



Wednesday, April 28, 2021

**ZOOM Meeting**

4:30 – 6:30PM

**Amended version of minutes approved at the July 28, 2021 meeting.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The 2021 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday April 28, 2021. The meeting convened at 4:34 PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O’Meara Pullen presiding. Quorum met.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Charlotte Zissel	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Kendall Appell	✓
Karen O’Meara Pullen	✓	Nicole McMurray	✓	Becky Megard	✓
Nancy Mickels	✓				
Shannon Smith	✓				
Mary Fischer	LOA				
Anita Shad	AB				
Jerry Strieck	EX				
Desmond Pullen	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Karen McKeen	AB				
Lindee Tollefsen	✓				
Ronda Metcalf	✓				
Whitney Stohr	✓				

Charlotte Zissel noted there was a quorum. She welcomed all and read the Mission Statement. Desmond Pullen read the Land Acknowledgement.

**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 March 31, 2021**

**ACTION ITEM.** *Karen O’Meara-Pullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention (Courtney Wooten).*

### ***County Updates by Karen Matson***

- + Snohomish County is preparing to receive and manage funds that will be distributed through the American Relief Plan. The County and all cities will receive this funding.
- + Correct phone number for DOIT (support for County email): 425.388.3378. Commissioners must change their county email password every 90 days.
- + Fair Start Act for Children passed for Washington State. Commissioners shared updates included in this bill.

### **Recommendation Letter to Executive's Office and County Council**

- + Karen O'Meara-Pullen reviewed the draft letter developed by the Policy Subcommittee after last month's presentation and subsequent discussion.
- + Commissioners read/reviewed the letter.
- + Commissioners and guests met in small groups via Zoom break-out rooms to discuss the letter and agree upon any recommendations for edits and/or additions.

### ***Small Group Work Debrief***

- + Input from small groups:
  - Commissioners requested that drafts be sent a few days in advance of the meeting if there will be a discussion and/or decision making.
  - Use assertive language when stating recommendations – more impactful statements.
  - Use specific language, for example rather than saying “historically underserved” specify who that population is that should be targeted.
  - Emphasize that focusing on increasing employment/training opportunities has a ripple effect in the community and impacts the whole family.
  - Make a connection to sustainable family-wage jobs.
  - Mention benefiting those furthest from opportunity.
  - Emphasize a collaborative approach between the County, and private and non-profit sectors.
  - Perhaps request to present the letter during a Council meeting and/or Law and Justice Committee meeting.
  - Perhaps eliminate some of the information the Council likely already knows.
  - State early in the letter and very clearly what the recommendations are.
  - Perhaps use bullet points to emphasize
  - Add behavioral health/mental health support for children, youth and families
  - Add a piece about recruiting and hiring an equitable workforce
  - Perhaps add a paragraph about the fact that the SCCC has been reviewing data and listening to community providers
  - Make a connection to how these recommendations will positively impact children

- Maybe have 3 recommendations and why they should consider implementing these recommendations as improving outcomes for children – investments in children’s welfare
- Start with the “why” we are doing this – reviewed the data and have the following recommendations for improved child outcomes in our community

**+ ACTION ITEM. Whitney Stohr made a motion to allow Karen O’Meara-Pullen to revise and edit the letter per the recommendations of the Commission and email the next draft to Commissioners by May 7; Commissioners will submit final input to Karen O’Meara-Pullen via email by May 14, 2021; Karen O’Meara-Pullen will submit the final letter to Human Services Department staff for submission to the County Council no later than May 21, 2021, with a request to present the letter in- person (virtual). Nancy Mickels seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

### **We Value Kids and Teacher Appreciation**

- + For many years, the Children’s Commission accepted nominations for children for *We Value Kids* awards.
- + The Commission is not able to implement this project this year due to the pandemic.
- + Suggestion is to send a letter to teachers/school staff stating appreciation for their work and for valuing children. Karen O’Meara Pullen will send a draft letter to Commissioners for review prior to the May meeting. The Commissioners can finalize the letter during the May letter.
- + There was a discussion and agreement that it would be nice to move this forward with nominations from community service providers.
- + Whitney, Courtney and Argelia agreed to take the lead on working with community providers to nominate youth with these awards. Karen Matson and Nicole McMurray will assist. Commissioners can send contact information for community providers to Whitney.
- + Karen O’Meara Pullen will send the information from previous years awards to the rest of the Commissioners.

### **Community Resource Sharing/Closing Comments**

- + Coalition for Communities of Color (C3) is working to assist with vaccinations. Contact Desmond for more information.
- + C3 is also starting a free art therapy project for teens. Contact Courtney for additional information.
- + Contact Whitney if you would like information related to vaccination and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

### **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. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

***\*\*The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.\*\****