



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children’s Commission



Wednesday, December 2, 2020
ZOOM Meeting
4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2020 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday December 2, 2020. The meeting convened at 4:34PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O’Meara Pullen presiding. Quorum not met. Quorum met at 5:08PM.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Charlotte Zissel	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Whitney Stohr	✓
Karen O’Meara Pullen	✓	Ana Carratala	✓	Robert Brooks	✓
Nancy Mickels	✓	Nicole McMurray	✓		
Shannon Smith	EX				
Mary Fischer	AB				
Anita Shad	AB				
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Desmond Pullen	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Karen McKeen	AB				
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 guest introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No public comments

Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2020

ACTION ITEM. Nancy Mickels made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2020 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Karen O’Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

County Updates by Karen Matson

- ✚ Karen Matson gave a brief overview on County Updates. Karen Matson reported the letter created by Commission, has now been delivered to the Executive Office and to County Council with all recommendations.
- ✚ Karen Matson shared a link to the Snohomish County Support Snoco Campaign. This link is being shared by the Executive's office with all Boards and Commission to encourage community support of local business during the holiday season.
- ✚ Karen Matson gave an update on the CARES Act funding, Snohomish County, City of Everett and all other counties involved have doing a fantastic job of getting those funds out into the community. Snohomish County had around \$141 Million dollars to disperse since June 2020. A large portion has been already distributed for rent assistance, food, childcare, flex funds, etc. All CARES Act monies must be spent before December 30, 2020. At the present time there no information for additional funding for 2021.
Snohomish County has been working on new strategies from the unused CARES Act funding and trying to shift some monies to priority activities such as rent assistance, shelter and food.
- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned the federal funding for the Early Head Start program will not have cuts for the next 6 months. The hope is the new budget will be funded at its current levels. ECEAP is still at risk for cuts, since it does not rely on federal match dollars.
- ✚ Karen Matson reminded commission, Nate Marti and Kelsey Bang-Olsen will hopefully have time in January 2021 to organize data, reports or charts to help the commission move forward.
- ✚ Whitney Stohr asked Karen Matson about information related to children and vaccinations. Karen Matson explained Snohomish County seems to be prioritizing individuals with developmental disabilities for the vaccination. Karen Matson mentioned Nate Marti might possibly have an article containing this information. If allowed Karen will forward to commission.
- ✚ All county employees will continue to telecommute through July 2021.
- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned there is a grant that is available "No Hungry Kids" food project for early learning programs. Karen stated it is easy to apply and will send link to all.

Commissioner Updates

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel gave a brief overview on the status of childcare. DCYF has released more funding. Providers are now able to apply for a second round of grants through November. Lack of enrollment, due to COVID-19, is still a great concern. Staff are still working remotely on professional development for teachers.
- ✚ Desmond Pullen mentioned he has attended several Suicide Prevention trainings with the Snohomish County Children's Wellness Coalition. Desmond also gave an update on the math program and virtual learning he participates in at Edmonds College. No update from the Community of Colors Coalition.
- ✚ Nancy Mickels gave a brief overview on her childcare business and COVID-19. Nancy Mickels expressed children with IEP are struggling with the online learning and virtual classes.

- ✦ Argelia Grassfield gave a brief overview on the YWCA. The YWCA has remained open for services, strictly following any new health regulations, since COVID-19.
- ✦ They continue to receive CARES funding from City of Everett and Snohomish County for individuals experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Argelia Grassfield mentioned they expect an increase in families moving and becoming homeless, based on reports from the community, as the Eviction Moratorium ends soon. A Landlord Interest list of over 50+ landlords was created by the Landlord Engagement Services to provide information to Navigators, RRH and PSH providers with available units in the community. Currently receiving funding from Snohomish County to bring awareness to landlords about agencies providing TBRA.
- ✦ YWCA continues to operate Homeward House a CORE Collaborative project funded through United Way serving infants and their caregivers affected by the opioid epidemic and involved with child welfare services. Recently, they were awarded \$385,000 from Perigee foundation to expand prevention services for families experiencing challenges related to family home dependency and facing child removal.
- ✦ Argelia Grassfield and Courtney Wooten are working on a project with Homeward House Collaborative. Courtney Wooten would serve as consultant to bring equity education to providers serving for families with children ages 0-8 who are involved or at-risk of their children being placed in state-dependency.
- ✦ Courtney Wooten mentioned Edmonds School District has created a center for homeless kids named "HUB." Center is being used as a warm place for homework, reading, food, closet space and Wi-Fi access. HUB is in a separate building near college and is always accepting donations.
- ✦ Courtney Wooten recently attended a Poverty prevention conference that included information on a 10-year plan to reduce poverty and will share link to all.
- ✦ Courtney Wooten also shared Edmonds Center for the Arts is hosting an event named "We Speak" on Thursday, December 3, 2020. Event fee is a donation of \$5.00 or pay what you can at door. This event is youth oriented and is a reflection on how 2020 has affected them.

Letter to County Council

- ✦ Charlotte Zissel shared the final letter was sent to County Council. Karen Matson will send a copy of the letter to all.

Closing Comments / Next Steps

- ✦ Charlotte Zissel reminded everyone our next Zoom meeting will be Wednesday, January 27, 2021.
- ✦ Argelia Grassfield shared her thoughts on moving forward, possibly gathering feedback from communities and families or creating a community forum.
- ✦ Charlotte Zissel asked all for their comments on a new direction for commission and county standings.
- ✦ Courtney Wooten suggested having a small focus group or one on one with parents.
- ✦ Karen Matson asked the Commission if they would like to invite Nate Marti and Kelsey Bang-Olsen to share data from the past year. Board members agreed.

- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned she has received several applications to join the Commission. The Commission agreed to review and recommend applications at the January 2021 Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting.

Adjourn

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.