

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2023

Members Present and via Zoom or Telephonically: Carl Bender, Shirley Bennett, Georgiann Dustin, George Edward, Wendy Gilbert, Alberta Horn, Mary Kanter, Jennifer Lautenbach, Bob Monize, Barb Pesola, Stephen Shubert.

Members Absent: Doug Cornelsen, Jana Finkbonner, Shirley Forslof, Marshall Gartenlaub, Denise Irey, Mike Shaw, Jodi Sipes.

Staff Present: Amanda McDade, Bethany Chamberlin, Jeri Johansen

Guest: None

Call to Order (Barb Pesola) at 1:00 PM

Review of May 9, 2023, Minutes:

Motion put forward by the Board President, Barb Pesola to accept the minutes from the May 9, 2023, meeting. Motion was granted by Bob Monize and seconded by Georgiann Dustin. **Motion Passed.**

Announcements: Stephen Wicks is not well and is currently at the Bridge in Mount Vernon.

Public Comment:

Georgiann brought up some questions regarding WA Cares to be addressed in the WA Cares section of the agenda.

George Edward read an article from the press that mentioned NWRC's role. More information to be discussed in the Executive Director Updates.

Executive Director Updates

Agency Updates – Review

Amanda McDade gave an overview of possible pending litigation with more information to follow as available. The budget is on target. Hiring overview is focused on Behavioral Health. Long Term Care Team Supervisor is starting their first day on Monday, July 17th.

WA Cares

Bethany and Amanda presented an updated WA Cares website for members. NWRC Community Programs staff provide information at community events. WA Cares training will be scheduled for staff with the possibility of WA Cares counseling available to the community through NWRC.

Educational Interest Survey

NWSSB Interest Survey: Group consensus on what topics are most relevant and appealing to members so that presentations/trainings provided will be more meaningful. Members asked to fill out and return to Bethany.

Break

Strategic Planning 2024-2027

Bethany Chamberlain reviewed the Strategic Plan process. The group went through the following items, including time to fill out questions for each – or to complete at home and return to Bethany:

Issue Area #5. Coordination with Tribes

Board members felt that they are somewhat unqualified to answer and that perhaps Jana Finkbonner could shed some light on this subject. Creating trust in building a relationship with Tribes is necessary. Conversation led to Bethany sharing that she has had an invite to Canoe Journey, possibly generating interest while there. The possibility of focus groups among elders was introduced. The Board members would like to invite Katherine Romero to a future meeting.

Issue Area #6. Behavioral Health & Social Isolation

Georgiann relayed that DSHS compiled a report about isolation with some very good information included and worth reading (see SCOA for link). Several ideas were presented about how to reach individuals who might benefit from services. These included the possibility of radio, television and public service announcements. It was mentioned that the Bellingham Library will be adding a social worker to their staff and that Goodwill will be hosting an outreach technology bus, both of which might be avenues for NWRC outreach.

Issue Area #7. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Applies internally (staff) *and* externally (clients). The Governing Board requested that this issue area be added to the Strategic Plan.

We have been informed that Shirley Forslof will be stepping away from NWSSB. Shirley has been an active participant from 2012 until 2023 and served her community well. A card will be circulated and certificate of appreciation sent.

We are recruiting members for NWSSB, if you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a member please contact Bethany for an application.

Bylaws

Sub-committee Review – Page 6-8 will be reviewed at the next meeting. Meetings have been scheduled on the third Thursday of the month if members would like to join in, contact Bethany.

State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)

Georgiann Dustin

The Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) seeks public comment on the 2023-2028 State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias (Draft) can be found at the following:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALTSA/hcs/DAC/Alzheimer%20State%20Plan/WA%20State%20Alzheimer%27s%20Plan%202023%20DRAFT.pdf>

Communities

Orcas: IslandRides has had its grant extended for another two years – providing rides to those who need them.

Lynden: Senior Day in the Park is August 2nd and NWRC will be there.

Snohomish/Island Counties: A group of volunteer pilots are training to fly food and essentials to islands or areas cut off in the event of a crisis or natural disaster.

It has been requested that members receive an updated NWSSB roster and to add future meeting dates to the agenda.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn by Bob Monize and seconded by Georgiann Dustin. **Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM

Jeri Johansen, Administrative Assistant/Reception

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the September 12, 2023, meeting.

Minutes approved by Advisory Board - September 12, 2023