

NWSSB

[Northwest Senior Services Board]

ADVANCE MEETING MATERIALS

JULY 12, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING

1:00 – 3:30PM

Northwest Regional Council
600 Lakeway Drive
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.676.6749



Northwest Senior Services Board

Virtual Meeting Information

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81919888762?pwd=NlVGa25Hd3VYbU9nSkJ5c3g3bDJSQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 1988 8762

Passcode: 332247

To Join by Phone Dial: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 819 1988 8762



June 28, 2022

Dear Northwest Senior Services Board Members:

Our next meeting of the NWSSB will be held virtually on **Tuesday, July 12th from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Please see the enclosed instructions to connect to Zoom via your computer or phone.**

The agenda for the meeting includes:

- welcome and introductions
- NWSSB committees
- agency and legislative updates
- Informal Dispute Resolution panel

Please review the enclosed materials as your perspectives and thoughts are a key part of the process. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify Darla Smith on our staff. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please contact our administrative staff for technical assistance at 360-676-6749.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amanda McDade", written in a cursive style.

Amanda McDade
Executive Director

Enclosures

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NORTHWEST SENIOR SERVICES BOARD

Date: July 12, 2022

Time: 1:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Agenda

Time	Topic	Action Required
1:00-1:05	Regular Meeting Call to Order Barbara Pesola, Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Guests • Roll Call • Review of May Minutes • Announcements • Public Comments 	Motion
1:05-1:15	Updates from Our Communities Members	Information
1:15-1:50	NWSSB Committees Breakout Discussions	Discussion
1:50-2:00	Break	
2:00-2:30	Agency & Legislative Updates Ryan Blackwell, Elizabeth Anderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency / COVID • Legislative & Advocacy 	Information
2:40-2:50	State Council on Aging Update (SCOA) Georgiann Dustin	Information
2:50-3:30	Informal Dispute Resolution Panel Mike Tornquist Informal Dispute Resolution Unit Manager Residential Care Services/ (DSHS)	Information
2:55-3:05	Updates from Our Communities Members	Discussion
3:30	Adjourn	Motion

Upcoming Northwest Senior Services Board Meetings and Events:

September 13, 2022	Regular Meeting	TBD
October 19-20, 2022	Fall Gathering and Conference	TBD
November 8, 2022	Regular Meeting	TBD

Upcoming Northwest Regional Council Meetings:

July 28, 2022	Governing Board Meeting	TBD
December 8, 2022	Governing Board Meeting	TBD

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 NWRC at 360-676-6749 or 1-800-585-6749, 600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham WA 98225.

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

Members Present In-Person: None

Members Present via Zoom or Telephonically: Carl Bender, Shirley Bennett, Jana Finkbonner, Shirley Forslof, Wendy Gilbert, Alberta Horn, Mary Kanter, Kathleen O'Connor, Barb Pesola, Tasker Robinette, Stephen Shubert, Jodi Sipes, Marshall Gartenlaub, George Edward

Members Absent: Anna Ankrum, Georgiann Dustin, Denise Irely, Bob Monize, Jennifer Lautenbach, Doug Cornelsen

Staff Present Zoom or Telephonically: Amanda McDade, Elizabeth Anderson, Ryan Blackwell, Darla Smith, Jeri Johansen

Call to Order (Barb Pesola) at 1:03 PM

Zoom Meeting Reminders

Guests: None

Roll Call

Review of March Minutes:

Motion put forward by the Board President, Barb Pesola to accept the minutes from the March 8, 2022, meeting.

Motion was made to approve the March 8, 2022, meeting minutes by: George Edward

Seconded: Shirley Forslof Result: Approved

Announcements: Tasker Robinette will not be renewing. Thank you for your service over the past 8 years, we appreciate you.

Public Comment: None

Communications Project Update: Website

Elizabeth Anderson

Elizabeth Anderson gave a "tour" of the new NWRC website, showcasing our services, opportunities available through NWRC, information about NWRC and our contact information.

Discussion ensued among members of the possibility to link or share with other agency websites and or calendars. The general consensus was that this would be easy to do - noting that these other agencies would be responsible for keeping their content up-to-date.

