



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children’s Commission



Wednesday, September 30, 2020
ZOOM Meeting
4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2020 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday September 30, 2020. The meeting convened at 4:33PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O’Meara Pullen presiding.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Charlotte Zissel	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Wendy Blythe	✓
Karen O’Meara Pullen	✓	Ana Carratala	✓	Whitney Stohr	✓
Nancy Mickels	AB	Nicole McMurray			
Shannon Smith	✓				
Mary Fischer	AB				
Anita Shad	AB				
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Desmond Pullen	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Karen McKeen	✓				
Lindee Tollefsen	EX				
Keith Smith	AB				

Welcome, and Introductions were made around the room.

Zoom Overview

Charlotte Zissel provided a brief overview of the use of Zoom for today’s meeting and provided suggested guidelines for participation by Commissioners and guests.

Land Acknowledgement

Desmond Pullen read the Land Acknowledgement.

Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No public comments

Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2020

- ✚ **ACTION ITEM.** Courtney Wooten made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2020 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

County Updates by Karen Matson

- ✚ Karen Matson provided a brief overview on the work conducted by the Snohomish County's Department Emergency Management (DEM) during the pandemic. Many Human Services Department staff were asked to support the work of the DEM. She explained that most County staff are required to work remotely and find new ways to continue to serve the public and stay safe.
- ✚ Snohomish County received \$41 million dollars in CARES funding which must be used prior to December 30, 2020. The funds are being used to provide services such as rent assistance, basic needs, food, Wi-Fi access, childcare, health and safety supplies and upgrades to County facilities. Funding has also been distributed to non-profit organizations and small businesses. \$5million is being distributed for rent assistance funds through VOA -211. Seven resource centers are providing resource support and flex-funds for basic needs. Six organizations (ChildStrive, ECEAP, Cocoon House, Boys and Girls Club Snohomish County, Dawson Place, and YMCA) received funds to provide services related to prevention of abuse and neglect. Nicole McMurray will distribute the Flex Fund flyers to Commissioners. There are several resource center locations in Darrington, VOA in Arlington and Sultan, Stanwood, Monroe – Take the Next Step, Cocoon House, YWCA and Connect Casino Road (ChildStrive).
- ✚ Workforce Snohomish just received a contract to provide paid work experience for approximately 300 individuals for 90 days starting October 1st – December 30, 2020 utilizing these funds.
- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned that the proposed County legislative agenda for 2021 includes supporting legislative agendas approved by the Developmental Disability Advisory Board, Children's Commission, Aging and Disability Board and Community Services Advisory Council will be adopted.

Commissioner Updates

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel provided a brief overview on the state of childcare in Snohomish County. She explained that some childcare providers have been able to access grants distributed throughout Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, Island County and San-Juan Counties. DCYF announced it is releasing another \$78 million dollars in funding. DCYF is implementing additional financial supports for providers and families.
- ✚ Argelia Grassfield expressed concerns related to moving costs, economic help for stay-at-home parents.
- ✚ Courtney Wooten commented there is a rise on hate crimes, white nationalism, trauma, racial uprising, drug use and older youth are being affected.
- ✚ Karen O'Meara Pullen mentioned she has drafted a letter addressed to Dave Summers and the County Council on behalf of the Snohomish County Children's Commission and asked all to review and provide feedback by October 14, 2020.

Closing Comments / Next Steps

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel asked all to please respond with your feedback to Karen O'Meara Pullen before October 14, 2020.
- ✚ A committee to help Karen O'Meara Pullen with the draft letter was assembled: Courtney Wooten and Whitney Stohr volunteered.
- ✚ Charlotte Zissel asked all committee members to please check their emails frequently. Ana Carratala will send out a test email to all to verify their county emails.

Adjourn

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Courtney Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on October 22, 2020