

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

**March 8, 2022**

**Members Present In-Person:** None

**Members Present via Zoom or Telephonically:** Carl Bender, Georgiann Dustin, Jana Finkbonner, Shirley Forslof, Wendy Gilbert, Alberta Horn, Mary Kanter, Kathleen O'Connor, Barb Pesola, George Edward, Jennifer Lautenbach, Shirley Bennett, Denise Irely, Marshall Gartenlaub, Stephen Shubert, Anna Ankrum, Tasker Robinette

**Members Absent:** Doug Cornelsen, Bob Monize, Jodi Sipes

**Staff Present Zoom or Telephonically:** Amanda McDade, Elizabeth Anderson, Kate Massey, Kelsey Wood, Darla Smith,

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

Zoom Meeting Reminders

Guests: None

Roll Call

### **Review of January Minutes:**

Motion put forward by the Board President, Barb Pesola to accept the minutes from the January 11, 2022, meeting. Request was made under "Updates From our Communities" to change "Island County" to "San Juan County" to thank them for their programming.

Motion was made to approve the January 11, 2022, meeting minutes with noted changes by: Shirley Forslof   Seconded: Georgiann Dustin   Result: Approved

**Announcements:** None

**Public Comment:** None

### **Presentation: Dementia Support Program**

Kate Massey & Kelsey Wood, NWRC Program Specialists provided an overview of the Dementia Support Program at NWRC. The presentation included an overview of possible signs of Dementia, disease process, prevalence, and financial impact. In 2021 the Building Dementia Capable Communities Program was designed with the goals to support people, families, and caregivers impacted by Dementia, promote efforts to build Dementia friendly communities and help people with Dementia stay at home.

The Dementia Support Program at NWRC provides Dementia education and resources to the community, supports people with Dementia and their caregivers obtain legal advice and advance care planning, increases availability of STAR-C service, offers culturally tailored Dementia education and support, and increases opportunities for people in early dementia and their caregivers to engage in the community. Additional resources include: [Dementia Road Map](#), [Dementia Legal Planning Toolkit](#)

Board Members can help by referring people to NWRC Aging and Disability Services, sharing resource materials, identifying local champions (people who will help spread the word), promote Dementia events, advocate for funding, and by becoming a "[Dementia Friend](#)".

Discussion included: Services are not income driven. If someone would like to organize training for their community reach out to NWRC. People do not need a case worker to receive information or resources that NWRC has available. The Board felt that NWRC is not widely known out in the community. Board members can help spread the word in their communities and with local healthcare providers.

### **Break for 10 minutes**

1:05 – 1:50

### **Agency Update**

Amanda McDade

- NWSSB  
At the January meeting the Board discussed how to be more involved, primary interests, and potentially beneficial committees. It was suggested the Board may want to split into sub-committees to do more focused work. There were 3 sub-committees suggested:
  - Advocacy (Barbara Pesola, Denise Irely expressed interest)
  - Community engagement (Jennifer Lautenbach, George Edward, Marshall Gartenlaub expressed interest)
  - New programs/Contracts/Funding (Carl Bender, Wendy Gilbert, Stephenshubert, Jana Finkbonner expressed interest)

There was discussion about the expectations and that the sub-committees would develop their own goals. Sub-committees would meet during the second half of the NWSSB Board meetings. There was interest in being able to switch between sub-committees. The sub-committees will need a secretary to take minutes. A request was made to put current action items on the agendas. Sub-committees will be launched at the next Board meeting.

- Staffing  
NWRC has experienced some turnover and has noted that it is currently an employee's market. We have just filled 5 vacancies and have a Board meeting later in the week to discuss potential changes to the Care Director position. NWRC is looking at ways to attract and retain nurses who want to work for the Jail Health Program.
- COVID -  
All 4 counties are now considered low risk. While most employees are currently working from home, we are planning for a future hybrid work environment.
- Legislative & Advocacy

It appears that the Case Management Act will provide some additional funding. The Hospital Transitions program will have funding approved however we are unsure of the amount. The personal needs allowance has been raised significantly, which should allow more people to get the care they need (Washington State was one of the lowest states for the PNI). The budget should be finalized March 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **May meeting**  
There was discussion about the format of the next NWSSB meeting. It was determined a SurveyMonkey will be sent out to determine Board Member preference for in person, Zoom or hybrid meeting.

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

Georgiann Dustin stated last month there was a recorded COVID panel discussion. She will send the YouTube link to Elizabeth Anderson to share with the group and highly recommends watching the discussion as it was very informative. The next panel discussion will be on fraud. The SCOA Board will be sending the NWSSB Board a letter in May on the Long-Term Care Act.

### **Updates From Our Communities:**

The [IslandRides](#) program is going well. The grant funded program just upgraded two electric cars and has many of volunteers.

[Lynden Hop](#) is now available and providing transportation options for those in the Lynden area.

### **Adjourn:**

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

Motion made by: Shirley Forslof    Seconded: Carl Bender    Result: Approved

### **The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm**

DocuSigned by:

*Darla Smith*

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Darla Smith, Office Supervisor

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the March 8, 2022, meeting.

DocuSigned by:

*Barbara Pesola*

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Barbara Pesola, NWSSB Chair