

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

March 4th, 2021
8:30am – 10:30am

North Bellevue Community Center via Virtual – Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gazel Tan, Gina Johnson, Hannah Kimball, Janet Jelleff, Beverly Heyden, Paul Bradley, Judy Stenberg, Desiree Leigh, Catherine Wong, Diana Thompson, Abigail Brown, Linda Forshaw, Berta Seltzer, Mary Fredeen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Merriman, Phyllis Smilen.

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

GUESTS: Cathy Iverson from Kirkland Senior Council

PRESENTER(S): Christy Stangland, City of Bellevue Human Services
Tanya McGee, Sound Generations

RECORDING SECRETARY: Betty Lee

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February minutes approved.

2021-2022 HUMAN SERVICES NEED UPDATE: *(Christy Stangland)*

Christy Stangland of the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department is here to ask the Bellevue Network on Aging for input sources for the 2021-22 Human Resource Guide.

- The Needs Update is a compilation of quantitative and qualitative data, an analysis of health and human services trends and issues, and forecast of changes in human services.
- The purpose of the Needs Update is to guide the funding recommendations to council. Staff also use it as a guide to address the changing needs to our community and inform other departments and community groups.
- Different methodologies are used such as phone/online, surveys, community conversations/interviews/discussions, report review, websites, surveys, and census data.
- Top needs in 2019-2021 were affordable housing, living wages, increase in homelessness, behavioral health, racial and ethnic discrimination, and transportation.
- Data will be collected through early summer 2021, reported to Human Services Commission June/July 2021, provide a draft to Commission in November 2021, present to Council in January 2022, and distribute in February 2022.
- Surveys are usually translated into 4-5 different languages and currently working on how to do that through survey monkey.

- BNOA members were asked to provide potential names of organizations and contacts that would respond to the surveys and give reflection of what the community needs are for aging adults in Bellevue.
 - BNOA's suggested topics or emerging need in the community: Food security, digital divide, older adult's needs being met in multigenerational households.
 - BNOA's Suggested groups to connect with for Community Conversations:
 - Indian Association of Western Washington – Lalita Uppala.
 - Kin On Community Center - office in Crossroads, adult family and assisted living homes.
 - Asian Counseling Referral Service. – homecare training, aging services.
 - International Community Health Services (IChS)
 - Crossroads: Insert flyer in Neighborhood News.
 - Bellevue Patch, Nextdoor, Meetup.com
 - Sea Mar – Clemencia Robayo.
 - Muslim Association of Puget Sound.
 - Eastside for All.
 - Momentia Eastside – Dan and Abigail.
 - Old Friend's Club.
 - Fires Cares, Medic One.
 - King County Health Department.
 - ARCH subsidized housing.
 - Russian Community – Jewish Family Services, CISC and Catherine Wong
 - Evergreen Health Network.
 - Home Health – hospital/hospice social workers.
 - Botanical Garden – volunteers.
 - Diversity advisory network and King County disability board, LEOFF
 - King County Veteran's Levy.

Please reach out to Christy Stangland cstangland@bellevuewa.gov with any other thoughts or suggestions.

PRESENTATION: *(Tanya McGee, Sound Generations Pathways Information & Assistance)*

Presentation by Tanya McGee of Sound Generations concerning everyday community resources called "Pathways" available to the older adult population. Tanya is the Regional Lead Coordinator for Sound Generations.

- Pathways specialists can help:
 - Screen and refer for benefits
 - Refer private pay resources
 - Check in with isolated clients
 - COVID-19 resource support
 - Assessment and follow up
 - Navigate complex systems
- Services provided by Pathways:
 - Information, referral, assessment, follow-up.
 - Affordable housing
 - In person counseling

- Caregiver support
 - Referrals to care coordination through Aging and Disability Services
 - Navigate through complex situations for older adults, caregivers, and younger disabled
 - Homelessness resources
 - Individual assessment of your needs including referrals and support
 - Gateway program – concerned community members
 - Medicaid program referrals
 - Geriatric Regional Assistance Team referrals
- Pathways has services that cover subject such as:
- Counseling
 - Ways to Stretch Your Dollar
 - Health and Wellness
 - Legal Resources
 - Staying Independent in Your Home
 - Caregiver Support
 - Transportation Options
 - Long Term Care Options
 - Gateway Program to assess risk of individuals living on their own
 - Geriatric Regional Assessment Team crisis interventions
 - Crises referrals

For more details, refer to the presentation PowerPoint on the BNOA website resource page or call or email Pathways for assistance.

206-448-3110, 1-888-435-3377 (Interpreter services are available)

Email: info@soundgenerations.org

Tanya McGee

206-727-6254

tanyam@soundgenerations.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

The committee discussed the funding amount by the state legislator is now known for Alzheimer Association/Dementia Resource Catalyst. \$1.9M request for additional resources including education. Diana wrote to Lynn Cort seeking clarification of which group in Alzheimer Association is to receive the funding. Diana will then ask BNOA for aligned support. Desiree explained that funds will be used to enhance existing programs by Area Networks on Aging per Brad Forbes, further clarification may be needed. Abigail proposes an amendment showing general support. Kathy, Abigail, and Diana discussed including dementia care in current long-term care infrastructure legislation pass-out document by BNOA; “Support services that address persons with dementia and their caregivers and/or families.” Abigail proposes we wait for Lynn Cort’s input and ensure coverage for both long term care and aging in place. Diana proposes adding to upcoming BNOA agenda, Kathy will add to KSC agenda for April meeting.

