

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL**
May 19, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS: Island County Commissioners Jill Johnson and Melanie Bacon, San Juan County Council Members Cindy Wolf and Jamie Stephens, Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Council Member Kathy Kershner

STAFF: Amanda McDade, Cindy Madigan, Kyle Ludwig, Sarah Silvas, Darla Smith

PUBLIC: Barbara Pesola, San Juan County, NWSSB Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Island County Commissioner Jill Johnson.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda:

Motion was made by San Juan County Council Member Jamie Stephens and seconded by Whatcom County Council Member Kathy Kershner to approve the Consent Agenda (items 3.a through 3.e) as presented: Minutes of the December 9, 2021, December 12, 2021, December 28, 2021, January 6, 2022, and March 10, 2022 meetings; Expenditures listings for November in the amount of \$1,725,792.66, December in the amount of \$1,768,811.04, January in the amount of \$1,819,755.08, February in the amount of \$1,754,811.64; the 2021 Budget to Actual Report; the routine contracts and agreements and; the Signatures of Authoritative Body for the Whatcom County Treasurer. The Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda

a. Policy and Procedure Manual Updates

Amanda McDade, Executive Director reviewed the policy and procedure manual updates with the Board. The Board requested a redlined version of the manual updates, expressed desire to vote on policy changes, and requested a follow up discussion at the next meeting.

b. COVID Update

Amanda McDade, Executive Director discussed the current impacts of COVID-19 on the agency including reopening the office, mask requirements, implementation of hybrid schedules, and issues around staff vaccination status. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by San Juan County Council Member Jamie Stephens and seconded by Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning to mandate COVID vaccinations for all new staff hired. Discussion followed. The Motion passed six to one. Whatcom County Council Member Kathy Kershner opposed.

c. Key Staffing Changes

Amanda McDade, Executive Director reviewed current open positions, a request to hire an additional Care Coordinator and to reclassify the HR Administrative Assistant to a Human Resource Specialist.

Motion was made by San Juan County Council Member Jamie Stephens and seconded by San Juan County Council Member Cindy Wolf to authorize the hire of an additional Care Coordinator FTE to manage increased cases in Humana and to reclassify the HR Administrative Assistant to Human Resource Specialist. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Legislative Updates

Amanda McDade, Executive Director provided an overview of the legislative session that ended on March 10, 2022. Impacts for NWRC include an increase in case management funding, funding to reduce caseloads statewide, approval of the hospital transition program, and an increase in the state personal needs allowance. More information will be provided at the July meeting regarding plans to utilize funding and further integrate care.

Announcements

The Board requested the July meeting be hybrid if possible.

NWRC will be recognizing Alzheimer's Awareness next month. A press release will go out the on June 1st, Board members were encouraged to wear purple on June 21st as part of the Longest Day campaign through the Alzheimer's Association.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 am

Prepared and submitted by:

Darla Smith

Darla Smith, Office Supervisor