



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children's Commission



Wednesday, February 24, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2021 Snohomish County Children's Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday February 24, 2021. The meeting convened at 4:35 PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O'Meara Pullen presiding. Quorum met.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Charlotte Zissel	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Whitney Stohr	✓
Karen O'Meara Pullen	✓	Ana Carratala	✓	Ronda Metcalf	✓
Nancy Mickels	AB	Nicole McMurray	✓	Nate Marti	✓
Shannon Smith	✓			Monica Wilson	✓
Mary Fischer	AB			Becky Megard	✓
Anita Shad	AB			Shirin Fazel-Hashemi	✓
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Desmond Pullen	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Karen McKeen	AB				
Lindee Tollefsen	✓				
Keith Smith	AB				

Charlotte Zissel welcomed all and read the Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement. Charlotte mentioned if anyone is interested in knowing more, please visit <https://native-land.ca>.

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.

Introductions

Commissioners and guest introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No public comments

Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2021

- ACTION ITEM.** Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting as written. Shannon Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Member Vote

Charlotte Zissel mentioned all new member applications are still pending approval. Karen Matson explained that once approved by the County Council, new members will be notified.

- + Charlotte Zissel stated that the Chemical Dependency Mental Health Advisory Board includes a position appointed by the Children's Commission. This position was recently vacated by Jerry Strieck and the Children's Commission needs to appoint a new representative.
- + There was discussion about the position.
- + Jerry Strieck nominated Karen O'Meara Pullen as a knowledgeable candidate for this position, stating that she understands the needs of both Snohomish County Children's Commission and the Chemical Dependency Mental Health Advisory Board.
- + ***ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to nominate Karen O'Meara Pullen to join the Chemical Dependency Board as a new board member. Courtney Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

New Snohomish County Children's Commission Progress Report by Karen O'Meara Pullen

- + Karen O'Meara Pullen gave a brief overview on the history and accomplishments of the Snohomish County Children's Commission Board. A copy will be provided with these minutes.

Review Data from Snohomish County

- + Charlotte Zissel talked about the previous data presentations from the HSD Research Division and her thoughts as to how the data might inform the Commission's work moving forward. Charlotte Zissel and Karen O'Meara Pullen highlighted a few areas:
 - o *It would be helpful to know who is not accessing services – who is being missed – what is the “gap”*
 - o *Research what other communities are doing to address identified gaps*
 - o *What are the mental health needs for families/children, and the available services and access to these services*
 - o *Childcare needs*
 - o *On-line services and reliable internet*
 - o *How do we translate data and information into impactful recommendations to the County Council?*

County Updates by Karen Matson

- + Karen Matson gave update on appointments which are slightly delayed, due to staff changes in the Executive's Office, but are moving quickly to County Council.
- + Karen Matson stated that this year's County budget was fiscally conservative based on revenue projects and the possible impact of COVID on revenue. Local

and State revenue projections are looking better than anticipated, but there are still a lot of unknowns related to COVID emergency and recovery response.

- + COVID-19 funds are still unpredictable. 2020 CARES funds were extended through September 2020 which allowed continuation of some existing contracts but did not allow for new contracts. Snohomish County is anticipating additional COVID related funding. Rental assistance funds will most likely arrive in the community first. New COVID funds may potentially be used for food, childcare, basic need and shelter. County Council has expressed priorities for essential workers, BIPOC families/individuals and low-income households.
- + Karen Matson gave a brief overview of process for Children's Commission to provide recommendations for the County's Advocacy Agenda and noted that the County Council approved the Snohomish County Children's Commission legislative recommendations for 2021. She added that childcare funding for essential workers has been a top priority for the County during the pandemic.
- + Karen Matson gave a brief overview of the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA). This funding is designated for early learning, K-12 school, and colleges to increase educational outcomes. Funds will be around \$1 million a year, which will be divided primarily between programs in the Everett, Mukilteo and Edmonds school districts.

Recommendations for next steps for the Commission

- + Move forward with KIDSCOUNT report for 2021 summer publication (Nate Marti and Kelsey Bang-Olsen will be asked to create a draft for April meeting).
- + Identify gaps for immediate needs related to COVID and identify recommendations, to be shared with the County Council, to address these gaps
 - o *Prior to the next meeting, Commissioners will connect with community members and organizations to identify gaps in services.*
 - o *The March meeting will include a presentation by organizations that received CARES funding for services to children and families; Commissioners will share information from the community re: identified gaps.*

Commissioner Updates

- + Whitney Stohr asked how to share information with other commissions. Karen Matson agreed to send information to Nicole McMurray, and she will then forward to commissioners and guests.
- + Whitney also shared the Family Interagency Coordinating Council (FICC) is hosting a webinar for families that receive early intervention services and are transitioning to developmental preschool. Webinar will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM.
- + Charlotte Zissel mentioned that the Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition is embarking on a new initiative – *HELP ME GROW*. This is a community-wide coordinated effort to connect families with young children for services.
- + Charlotte Zissel provided an update on childcare. Providers continue to experience challenges due to Covid19 that impact their future business.
- + Desmond Pullen commented the Communities of Color Coalition is working hard on supporting older individuals to obtain the vaccine. Desmond also mentioned

that Everett Public Schools is launching a new math program which addresses equity and access.

+ Courtney Wooten mentioned several events happening in March:

- o *C3 is having a Health and Wellness Challenge (5K run, fund raiser) the weekend following this meeting.*
- o *Arts in Action, a FREE student showcase about Student Activism; Friday, March 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM.*
- o *Jabari Dreams of Freedom Film: can be viewed during March 13-14th. Link https://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/departments/DEO/black_lives_matter_distributing_equity/1_month_of_action*
- o *Hate Speech training on March 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM.*

Committee Updates

- + The Executive Committee is looking for two additional members. (*By-laws include that commissioners participate in a committee*)
- + Other Committees are Public Relations, Awards, Policy Recommendations, Membership, and By-laws as needed.
- + Nicole McMurray will send the By-laws to all.

Closing Comments

- + Charlotte Zissel reminded everyone our next Zoom meeting will be Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Adjourn

- + Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.
- + ***ACTION ITEM. Argelia Grassfield made a motion to adjourn the Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

MEETING ADJOURNED

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

*****The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.*****