



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children’s Commission



Wednesday, January 27, 2021
ZOOM Meeting
4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2021 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday January 27, 2021. The meeting convened at 4:34PM, 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	✓	Kendall Appell	✓
Nancy Mickels	✓	Nicole McMurray	✓	Nate Marti	✓
Shannon Smith	✓			Ronda Metcalf	✓
Mary Fischer	AB				
Anita Shad	AB				
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Desmond Pullen	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Karen McKeen	✓				
Lindee Tollefsen	✓				
Keith Smith	AB				

Charlotte Zissel welcomed all and read the Mission Statement.

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 December 2, 2020

- ACTION ITEM.** Courtney Wooten made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Argelia Grassfield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Member Vote

- + Charlotte Zissel and Karen Matson provided a brief overview of the process for reviewing and recommending appointments for new members to the Children's Commission. The role of the Children's Commission is to review applications and make recommendations to the County Executive's office and the County Council. An ECAF (County document) that includes these recommendations is sent to the Executive's office; the Executive's office makes a recommendation to the County Council. The County Council reviews and approves or declines the application.
- + Charlotte Zissel asked all new applicants and re-appointments to give a brief overview on themselves and their interest in joining the Snohomish County Children's Commission. Discussion and feedback were given by several commissioners.
- + **ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to accept the nomination for Ronda Metcalf to join the Snohomish County Children's Commission as a new board member. Karen O'Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.**
- + **ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to accept the nomination for Whitney Stohr to join the Snohomish County Children's Commission as a new board member. Shannon Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.**
- + **ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to accept the re-appointment for Nancy Mickels to re-join the Snohomish County Children's Commission. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Karen Matson explained that once approved, new members and re-appointments will be notified. Nicole and Karen will assist new Commissions to set-up with County emails and complete required trainings. New Commissioners will also receive a SCCC manual.

New KIDS Count Data share by Karen O'Meara Pullen

- + Karen O'Meara Pullen shared data from the KIDS COUNT *Kids, Families and COVID-19*. The report includes data demonstrating the disproportionate impact of COVID infection, illness and hospitalization for communities of color. This full electronic report and additional data can be found at www.aecf.org through The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Below are several recommendations included in the report:
 - o *Put racial and ethnic equity first in response efforts*
 - o *Prioritize the physical and mental health of all children*
 - o *Help families with children achieve financial stability and bolster their well-being*
 - o *Ensure schools are better and more equitably funded and read to meet the needs of students disparately affected by the pandemic*
- + **Quote from the Report** – *The first order of business in 2021 will be to determine how best to navigate the second year of the pandemic. These are painful times, but this nation has the resources to meet the needs of those most affected by the*

ongoing health and economic crisis. Our leaders can respond in ways that enable kids to thrive despite the extraordinary times we were living in.

Snohomish County Data presentation

- ✚ Nate Marti presented “*Data Updates*” which included discussion on the following topics:
 - *Update on local Kids Count Data Book*
 - *Additional Kids Count COVID Impacts on Families*
 - *Additional Support Looking Ahead*
- ✚ Nate Marti gave a brief overview on Economic Well-Being, Education Well-Being, Health Well-Being and Family and Community Well-Being along with additional Snohomish County COVID-19 data. The full report is included with these minutes. Nate highlighted that there is a growing gap between our wages and cost of housing in Snohomish County.
- ✚ Ronda Metcalf questioned why there is no data for the Native American or Asian populations included in Nate’s slides. Nate explained that his data only contained populations that rose to the top with a significant disparity according to the census poll survey. He acknowledged that these populations have also been impacted and will work on including data specific to these populations in next reports and presentations.
- ✚ Karen O’Meara Pullen asked all Commissioners to gather their feedback related to Nate’s presentation and the KIDS COUNT report in order to move forward with a recommendation(s) to the County Council for our community.
- ✚ Charlotte Zissel commented that she would like Commissioners, as a group, to identify a few recommendations and be more specific about actions and strategies.
- ✚ Karen Matson suggested sending recommendations on a quarterly basis to County Council regarding COVID-19 or other major issues in the Community during this time.

County Updates by Karen Matson

- ✚ No additional County updates.

Commissioner Updates

- ✚ Jerry Strieck provided a brief overview on his position with the Chemical Dependency Mental Health Advisory Board which is ending 2021. The Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity related to the use of tax imposed by SCC 4.25.010. (*1/10 of 1% Sales Tax*). Members serve a three-year term and may not serve more than three consecutive terms. Board members are appointed by the County Council on recommendations of the Executive.
- ✚ Karen Matson explained there is now an open position on this board representing the Children’s Commission. Meetings are monthly and in the evenings. If anyone is interested, please contact Charlotte Zissel or Karen Matson.

Closing Comments

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel reminded everyone our next Zoom meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

Adjourn

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.

- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to adjourn the Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting. Courtney Wooten 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, February 24, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.*****