

**Northwest Senior Services Board**

**May 14, 2024**

**1:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**In-Person**

***Mount Vernon NWRC Office***

301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 100

Mount Vernon, WA

(360) 676-6749

**[Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

Meeting ID: 814 4973 0953

Passcode: 522849

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**AGENDA**

<b>Agenda Topic</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>1. Call to Order</b> Chair- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of guests</li><li>• Roll call</li><li>• Review of January minutes</li><li>• Announcements</li><li>• Public Comment</li></ul>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>1:00 pm – 1:05 pm</b>
<b>2. Board Members Term Expiring in June 2024</b> (Mary Kanter, Stephen Shubert, Georgiann Dustin, Jennifer Lautenbach, Alberta Horn)	<b>Information</b>	<b>1:05 pm – 1:15 pm</b>
<b>3. Committee Discussion</b> Regular Outreach reporting Committee Operation Details and Accessibility	<b>Information</b>	<b>1:15 pm – 1:30 pm</b>
<b>4. ‘Save our selves’ updates – Stephen Shubert</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>1:30 pm – 1:55 pm</b>
<b>5. Break</b>		<b>1:55 pm – 2:10 pm</b>
<b>6. Caregiver Outreach Program</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>2:10 pm – 2:30 pm</b>
<b>7. Executive Director Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agency Updates – Review</li><li>• Legislative Priorities</li><li>• Care Coordination</li></ul>	<b>Information</b>	<b>2:30 pm – 3:00 pm</b>
<b>8. State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 3:15 pm</b>
<b>9. Updates from our Communities</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>3:15 pm – 3:30 pm</b>
<b>10. Adjourn</b>	<b>Motion</b>	

**\*\*The next meeting of the NWSSB will be held on July 9, 2024**

*Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a meeting should contact NWRC at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.*

For more information, please contact the NWRC office at (360) 676-6749 600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225
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## **Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 12, 2024**

**Members Present via Zoom or Telephonically:** Carl Bender, Georgiann Dustin, George Edward, Jana Finkbonner, Marshall Gartenlaub, Alberta Horn, Mary Kanter, Jennifer Lautenbach, Stephen Shubert, Jodi Sipes, Holly Robinson

**Members Absent:** Shirley Bennett, Mike Shaw.

**Staff Present:** Amanda McDade, Bethany Chamberlin, Darla Smith, Jeri Johansen.

**Guest:** None

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### **Call to Order at 1:02 PM**

**Chair-Georgiann Dustin**

Introduction of members and staff in attendance.

- Introduction of Guests – None.
- Roll Call
- Announcements: Georgiann would like to get back to in-person meeting – hopefully in May, with a lunch gathering prior to the meeting, starting at 1:00 pm. Discussion ensued with comments ranging from island/ferry travel to the possible need to keep a hybrid meeting option.
- Public Comment – None.

### **Review of January 9, 2024, Minutes:**

Changes made were to reflect that Georgiann was elected to DAC (Dementia Action Collaborative).

Motion put forward by Georgiann Dustin to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2024, meeting. Motion was granted by George Edward and seconded by Stephen Shubert. **Motion Passed.**

### **Nomination and Vote for Vice Chair:**

Nomination was put forth by Georgiann for Carl Bender and by Stephen Shubert for himself. Discussion included the possible need to wait for more qualified members before the vote. A member must hold a position on the board for at least one year to be considered as a nominee. No other nominees. Vote for Vice Chair was taken with the result of five (5) votes for Carl Bender and four (4) votes for Stephen Shubert.

The new Vice Chair is Carl Bender.

**Break** – 2:13 – 2:20

**Bylaws**

Bethany Chamberlin

Overview and appreciation of the work put in by the members involved in reviewing the bylaws.

Motion put forward by Georgiann Dustin to accept/adopt the Bylaws. Motion was granted by George Edward and seconded by Jodi Sipes. **Motion Passed.**

**San Juan Discussion**

Stephen Shubert

Overview given by Stephen Shubert regarding end-of-life care, and access to caregiving in the home. Lengthy discussion circling around the ability to private pay in island areas driving the hourly wage for caregivers up and leaving others who need it, unable to afford caregiving. There are programs that help people stay in their homes in concentrated areas (such as Seattle) but not much available in rural/remote areas. State paid caregivers have salary caps at approximately \$18/hour. It is a challenge for Pt. Roberts and other outlying places to attract caregivers. Refer to Sub-committee Review below.

**Board Members Committees** (general discussion):

An overall discussion of the previous committees ensued. This led to formation of a new committee with Stephen to chair called Save Ourselves. This committee will focus on in-home care, advocating for help in isolated areas and other barriers to caregiving. Members interested in joining this committee are Jodi, Mary, Holly, and Georgiann. Bethany will be joining in. Community Engagement subcommittee will be dissolved, and community engagement efforts will instead be discussed with the group at large during every meeting, during county updates. The Advocacy and New Programs subcommittee will continue with addressing social isolation being the priority under New Programs. More to discuss at the next meeting. Members would like to link more of the work of the subcommittees to items in the strategic plan. Bethany volunteered to assist in creating zoom links for the subcommittees, but the subcommittee leads are as follows: Ryan Blackwell will continue to lead the Advocacy group. Marshall Gartenlaub will lead the Social Isolation New Program group. Stephen will lead the Save Ourselves group.

**State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)**

Stephen Shubert

SCOA has not yet contacted Stephen with meeting information. Most meetings are via Zoom and Stephen represents our four counties and NWRC at these meetings.

**Executive Director Updates**

Amanda McDade

There were three agenda items of focus that NWRC was hoping to get support from the legislature on and we were able to get support for two. The three items were nutrition, and increase in case management support, and an increase in the administrative rate for our NEMT (Non-emergent Medical Transport) program. The programs that did get an increase are nutrition and the NEMT program.

**Dementia Support Program:** Bethany gave a quick overview of the Dementia Support Program. Shared the success of the Early Empowerment Group and that the next group will be held in Skagit. It is hoped that this group will spread to all four counties. Dementia Friends is making in-roads to islands.

**Communities:** Jen Lautenbach loved the flyers that were included in the NWSSB packet. Members would like to continue this practice if there are upcoming events in communities to share.

***Bellingham:***

***Lynden:***

***Mount Vernon:***

***Orcas:***

***Snohomish/Island Counties:***

**Adjourn: 3:30**

A motion was made to adjourn by Georgiann Dustin and seconded by George Edward and Jodi Sipes. **Motion passed.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM**

Jeri Johansen, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the May 14, 2024, meeting.

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Georgiann Dustin, NWSSB, Chair