



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
Children’s Commission



Wednesday, October 28, 2020

**ZOOM Meeting**

4:30 – 6:30PM

**CALL TO ORDER:** The 2020 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday October 28, 2020. The meeting convened at 4:33PM, 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	✓		
Nancy Mickels	AB	Nicole McMurray	✓		
Shannon Smith	✓				
Mary Fischer	AB				
Anita Shad	AB				
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Desmond Pullen	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	AB				
Karen McKeen	✓				
Lindee Tollefsen	✓				
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 and Mission Statement**

Desmond Pullen read the Land Acknowledgement.  
Charlotte Zissel read the Mission Statement.

**Introductions**

Commissioners and guest introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No public comments

**Approval of Minutes of September 30, 2020**

- ACTION ITEM.** Courtney Wooten made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 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 stated she has no County updates at this time and is open for questions.
- ✦ Karen McKeen asked if school enrollment is down and are there any Wi-fi programs available? Karen Matson explained that attendance for on-line learning seems to be improving based on data she has seen. Kindergarten enrollment, however, is down by 15-20% from previous years. There are no specific programs to support family access to Wi-fi. Wi-fi access continues to be a concern related to on-line learning.
- ✦ Karen Matson explained that part of the CARES Act funding was distributed to the Boys & Girls Club of Snohomish County and the YMCA to provide additional staffing and technology to support on-line learning for children in their school-age childcare programs.
- ✦ Karen O'Meara Pullen asked for an update on the Nourishing Neighborhoods program? Karen Matson explained that this program will end in December and that staff are distributing information about food resources with the last delivery of boxes. There is an increase in the number of people accessing food banks.
- ✦ There is a lot of concern that the need for rental assistance, food and other basic needs will continue to grow and there is no indication that additional CARES funds will be approved before the end of the year.
- ✦ Karen Matson commented Washington State ranks within the top 5 states in terms of taking care of their families during the COVID pandemic.
- ✦ WIC use is also down, and they are conducting outreach activities to enroll eligible families.
- ✦ Approximately \$5 million dollars has been distributed since July for rental assistance.
- ✦ Karen O'Meara Pullen asked if there was an update on the Housing Hope housing project in Everett? Karen Matson does not have an update on this project.
- ✦ Karen Matson stated that is unlikely that the State will have a Special Session this year. They will be back to their regular schedule in January 2021.

### **Commissioner Updates**

- ✦ Lindee Tollefsen gave a brief overview on her changes during the pandemic. Her role as Public Health Nurse has changed and is now working with LTCA facilities, contact tracing, and supporting Child Care Health Team. She also mentioned Zoom meetings are very difficult for most families with young children.
- ✦ Charlotte Zissel gave a brief overview on Childcare Aware; the program hired an Infant Toddler Mental Health Specialist who has been very busy. Early Learning providers are struggling with low enrollment as families are choosing to stay home. Most parents are struggling being teachers and helping children with homework and housework. DCYF released the second round of monies from the CARES Act to be given to Center and Family childcare providers.
- ✦ Desmond Pullen gave a brief overview on Communities of Color pushing for more voting within Communities of Color. Desmond Pullen also mentioned they are still looking for speakers. Desmond plans to attend the Building Community Resilience 2020 Virtual Conference which will be held on Friday, November 6,

2020 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM; presenters will include Dr. Michael Ungar and Dr. Shawn Ginwright.

- ✚ Jerry Strieck gave a brief overview of his work with the City of Everett Police department during COVID pandemic. Jerry states he has been extremely busy with addressing COVID related issues, providing training to law enforcement staff, and reviewing Housing Hope project in his role as a member of the Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Fund Advisory Board. The City of Everett Police is continuing to implement practices to comply with new mandates that will be effective in 2021. Jerry Strieck mentioned the City of Everett Police department just received grant funding and will start hiring for 2021. Recently City of Everett Police hired a Full-time recruiter to build relationships in the Community and encouraging Communities of Color to apply.

### **Letter to County Council**

- ✚ Karen O'Meara Pullen gave a brief overview on the status of the draft letter addressed to County Council and thanked everyone who gave feedback and suggestions. The group discussed recommended changes and agreed for Karen O'Meara Pullen to make final edits and then send to Karen Matson and Nicole McMurray to submit to the Executive's office.

- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Desmond Pullen made a motion to approve the letter, with the suggested recommendations, to the County Council. Karen McKeen seconded the motion. One Commissioner opposed the motion. Motion passed.***

### **Closing Comments / Next Steps**

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel reminded everyone there is no November meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2020.
- ✚ Karen Matson thanked all for their efforts and for supporting the Snohomish County Children's Commission.

### **Adjourn**

- ✚ Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Desmond Pullen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Strieck seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

***The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.***