Break for 10 minutes

1:30 – 1:40

Discussion: Forming NWSSB Committees

Amanda McDade

NWSSB Senior Services Board Committees are as follows:

Advocacy: Led by Ryan Blackwell

Barbara Pesola, Denise Irely, Mary Kanter, Stephen Shubert, Shirley Bennett

Community Engagement & Information: Led by Amanda McDade

Alberta Horn, George Edward, Jennifer Lautenbach, Marshall Gartenlaub, Jodi Sipes, Shirley Forslof

New Programs & Funding: Led by Elizabeth Anderson

Carl Bender, Douglas Cornelsen, Jana Finkbonner, Wendy Gilbert, Kathleen O'Conner

Undecided: Anna Ankrum, Bob Monize, Georgiann Dustin

Members broke out into their groups for the first time during this meeting. It was decided that each group should report back to the entire board in regard to discussions occurring during these break out sessions.

Agency Update

Amanda McDade

Agency

- An announcement was made by Amanda McDade congratulating Elizabeth Anderson and Jessica Wight, on being appointed to their new positions. Elizabeth will be the new Clinical Director and Jessica will be the LTC Case Management Director.
- Short review of re-branding and the impact it may have on identifying with the community regarding recognition of who NWRC is and what we do.
- Presentation of January through December 2021 Budget to Actual Report – Approved.
- Overview of Current Open Positions (2022 approved budget).

Covid

- We continue to keep a hybrid schedule with most employees coming into the office at least two days a week, usually more. Staff are meeting with clients during home visits, slowly and with care.

Legislative

- It is legislative downtime currently. We were unable to get language changed in the budget for agencies such as NWRC to keep up with inflation and client increases. This will be discussed more in depth at a later date.

State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)

Georgiann Dustin - Absent

Updates From Our Communities:

- Jodi Sipes was happy to announce that she will be able to make all up-coming meetings.
- Shirley Forslof noted that Bellingham Senior Center will be opening for meals and will keep Wednesday as a meal pick up day.
- Shirley Bennett commented that Coupeville weekly senior meals will return, increasing to three a week at the United Methodist Church.
- Other members commented on the state of meal programs trying to open but still needing to be cautious at this time.

Adjourn:

Barb Pesola: Motion put forward that there being no further business this meeting is adjourned.

Motion made by: Shirley Forslof Seconded: Jodi Sipes Result: Approved

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

Jeri Johansen, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the March 8, 2022, meeting.

Barbara Pesola, NWSSB Chair

Memorandum

To: Northwest Senior Services Board (NWSSB)
From: Ryan Blackwell, Business Development Manager
Date: June 29, 2022
Subject: Legislative Priorities for the 2023 Session

Background:

While the legislature concluded a historic session on March 10, 2022, the planning process for the 2023 session is already underway. Currently, each unit of state government is preparing their decision packages to submit to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for review before they go the governor's office in preparation for that budget, which is typically released in December before the legislature convenes in January.

In preparation for this process our state association of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), W4A, has submitted priorities to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for consideration.

Top Three Priorities:

1. AAA Case Management - Maintenance level funding to sustain a 75:1 caseload ratio for Case Managers serving those who receive in-home long-term care.
2. AAA Hospital Care Transitions - Expansion of funding beyond the 15 full time employees (FTE) appropriated in the last session. The original ask was for 30 FTEs statewide.
3. Poverty Reduction Initiatives Workgroup - DSHS is working on a package of request legislation aimed at poverty reduction. This might include policies like Estate Recovery for long-term care recipients which exacerbates intergenerational poverty. It might also include Terfa liens which are placed on homes when someone receives Medicaid long-term care in a nursing facility. This is a huge stressor for recipients who fear not having a house when they discharge.

Other Top Priorities Identified by W4A:

- Expansion of Dementia Resource Catalyst Pilots - As you know, NWRC is one of two pilots in the state doing this important work. The goal is to expand this to more areas and eventually expand statewide.
- Workforce Development - Creating a more robust direct care workforce.



- Housing (rental subsidies) - DSHS is requesting funding to increase independent, interim housing options, along with additional rental subsidies.

