

## **Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 14, 2023**

**Members Present and via Zoom or Telephonically:** Shirley Bennett, Doug Cornelsen, George Edward, Jana Finkbonner, Marshall Gartenlaub, Wendy Gilbert, Denise Irely, Mary Kanter, Bob Monize, Barb Pesola, Mike Shaw, Carl Bender, Georgiann Dustin, Jennifer Lautenbach, Stephen Shubert

**Members Absent:** Shirley Forslof, Jodi Sipes, Alberta Horn,

**Staff Present:** Amanda McDade, Bethany Chamberlin, Darla Smith,

**Guest:** None.

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### **Call to Order (Barb Pesola) at 1:00 PM**

#### **Review of January 10th Minutes:**

Motion put forward by the Board President, Barb Pesola to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting. Motion was made to approve the January 10, 2023, meeting minutes by Bob Monzie, and seconded by Georgian Dustin. **Motion Passed.**

#### **Announcements:**

Georgiann Dustin thanked the group for going to lunch prior to today's meeting and voiced appreciation for everyone that was able to attend today's meeting in-person.

Steven Shubert shared that he was impressed with the group's advocacy efforts in Olympia. He would like to prioritize efforts around the lack of physical caregivers and trying to address the needs of seniors who are not currently eligible for case management services because they do not qualify for Medicaid. He believes there is a growing need for services in this group that will just continue to expand.

Jennifer Lautenbach reported that the Ferndale Senior Center Director resigned, if you are interested or know anyone that would be interested in filling this role, please reach out to them.

#### **Executive Director Updates**

Executive Director Updates were tabled until the next meeting.

#### **W4A Advocacy Days**

Bethany Chamberlain provided a brief overview of the NWSSB trip to Olympia on January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. Bethany emailed the legislative staff that the Board members met with, thanked them for their time, and provided them with the Dementia Guide. Board Members agreed that the advocacy efforts were received favorably and overall seem supportive of our efforts to support both Health Homes and Case Management funding.

## **Bylaws**

Some Board members voiced concern about the proposed updates to the bylaws. Some of which included not being aware that there were bylaws, concern about being in compliance with current bylaws, and why the proposed changes to the bylaws are being requested. Amanda McDade expressed the Agency has heard that some of the Board Members have concerns about the Boards role. While the mission and primary focus of the agency has not changed, many of the programs and funding sources have. The current bylaws have not been updated since 1998 and should be updated to reflect the changes at the Agency, State, and Federal level. The goal is to review and update the bylaws which will help provide better guidance for both staff and Board Members. There was discussion about Board Members taking an active role in updating the bylaws and it was proposed a sub-committee be formed to review the bylaws and report back at the next meeting with suggested changes. Jana Finkbonner made a motion to create a sub-committee to review the bylaws and come back to the group with suggestions which was seconded by Bob Monzie. Stephen Shubert and Marshal Gartenlaub opposed. **Motion carried.** Discussion followed. Committee members include Denise Irely, Bob Monzie, Barbara Pesola, Wendy Gilbert, Mary Kanter, Marshal Gartenlaub, and Jana Finkbonner. Bethany Chamberlain will schedule the first meeting. Darla Smith will email the Board Members Chapter 4 – Area Agency on Aging Advisory Councils, NWRC Mission, Values and Anthem.

## **NWSSB Committees**

The Board reviewed the current roster and sub-committees. An updated sub-committee list will be emailed out to Board members. There was discussion around the best time to hold the sub-committee meetings. It was suggested to conduct the sub-committee meetings 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the regular Board meetings.

There was discussion around looking at the challenges of the Older Americans Act and how older adults and people with disabilities qualify for services. It was felt that there is some political momentum that we should try to capitalize on.

There was discussion about how to address socialization issues since the pandemic, especially in rural areas like the ones our Board Members are advocating for. Bethany Chamberlain let the group know she is actively participating in a new state program that is focusing on this issue and can bring information back to the Board at a later date.

## **State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)**

Georgiann Dustin recommended that Board members go to the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby website <https://waseniorlobby.org/> and listen to the monthly updates and sign up for the monthly newsletter. She advocated the need for more dementia education and support at all levels. She informed the group that people on Medicare have Kaiser insurance and have to receive all their medications through the mail. This is not meeting the needs of this demographic. SCOA has written a letter informing Kaiser that this service is not adequate and advocating for change.

## **Updates from Our Communities**

- **Lynden Senior Center** – Is seeing significant growth and continues to grow their programs focusing on providing reliable information, a place to gather, and be involved in activities.
- **Sumas Senior Center** – Is looking for someone to help with the meal programs. They are open on Monday and Wednesday. The center has lost many members who have relocated after the flooding.

- **Everson Senior Center** – Is working with Lynden Senior Center for a way to grow their program, they have a small group and the meal program is not attracting new members.
- **Orcas Senior Center** – Is having meals again on Monday and Wednesday in person.
- **San Juan County Senior Center** – Is having the meal programs on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays but is drive up only.

**Adjourn:**

A motion was made to adjourn by Bob Monzie and seconded by Jana Finkbonner. **Motion passed.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM**

Darla Smith, Administrative Manager

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the May 9, 2023, meeting.

DocuSigned by:

*Barbara Pesola*

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Barbara Pesola, NWSSB Chair