Diana called for a motion to support services that assist persons with dementia and/or their caregivers and families as part of the BNOA legislative agenda. The BNOA moved to vote, voted, and passed.

Diana asking members to write letters to the legislators asking to support the funding requested by DSHS Alzheimer's Association and Dementia Action Collaborative. Gazel recommended Diana shares her letters with the BNOA as a sample and everyone can write letters with their individual experiences.

Contact with legislators in the 41st District-Judy, Others: Received appointment to speak with legislative assistant Hamasaki for Rep. Thai. The offices of both Sen. Wellman and Rep. Senn did not respond to appointment requests. HB1218 did move forward to Senate floor, supported by Rep. Thai, and sponsored by Rep. Senn. Provided thank you to Ms. Hamasaki for Rep. Thai's support and advocacy for seniors. Judy, Diana, and Kathy discussed budget provisos which are voted in by legislators. Lists of budget committee members are available online for all members to review.

Contact with legislators in the 1st and 45th Districts—Kathy, others: Kathy sent letters with BNOA/KSC pass-out and awaiting response. Diana encourages writing letters to all legislators requesting support for BNOA/KSC sponsored bills and budget provisos. March 17, 7p, virtual town hall (FB or YouTube) for 45th district to include discussion of insurance bill regarding use of credit score for determining premiums. Personal letters to legislators encouraged. Group discussed concerns with information privacy.

Progress on bills the BNOA are following with many moving forward per Abigail, she will email details from legislative RSS feeds.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- Expanding our distribution list for events/resources:
- Little luck experienced in attempting to contact eastside churches. Suggestion made that we obtain COB list of neighborhood associations and try contacting them. Dan mentioned Nourishing Networks, Tammy Waddell as a possibility. St. Louise is having a food drive at the end of February. Postings for INSP/Farmer Frog food giveaways at Marymoor Park published just on the day before the event.
- What about Joanne Gainen's Eastside Neighborhood Network virtual network for expansion?
- What about obtaining church newsletters?
- Senior Day at the Bellevue Farmer's Market: it did not occur in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions, and although things are opening up in 2021, not likely to be same scale as 2019. We'll try to secure a resource table and provide volunteers for the market day.
- We'll contact Roz Liming at Crossroads and see if there's an event calendar we can use.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING:

- The entire BNOA membership was invited to this meeting to hear Alex O'Reilly's discussion about HB 1590, legislation passed in 2020 that allows cities to collect a portion of sales tax for affordable housing, social/mental health services. COB is participating in a work group and reports progress regularly to City Council, first Monday of the month. The revenue stream is expected to produce about \$9 million/yr., but with social/economic changes driven by pandemic, that could change.
- Human Services is currently engaged in community outreach and information gathering. There is now a chapter in the Comprehensive Plan addressing these issues. Tara Johnson, COB Planning, is current focal for affordable housing strategies.
- The funding parameters are: (1) affordable housing; (2) mental health/behavioral health or housing-related services facilities; (3) operation and maintenance costs for affordable housing related services or treatment centers; (4) operation/delivery of treatment programs.
- The first three uses are income qualified at 60% or less of AMI (\$102,500) which is approximately \$60,500.
- BNOA feedback is requested to help prioritize identified needs; identify how the funding can fulfill specific needs; identify gaps that may still exist. Members gave feedback to Alex during the meeting, but Alex

continues to take other suggestions. She can be emailed at AOReilly@bellevuewa.gov. Of course, our focus will be older adults/senior citizens.

- Kirkland Senior Council (KSC) is planning to join the Housing and Transportation team this March.
- Judy asking to please put in what you think should be the priority for the committee.
- Hannah suggested BNOA and KSC be a combined committee and proposing to discuss this at the next committee meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS:

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (Hannah)

An email was sent out to everyone with the Easy Rider Collaborative report and contains various useful information. Highlights Hannah would like to point out are:

- Eastlink Connections is looking for board members, compensated position at \$50/hr. for authorized participation.
- Hannah is asking please consider taking surveys on item #4 (Metro - routes and preferred changes) and #6 (Transportation equity and diversity)

Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council (Diana)

- Bill 1218 amended, passed the house and is in the senate.
- Medical bills – to reduce the price of medication. 1 of 3 bills didn't pass which would have penalized companies who raised price of drugs.
- Bill 1460 – Digital equity to close the digital divide. Abby will send an email update with links.

NEW BUSINESS: (Dan)

- Older Adult Awareness Month Proclamation is in May where we will have an opportunity to talk to council about celebrating older adults in the community and to show council all that we've done even through the pandemic.
- Dan needs someone to present and accept the proclamation from council.
 - Mary volunteered to present, Janet and Mary will work on the writing together. Dan will let them know what the timeline is.
- Diana volunteer to receive the Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation from council and present a response to council members in June.
- Diana will write an article for May – Hearing loss month.
- Kate Nesse, COB demographer, will be presenting April 1st – please send Dan any requests for specific things you would like her to cover.
 - What does COB consider a “senior”? What is the definition/age declared by the city?
- Please let Dan know what any request for topics or speakers for May and June.
 - Social worker.
 - Death with Dignity Act.

- Alzheimer's/dementia.
- NBCC will possibly be re-opening in April or May. Staff are checking in on participants to see if there is an interest to participate in in-person activities. More updates to follow...
- *Meeting adjourned at 10:30am*