



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children’s Commission



Wednesday, April 22, 2022

ZOOM Meeting

4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday March 23, 2022. The meeting convened at 4:35 PM, Whitney Stohr and Vice Chair Courtney Wooten presiding. Quorum met.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Charlotte Zissel	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Becky Megard	✓
Karen O’Meara Pullen	✓	Cathy Butler	✓	Charles Adkins	✓
Nancy Mickels	EX	Mellissa Hiatt	✓	Craig Chambers	✓
Whitney Stohr	✓			ShaKima Tozay	✓
Lindee Tollefsen	EX			Lark Kesterke	✓
Anita Canter	AB			Monica Wilson	✓
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Courtney Wooten	EX				

Mission Statement

Whitney Stohr welcomed all and read the Mission Statement.

Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Equity Statement

- ✚ The Chair reminded and encouraged Commissioners to focus discussion around those children and families furthest from opportunity.

Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2022 meeting

- ✚ **ACTION ITEM.** Karen O’Meara Pullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2022 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Charlotte Zissel seconded the motion. Motion passed with Argelia Grassfield abstaining.

County Update

- + Federal government announced late week a significant change to eligibility for Head Start programs. Families receiving SNAP benefits will now income qualify for Head Start/Early Head Start. This will dramatically increase the number of children and families eligible for these programs.
- + Applications for new appointments (7) and re-appointments (2) to the Children's Commission have been completed and are being submitted to the County Council for approval. Another application for new appointment is in process.

Strategic Plan for Children's Commission

- + Whitney reminded the Commissioners of the work completed during the last meeting and referenced the four (4) domains inclusive of sixteen (16) indicators related to child and family well-being.
- + The Chair reviewed how the brainstorming results were categorized into a document and reviewed the results.
- + Meeting attendees discussed how they might prioritize the items on the brainstorming list. There was discussion about what the next steps might be when the group identifies a priority(s). There was a recommendation to look at not just services but also infrastructure and policy related to the priority area(s).
- + Meeting attendees completed an informative poll to identify top priorities. Top priorities were (1) Access to Health Services, including Mental Health Supports (2) Maternal/Fetal Health – Equity & Access to Resources Before and After Birth. Childcare was not a poll option but members asked that it be considered.
- + Meeting attendees recommended to continue the conversation related to these top priorities.

WE VALUE KIDS award

- + Karen O'Meara Pullen requested that County staff send the Commissioners and guests the draft letter to the Herald that was written last spring/fall but wasn't submitted. The letter recognized the strength, resiliency, and achievements of children, youth, families and community providers during COVID. The Commissioners will review at the May meeting with the hopes of approving a document to be submitted as a letter to editor – Everett Herald.
- + Karen O'Meara Pullen provided a brief overview of the WE VALUE KIDS award that has been given annually during previous years. She invited Commissioners and guests to contact her if they are interested in joining the group working on this activity.

Updates

- + Monica Best-Wilson shared information on the Everett School Districts new Family Resource Center at Hawthorne Elementary School.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ACTION ITEM.** *Charlotte Zissel made a motion to adjourn the Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting. Karen O'Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:32 P.M.

*****The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.*****

DRAFT