

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022

Members Present In-Person: None

Members Present via Zoom or Telephonically: Carl Bender, Shirley Bennett, Jana Finkbonner, Shirley Forslof, Wendy Gilbert, Alberta Horn, Mary Kanter, Kathleen O'Connor, Barb Pesola, Jodi Sipes, Marshall Gartenlaub, George Edward, Georgiann Dustin, Jennifer Lautenbach

Members Absent: Denise Irely, Bob Monize, Doug Cornelsen, Stephen Shubert

Staff Present Zoom or Telephonically: Bethany Chamberlin, Elizabeth Anderson, Ryan Blackwell, Darla Smith, Jeri Johansen

Call to Order (Barb Pesola) at 1:02 PM

Zoom Meeting Reminders

Guests: Mike Tornquist, Informal Dispute Resolution Unit Manager, Residential Care Services (DSHS)

Roll Call

Review of March Minutes:

Motion put forward by the Board President, Barb Pesola to accept the minutes from the May 10, 2022, meeting.

Motion was made to approve the May 10, 2022, meeting minutes by:

Marshall Gartenlaub Seconded: Shirley Forslof Result: Approved

Announcements: Barb Pesola informed the Board of the passing of Anna Ankrum on May 2, 2022.

Elizabeth Anderson introduced Bethany Chamberlin, who will be taking over the Planner position that Elizabeth recently promoted out from.

Public Comment: None

Updates from Our Communities

Blaine, Bellingham, and Orcas Island are hosting congregate meals ranging from one day a week to three days a week, plus five days of take-home meals.

Senior Day in the Park will be on August 3rd at Hovander Park in Ferndale. Shuttle services will be available, with prior scheduling, from many of the Senior Centers.

NWSSB Committees

Breakout Discussions

Agency & Legislative Update

Ryan Blackwell & Elizabeth Anderson

Ryan informed the Board Members that Amanda McDade was currently at the U.S. Aging Conference. Ryan reviewed some of the new NWRC website features, including the ability to join meetings easily, view minutes, as well as upcoming meeting dates. Board members found the website easy to navigate, that it conveys very well who we are and, what we do. A request was made to add information for seniors who do not fit the eligibility criteria for Medicaid. Improvements such as a Program or Resources tree were suggested.

- Agency / COVID

Staff are returning to the office on a hybrid basis working two days in office and three days remotely. Some staff continue to work in-office, only, as required by the nature of their position. Community Programs staff are beginning to make appearances at in-person events. They will be at the Senior Day in the Park and recently staffed the Lummi Elders Luncheon. Home visits are occurring with staff being provided kits containing PPE and other items for the protection of staff and customers. New employees are required to be vaccinated.

- Legislative & Advocacy

The Legislative Priorities Memorandum for the 2023 Session was reviewed with the Board including maintenance level funding to sustain a 75:1 caseload ratio and, expansion of the Hospital Care Transitions program.

State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)

Georgiann Dustin

Currently in the election process. The next meeting will be in September. Georgiann shared a wonderful presentation on how the State Council on Aging came together and will send it to Ryan for possible viewing by NWSSB members. Georgiann has been appointed to DAC (Dementia Advocacy Council).

Informal Dispute Resolution Panel

Mike Tornquist - Informal Dispute Resolution Unit Manager – Residential Care Services (DSHS)

Presentation by Mike Tornquist on Informal Dispute Resolution. This is a voluntary three-person panel responsible for reviewing appeals to citations issued by DSHS to facilities caring for elderly. Information on the panel and how to apply to be a volunteer was included in the NWSSB Advanced Meeting Materials.

Adjourn:


Barb Pesola: Motion put forward that there being no further business this meeting is adjourned.

Motion made by: Marshall Gartenlaub

Seconded: Jodi Sipes


Result: Approved

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

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Jeri Johansen, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the September 13, 2022, meeting.

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Barbara Pesola, NWSSB Chair