

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

August 2, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Englund, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Bob Megargel, Eileen Rasnack, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Terri Wilson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jullie Gray, Hannah Kimball, Bill Merriman, Blake Werner

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Jess Honcoop, Office of Senator Steve Litzow

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Eileen Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Jullie Gray, Hannah Kimball, Bill Merriman, and Blake Werner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 28, 2012

The minutes taker mentioned that Janet Zielasko was indicated in members present and absent. She was not present at the meeting, so will be deleted from the present list of members at the meeting.

Ms. Thompson indicated on p. 3 in the first sentence that the sentence should say “The Advocacy Committee may write another letter” instead of will.

There was a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and the motion was seconded. The motion was voted on unanimously to approve the minutes.

AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES UPDATE (PRESENTATION)

Chairperson Rasnack introduced Jesse Eller and thanked him for agreeing to present to the group.

Jesse Eller, Executive Director of Aging & Disability Services stated that he has been on the job for four months. It is an awesome network and everything is moving very quickly.

On July 1st, Aging & Disability Services accepted the administrative role for New Freedom which is a program for self-directed care. They brought in additional staff to serve the 700 new clients. Assessment and coaching which was once done by two different agencies, is now done by one agency which saves State dollars.

On July 1st, Healthy Options started which is managed care that serves Medicaid clients. On November 1st, SSI clients will be able to enroll into the Healthy Options Plan. We have negotiated and have a contract with one health program. We are negotiating with other health care programs to provide chronic care management and care transitions services to their clients. Chronic Care Management is very similar to our King County Care Partners that help individuals with the health plan and services they need. Staff is working diligently to make sure that clients' needs are met.

We have also been working with King County Community Services and Public Health on a State grant for duals. Duals are people who are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Each County is responsible for deciding which model for services that they will use: 1) fee for service model, or 2) managed care. The County has the authority to pick which model to use. The State believes that with managed care there will be significantly more savings. The whole process is moving quickly and becoming clearer as information comes together. In November the State wants the County decisions on which model they will go with. In June-July the County can opt in or out of model 2 and we can then see what it will mean to us all.

There are currently 13 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in the State. Each handles a geographic area. They do case management with seniors and disabled. We help keep people independent in homes, which is a significant cost savings.

Ms. Robinson asked if we should talk to the physicians to see why they are switching to concierge care. We need to find out why they are doing this. Mr. Eller stated that in Arizona they were doing this to get away from insurances and all of the paperwork.

Ms. Wilson said that she serves many Medicaid patients. What does this care transition look like? Mr. Eller stated that the hospital will let you know if a client is hospitalized. A nurse will go to the hospital to determine what this person will need when discharged. Ms. Wilson asked if they can push to not only get this done at admission but also during observation status. She thinks it would be a great help. Mr. Eller stated that is currently only done at admission and the nurse determines needs when the client gets home. The nurse is very hands on for 7-10 days and if everything is o.k. will follow-up with phone consultation for up to 30 days. They also provide in-home care.

Mr. Katz asked how it is funded and whether there have been any cuts in their funding? Mr. Eller stated that it is funded by the Older American Act and the State. In 2010 there was about a 5% cut. Funding has been flat but expenses are going up. Caseloads are also up. They are doing more with less but haven't had to lay people off. They are looking at other funding sources and grants (looking at the 3026 grant which is part of the Affordable Care Act which is for Care Transitions and would be a 3 year grant for about 3 million dollars if we get it – will find out in about 8-12 weeks if they get this grant). Ms. Wilson asked what the capacity for the

Care Transitions Program is. Mr. Eller said they can currently handle 60 clients which is a 1-30 caseload for care transitions.

Ms. Rasnack stated that the BNOA has worked very hard and has worked with Aging & Disability Services to be very active in advocating for funding.

Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Eller could explain the New Freedom program. He said that individuals are referred to the program and an assessment is done to see what they need to keep them in their home. A budget is built. Clients determine what they need to do with the money to get these needs met.

Mr. Katz stated that moving to a nursing home is especially expensive in Washington State. Mr. Eller stated it was 20-30% more expensive in Washington.

Mr. Megargel said that the State will lose caregivers because of the new training requirements. He said that if Mr. Eller has a pull with the legislature it would be great to get the rules loosened. Mr. Eller stated that he agreed that requirements need to be loosened. The State of Washington ranks 93rd out of 100 in regard to the high cost of care.

Ms. Rasnack thanked Mr. Eller for meeting with BNOA and Mr. Eller said he appreciated meeting with the group and would like to update when needed.

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Outreach (reported by Mr. Megargel)

Mr. Megargel wasn't able to attend the last meeting but appreciated everyone getting the update information to him. He noted that the 4:30-6:30 shift at the Crossroads Farmers Market on August 28th needs to be filled. Mr. Englund agreed to take this shift. Mr. Megargel also noted that the BNOA will have a table at the Bellevue Farmers Market on September 13th from 3:00-7:00. Please sign up for volunteer shifts if you are available.

