### a) **Parks & Community Services Board** (reported by Ms. VonWald)

Ms. VonWald reported that the Park Board will be meeting at the North Bellevue Community Center on Tuesday, June 11. The topic that evening will be older adults and will certainly highlight the work of the BNOA. Everyone is invited to attend.

### b) **Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative** (reported by Ms. Heyden)

There was a good turnout at the meeting. Deanna Martin, King County Metro, talked about the impact of budget cuts and service reductions that will take effect in September 2014. Revenue has dropped and they will have to look at what needs to be cut.

Ms. O'Reilly said that the County put together a Metro Advisory Council and EHSF has a member on it. They meet every two weeks. The Committee is supposed to bring a recommendation to the County regarding fares. They don't have the money to reduce another fare. Ms. O'Reilly said she would bring the Committees recommendations to the BNOA. Ms. Thompson indicated that Metro has the power to raise the senior fare from .75 to \$1.25.

### c) **Eastside Human Services Forum** (reported by Ms. O'Reilly)

The June 6<sup>th</sup> event will be focused on "Homelessness". Sign up to attend online. The speakers will be finalized by next week. The event is 7:30am-9:30am at the North Bellevue Community Center followed by the BNOA meeting from 9:30am-10:30am.

d) **Eastside Time Bank**

No Report

e) **Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council** (reported by Ms. VonWald)

The Council's education portion was put on by King County and they talked about the many changes in Health and Human Services. They went over the Federal, State and Local budget overviews. The Older American's Act funds senior services. With the sequestration \$455,000 will be cut . . . \$380,000 of that in discretionary spending cuts. The Council was able to mitigate \$80,000 of these cuts. Sequestration will continue for another 10 years unless Congress steps in.

Ms. Rasnack and Mr. Corsini met with Aging and Disability Services with Congressman Smith. He was very supportive of older adults. However, there is a big difference in the House and the Senate's budgets that is putting everything in a stalemate.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ANNUAL OLDER ADULT INITIATIVES UPDATE  
[Presentation]**

Attorney General Bob Ferguson said they he has known former Attorney General Rob McKenna for many years. He and his staff have been most helpful with the transition. He stated that his mother is 80 and very active. Recently, she received an e-mail that said a friend of hers was travelling out of the country and needed money. As you all know, this is a scam. Even the most astute individuals have been duped by this scam. Mr. Ferguson noted that he has many siblings who are there to support his aging mother, but not all seniors have the advocates to help them. We encourage people to call our office with any issues. We need the information so that we can form our priorities and agenda. We investigate scams and the state legislature is currently involved with debt collection and other issues.

Cathy Hoover, Assistant Attorney General has been 16 years with the office in the Social & Health Services Division. She commended the BNOA and local groups the help people in the community. In 2010, the AGO sponsored legislation that assisted banks in regard to exploitation of older adults. Banks can refuse transactions for several days if they think exploitation is occurring. Legislation required the front desk workers at banks to take training on exploitation and signs of exploitation. The office provides information regarding legislation and training. We also had a vulnerable adult neglect legislation issue in the Supreme Court. It raised the issue of consent to place an adult in a long-term facility.

Mr. Katz brought up the issue of Medical Observation. The issue had been brought up with former Attorney General McKenna but wondered whether the issue was dropped with the staff change. It is a Federal issue, but the State could possibly make requirements of the hospitals so that the Medical Observation issue is clearly stated to patients. Attorney General Ferguson said to send information regarding to Medical Observation and he will see if they have a role in it. They could possibly work with our Federal representatives to address this issue.

Ms. Thompson asked about the two AARP fraud issues that weren't passed: 1) debt collection advertisement in that groups take money from people but don't help them resolve their debt issue; and 2) debt collection statute of limitations. Attorney General Ferguson said that in this session it was very difficult to get anything through.

Ms. VonWald explained to Attorney General Ferguson that the BNOA has their own Legislative Agenda and will be holding a Legislative Forum in November. He said he has a policy team to put together a Legislative Agenda and that we should contact his office to coordinate on older adult issues.

Mr. Merriman said that Washington State requires their Home Day Health providers to be educated and trained. He said he is concerned about the independent caregivers that aren't licensed. Is there some way to monitor these caregivers? There is such an opportunity for abuse and exploitation. Mr. Corsini said that his brother has a caregiver business and everyone is required to get a background check and training before they can work, but there needs to be follow-up after this initial training. Mr. Merriman stated he was talking about the independent caregivers that don't have any training or regulations. Ms. Hoover said they could possibly allow them to pay for background checks and training. We also need to educate the public to make sure that caregivers do this. It all comes down to public awareness. It was stressed that is important for the BNOA to help them with information on issues. Ms. Kimball said that it might be a good idea to put together a public service notice regarding caregivers. Ms. Seltzer said that a lot of times people don't know there is information out there that could be useful to them.

## **STAFF REPORT/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. VonWald said that Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> is the Older American's Month Proclamation at the City Council meeting at 8:00pm in the Council Chambers.

Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation. On Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> there is another Community Conversation at Bellevue Square (as indicated earlier).

Please remember to register for the June 6<sup>th</sup> Eastside Human Services Forum event online.

The July BNOA meeting agenda includes Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden who will discuss the renovation of the botanical gardens and visitor center and a discussion about mobility.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> the City had a Spring Forward event. Tables were set up for every project that the city is working on. It was a great resource to see what projects are being done and who the contact person is in case we want to give any input.

Mr. Katz said that in other cities the transit systems have flashing lights when a train is coming into the station. We need to go to the Sound Transit Hospital Station meeting to give our input.

After the Looping Presentation last month, Ms. Robinson gave the information packet to her husband who works for King County. There is a possibility that looping may be installed at

Meydenbauer Center and other places in the County. Ms. VonWald said that she talked to Pam Fehrman, Parks Planner who attended the presentation in April. Ms. Fehrman and the project management team are looking into the possibility of including Looping in the construction of the new Youth Theater. Ms. Thompson received an e-mail from Bellevue Club asking for information regarding the Looping because they may be adding it in the ballroom at their facility. The Senior Board is looking into the cost of having Looping installed at North Bellevue Community Center.

**NEW BUSINESS – none.**

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.