



The Alliance of Eastside Agencies' (AEA) mission is to build healthy communities in East King County through a strong human services network by providing a strong voice for Eastside health and human services and by promoting organizational excellence among providers.

Board: Joseph Adriano, Sharon Anderson, Jeff Brandt, Brooke Buckingham, David Downing-Co-Chair, Kim Gerdes, Debra Grant-Co-Chair, Lori Guilfoyle, Stan Kehl, Helen Leuzzi, Pam Mauk-Treasurer, Steve Roberts, Helen Banks Routon, Andrea Simmonds, Sarah Steininger, Rochelle Clayton Strunk-Secretary, Barbara Thompson, Gina Yarwood-Vice-Chair.

AEA eNews

*Our new monthly member newsletter – January 2013
Happy New Year from AEA's Board of Directors!!*

AEA News!

➤ **AEA's After-Hours New Year's Networking Party**

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan 15th, 4-6 p.m.

Location: Sophia's Place, St Luke's Lutheran Church (Sophia Way's new site)
3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue 98004

Contact Phone: 425-885-6264 (Barb at NAMI)

It's a brand new year and a great time to get together to socialize and strategize. Please join us for AEA's winter social at Sophia Way's new women's shelter. There will be something fun organized and then lots of time to enjoy each other's company. AEA's social committee will be serving food and non-alcoholic beverages. Please park and access the building at the shelter entrance around the back of the church.

To view the Evite for this event and to RSVP please click on this link:

<http://new.evite.com/I/V2EPQHTS2Y>

➤ **The winner of the AEA Membership Drawing was Together Center!!**

They won the prize of a \$100 gift card. Thanks to all those who renewed their membership by December 14th.

We appreciate the following Agencies which have renewed since last newsletter's list:

Alliance of People with disAbilities; Catholic Community Services; Eastside Baby Corner; Eastside Easy Rider; King County Sexual Assault Resource Center; Therapeutic Health Services.

Our membership drive is still on. Renewal is easy! Simply go the AEA website: www.allianceofeastsideagencies.org/joinaea.html, complete the registration information and submit your fee through PayPal. Organizations which prefer to pay by check can submit the e-mail confirmation as an “invoice” to mail with a check to the AEA address (provided in email).

➤ **Introducing AEA’s newly elected Co-Chair, Debra Grant and new Vice-Chair, Gina Yarwood**



Debra Grant is AEA’s Co-Chair and the Director of Client Services for Hopelink. Debra graduated from the University of Washington in 1986 with a degree in social work. Since that time she has spent over 25 years in human services doing direct service for low-income families in King County at Downtown Emergency Services, Ruth Dykeman, Salvation Army, YWCA and King County Government. As part of Debra’s direct work with clients she has done crisis counseling, intake and eligibility, case management and relocation work. Debra is an advocate for families living in poverty. She joined Hopelink’s leadership team in July 2006 and the Alliance of Eastside Agencies (AEA) Board in 2011.



Gina Yarwood, AEA’s Vice-Chair and Associate Director of YWCA’s Family Village in Redmond, is a lifelong resident of the Eastside who received her degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Needs from Bellevue College. She taught in the Head Start program on campus before beginning her career with the YWCA. She has taught, supervised and managed early childhood programs for over seventeen years. Gina’s philosophy is strength-based with a holistic approach in serving families. Her work has given her numerous opportunities to provide enhanced services to families and children and to create opportunities for parents to network together, build and be a part of a strong community.

Featured Member Agency of the Month

➤ **Eastside Baby Corner**

Eastside Baby Corner is a social service agency based in Issaquah which helps kids thrive by providing basic necessities for children so that EBC's partners—schools, social service agencies, food banks, hospitals—can help families become stable, safe, housed, fed and employed. Relying almost exclusively on volunteers, EBC takes in donations of children's clothing and goods from the community and supplements donations with purchases of the absolute essentials for children: baby food, formula, car seats, port-a-cribs and diapers. As the vital safety net under family-assistance providers, EBC annually distributes over 40,000 items for kids from birth to age 12 directly to nearly every agency serving families in East King County. Founded by pediatric nurse practitioner, Karen Ridlon in 1990, EBC helps more than 500 children each week.

EBC is proud to announce the Board of Directors appointment of Renee Zimmerman as its new Executive Director starting January 7, 2013. Founder and outgoing Executive Director of 22 years, Karen Ridlon, will be taking on a new role as Emeritus Executive Director and will remain on EBC's Board.

Zimmerman is an outstanding and vibrant member of the Issaquah community. She is looking forward to engaging the community in continuing EBC's essential work and finding ways to meet the growing need in the local area. Renee has a wealth of experience in executive leadership, marketing and communications, including time as the Executive Director of the Issaquah Highlands Council. She is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, and holds both a Masters in Business Administration and Public Administration. Last spring, Issaquah Chamber of Commerce honored her as Citizen of the Year.

Advocacy

➤ **NAMI Day in Olympia: January 21, 2013**

NAMI and other human service agencies descend on Olympia to meet with legislators to express our concerns about human services funding. Three of NAMI's goals for 2013 are:

- 1) Change the content of fiscal notes attached to bills in the legislature to include costs of not implementing proposed legislation. Currently the fiscal notes provided to legislators give only the projected cost of enactment and implementation of proposed legislation.
- 2) Resurrect the delayed portions of 3076 for immediate implementation which provide for input by families in involuntary treatment decisions. The implementation date has been pushed out to a July 1, 2015. It is important that we not delay what will enhance decision-making ability of those who make these important decisions.
- 3) Expand the Involuntary Treatment Act to provide better intervention tools. Currently the requirement for emergency involuntary hospitalization requires that a person "present an imminent likelihood of serious harm... to self or others". NAMI wants the "imminent" requirement removed from the

emergency detention statute to allow more of those who really need help to get it before life-threatening danger gets so close as to be “imminent”.
For more information, contact NAMI Eastside at (425) 885-6264.

- ***Thanks for reading our newsletter. Watch for us next month.***
- **AEA Board of Directors**