Next Steps:

The above priorities were selected from a multitude of options and will be the focus of W4A legislative advocacy in the 2023 session. We will track these when the DSHS decision package is released in the fall and when the governor's budget is released in December. The above priorities are not dead if they are not included in those steps, but it is very helpful if they are.



The Department of Social and Health Services, Residential Care Services (RCS) is launching a pilot project using a panel to enhance our current Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) process. Nursing Home providers will be able to use this process to dispute regulations they have been found deficient in. IDR has the authority to uphold the deficiency or remove it altogether. Panel volunteers will be responsible for making decisions about these matters.

We are establishing a pool of community volunteers and are looking for any of the following:

- Residents of a skilled nursing facility
- Family members of someone in a skilled nursing facility
- Resident advocates
- Healthcare Professionals not affiliated with a skilled nursing facility and/or related corporation
- Students interested in the field of health care

Volunteers in the Pilot will attend a one-day IDR training to learn the process of participating on the monthly IDR panel. Panelists review confidential materials to prepare for the IDR review meeting, listen to nursing home representative and RCS staff presentations, and make impartial recommendations based on information given during the IDR.

For more information about the Nursing Home IDR Panel Project and to obtain an application, visit our website at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/idr> or contact Beverly McCoy, Volunteer Coordinator, at (360) 725-2482 or Email us at RCSIDR@dshs.wa.gov.

**APPLY NOW to be a Volunteer Consumer
for the Nursing Home IDR Panel**

NURSING HOME (NH) INFORMATION SHEET

VOLUNTEER PANEL MEMBER INFORMATION

I would like to be a volunteer on the Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) panel. How do I apply?

- You will need to write a brief letter explaining why you want to be on the panel.
- You will need to complete an application and list three character references.
- If chosen, you must also complete a criminal background check.

How often will Informal Dispute Resolutions be held?

- A NH Panel Meeting will be held monthly.

If chosen for the volunteer panel, how should I prepare?

- Become familiar with Nursing Home regulations and Interpretive Guidelines.
- Work with the volunteer coordinator to become familiar with Box.com.
- If chosen, Informal Dispute Resolution Unit staff will email the information you need using Box.com.
- This packet will include the Statement of Deficiencies (typically referred to using the form number 2567) and any documents sent to Residential Care Services to support or defend the citation.
- Volunteers must review the documents before coming to the Informal Dispute Resolution meeting.

If chosen as a volunteer for the panel, what are some of the things I will do?

- Listen to provider and Residential Care Service staff presentations.
- Review confidential materials to prepare for the Informal Dispute Resolution meetings.
- Vote on whether to recommend changes to the Statement of Deficiencies.
- Attend Informal Dispute Resolution training.

Can I talk about the Informal Dispute Resolution Meeting with people outside of the meeting?

- No, most of the information you hear and read is confidential. It is inappropriate to discuss details of what you hear during the meeting. This includes talking about how other panel members voted.
- You will be required to sign a “non-disclosure” agreement to be on the panel.
- Please be aware that your identity as a Informal Dispute Resolution panel member will not be confidential and that you could be called to testify in a court hearing.

If chosen as a volunteer for the panel, will my name be private?

- *Residential Care Services will not announce the names of the panel members, however, people present at the panel will know of your participation and if Residential Care Service is asked who was on the panel we will provide that information.*
- *It is also important to understand that, as a panel member, you could be required to testify in future hearings.*

What does it mean to be a volunteer?

- Volunteers are people who perform authorized duties without receiving compensation or other benefits.
- Volunteers are eligible to receive reimbursement for travel expenses.

Is there any more detailed information I can refer to if I have more questions?

- Yes, a “Guidelines” document is located on the Adult Family Home Pilot Project website at:

[Informal Dispute Resolution \(IDR\) | DSHS \(wa.gov\)](#)

- The website includes several documents that will be helpful to provider representatives and consumer representatives who preparing to be volunteer panel member.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on the Nursing Home Informal Dispute Resolution Panel and have any questions or difficulties submitting your application materials, please contact Beverly McCoy, IDR Volunteer Coordinator, at beverly.mccoy@dshs.gov or 360-725-2482.