

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023

Members Present and via Zoom or Telephonically: Carl Bender, Shirley Bennett, Georgiann Dustin, George Edward, Marshall Gartenlaub, Mary Kanter, Bob Monize, Stephen Shubert

Members Absent: Doug Cornelson, Jana Finkbonner, Alberta Horn, Jennifer Lautenbach, Mike Shaw, Jodi Sipes

Staff Present: Amanda McDade, Bethany Chamberlin, Jeri Johansen

Guest: James Blaisdell

Call to Order at 1:00 PM

Review of July 11, 2023, Minutes:

Motion put forward by Bob Monize to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2023, meeting. Motion was granted by Georgiann Dustin and seconded by Stephen Shubert. **Motion Passed.**

Announcements: None.

Public Comment: None.

Nomination and Vote for Chair: Nomination postponed until November 14 meeting.

Executive Director Updates

Agency Updates – Review

Last week we had our exit interview with the Washington State Auditors and there were no corrections or deficiencies noted, the audit was clear.

The Budget to Actual Report was provided to Governing Board. Amanda will make a budget matrix available for NWSSB members.

Hospital Care Coordinator positions at Peace Health (Whatcom) and Skagit Valley Hospital (Skagit) have performed well and are now a permanent position.

WA Cares

Everyone should keep checking the website for information. Overview - who can utilize the funds and when if needed. Payout amount per individual can be up to \$37,000.00. NWRC will be getting outreach training to answer questions regarding WA Cares.

Discussion of the caregiver shortfall and the diminishing number of family caregivers in the coming years. The need to promote caregiving as a profession at an educational level. Bethany noted that a group of Western students met with her about starting a gerontology club at Western. Mention was made of NWRC's Caregiver Outreach Program and that the State is now funding seven other positions of this type as the need for caregivers is great.

Break – Board members opted to continue through the break.

NWRC Video

NWSSB members viewed the long version of the promotional video for NWRC. Discussion ensued regarding moving it to a more prominent position on the website. All members seemed pleased with the presentation.

October Virtual Advocacy Day Planning

Senior Citizen Advocacy Day (W4A) will be virtual – information to be confirmed. Bethany took a count of those interested in attending: Shirley Bennett, Georgiann Dustin, George Edward, Marshall Gartenlaub, Mary Kanter, and Stephen Shubert.

Bylaws

Bethany Chamberlin

The last meeting of the Sub-committee review/update of the bylaws went unattended. Members need to attend to complete review/update.

NWSSB members needed to sit in on interviews for applicants for vacant positions. George Edward will attend.

State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)

Georgiann Dustin

SCOA has been on hiatus. Georgiann has reached the term limit and Stephen Shubert will attend beginning next term.

Communities

Bellingham: WCOA was granted more than \$50,000.00 for meals and to update the kitchen at the Senior Center.

Lynden: None.

Mount Vernon: None.

Orcas: Presentation for seniors regarding diabetes and diet. Meal attendance has grown (Mulis). Solar power for food bank through grant.

Snohomish/Island Counties: None.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn by Shirley Bennett and seconded by George Edward **Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

Jeri Johansen, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board meeting in January, 2024.

Minutes approved by Advisory Board – January 9, 2024