

ELDER-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY: ADULT DAY SERVICES



Health, Housing and
Human Services Council

*The National Area
Agency on Aging
reports nearly one
out of every four
households is
involved in
caregiving to
persons age 50 or
older.*

Elder-Friendly Community
Steering Committee

BI Senior Center
Community Housing Coalition
Health, Housing and Human
Services Council
Helpline House
Housing Resources Board
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
KC Area Agency on Aging
Lutheran Community Services NW
WA Adult Day Services Assoc.

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Adult Day Services Offer Structured Care

Comprehensive adult day services are an alternative for older persons requiring intensive supportive services and for caregivers who need respite. These community-based group programs with specialized plans of care are designed to meet the day-time needs of individuals with functional and/or cognitive impairments. Adult day programs provide comprehensive and structured care in a protective setting, and can help people with disabilities live at home, postponing or avoiding nursing home or assisted living care. Adult day services provide important respite to informal caregivers and help for family members or friends who juggle work with caregiving responsibilities. Among older adults with long-term care needs, nearly 95 percent receive some or all of their care from informal caregivers who often suffer emotional, physical and financial hardships as a result of caregiving.

Types of Services and Cost

Services may focus on social or medical needs, or may provide a combination of both. Some programs provide dementia care as a part of their services, or may focus solely on dementia care. Costs vary, and are often private-pay, although some public funding may generate a portion of a center's revenue. Some Medicaid programs may cover participation in certain programs. At this time, Medicare does not pay for adult day services. Long term care insurance policies that cover community-based services may pay for adult day services.

Adult Day Services Needed Locally

Currently there are no adult day services on Bainbridge Island that provide a low-cost alternative for respite care and support. Based on community response to the 2003 HHHS Needs Assessment, the HHHS Elder-Friendly Steering Committee has examined the feasibility of bringing adult day services to Bainbridge / greater NK area.

Develop Adult Day and Adult Day Health Programs Accessible to Bainbridge Island Residents

- Encourage service providers to determine feasibility of offering services on or near Bainbridge.
- In planning, consider whether a dementia model of care is needed.
- Support efforts to determine the range of services to be offered in a program. Services might also include programs for family caregivers such as support groups, education, and case management.

Support Changes at Federal and State Level

- Support increased financial assistance for home and community-based services at federal and state levels to support aging in place for the majority of adults to stay in their homes.