The committee voted to participate on October 20th in the Home is Where the Heart Is Fair. They also received 500 more Vials of Life from Symetra. There will not be a meeting on Aug. 20th because of the small group available. It was agreed upon to reschedule this groups meeting time to August 21st at 9:00am. Ms. O'Reilly will secure a meeting room.

The Outreach committee is also participating in the Chinese Information Resource Fair on September 6th. The information for the utility bill insert was approved and it will most likely go in the October billing.

There is an issue with accessing computers at North Bellevue Community Center to register for classes. Ms. VonWald is dealing with this issue and they will see what she has found out when she returns.

B. Transportation/Housing (reported by Ms. Grote)

The group divided up and checked on the ARCH website for updates needed.

Ms. VonWald was going to get stop watches for us to check on crosswalk crossing times. But, a new system is being installed and they are going to wait and see how the new system works and what they can do with educating people on the new system.

In regard to the jaywalking issue they are being connected to the correct person within the police department.

There are a lot of changes with Hopelink and transportation. Franz will be coming to present at the BNOA October meeting and to talk about the Transit Master Plan.

C. Advocacy (reported by Ms. Thompson)

There was not meeting in July. They decided not to have a candidates forum, but instead meet with candidates individually. However, there is a new candidates forum which they believe BNOA should join. The Senior Advisory Council together with AARP, WA State Senior Citizen's Lobby, and Elder Care Alliance is planning a candidates forum most likely on October 1st from 11:00-1:00 in Mercer Island. At the proposed forum in King County they will be inviting candidates throughout King County, but expect mainly the Eastside representatives/Senators/candidates to attend. The Senior Advisory Council and Area Agency on Aging are responsible for securing space, paying for space, getting speakers, getting food, organize meeting, and devising questions to be asked. They expect to put together a powerpoint on Overview of Aging Readiness and are looking to find a local consumer and a local family member to speak. BNOA will make sure candidates in Districts 41, 45, and 48 attend through Advocacy Committee follow-up, help get an audience (BNOA members should attend, also Kirkland Senior Council members). They will reach out to Mercer Island Senior Council for assistance. Ms. O'Reilly will contact Mercer Island & Redmond human services staff to get it on their calendar.

Ms. Thompson made a motion that the Bellevue Network on Aging will be a supporter and assist with the King County Candidates Forum, provided that the event is held on the Eastside. The motion was seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. O'Reilly complimented Mr. Katz and Ms. Thompson for their City Council presentations that they gave on Monday July 23rd. She said they both did a great job. She also said that the City of Bellevue budget process continues and to date the human services funding has remained intact.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

A. Parks & Community Services Board – (Ms. Robinson reporting)

She sent the link to “What to do when going to the hospital” to the members. Send any updates to her and she will get it to the group.

The Meydenbauer Park project is working on a street level to water level access that is age friendly. She thinks it would be great for the group to hear from anyone supporting this “age friendly” concept.

Ms. Robinson asked if other cities have updated their information on the ARCH website. Ms. Grote will check on this.

Mr. Katz asked if the issue of a new community center in downtown Bellevue has been brought up at the Parks & Community Services Board meeting. Ms. Robinson stated that it hadn’t been recently discussed but with so many new members on both the Board and Council, maybe the issue should be brought up.

B. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (reported by Berta Seltzer)

This group did not meet last month. The Hopelink staff associated with this program left and they are currently interviewing and hiring for this position. They will have someone by mid-August.

C. Eastside Human Services Forum (reported by Alex O’Reilly)

The Forum was pleased with the outcomes from the annual event and Ms. O’Reilly will send out the summary report from this event.

The Statewide Poverty Action Network, who advocates for social equity for all ages, will be holding two events. The events will be August 22 from 6-8pm and August 29 from 6-8pm at North Bellevue Community Center. Please RSVP for the event if members plan on attending.

D. Eastside Time Bank (Jeanne Grote reporting)

They did a fun event last month. They purchased Beach Boys concert tickets and packaged them together with dinner & transportation to & from the event. They put it on the Microsoft employee website. It was a fun event.

The Time Bank continues to grow. They are planning on doing a Membership/Mentor program to get more seniors involved.

The last potluck was at North Bellevue Community Center and they also had an article in “Aging Your Way”. There is a picnic at Woodland Park in Seattle planned.

E. Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council

Reported earlier.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. O'Reilly said that the Human Services Commission is scheduling into the Fall. The BNOA annually updates the Commission and it would be good to coordinate with Ms. VonWald to get it on the Human Services Commission schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson stated that she was recently in the San Juan Islands with her father. They went to the parks on the islands and they have carts available for those who cannot walk around that they staff with volunteers to give a tour of the park. She thinks we should request the same sort of access to Bellevue Botanical Garden. It was decided that the Outreach Committee would look into this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS - None

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.