

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2024

Members Present In-person, via Zoom or Telephonically: Carl Bender, Shirley Bennett, Georgiann Dustin, George Edward, Marshall Gartenlaub, Mary Kanter, Jennifer Lautenbach, Mike Shaw, Stephen Shubert, Holly Robinson, Lucretia Devine

Members Absent: Jana Finkbonner, Jodi Sipes

Staff Present: Amanda McDade, Bethany Chamberlin, Darla Smith, Jeri Johansen.

Guest: None

Call to Order at 1:03 PM

Review of the May 14, 2024, Minutes:

Motion put forward by Georgiann Dustin to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2024, meeting. Motion was granted by George Edward and seconded by Marshall Gartenlaub. **Motion Passed.**

Announcements: Georgiann has Dementia Tool Kits and Road Maps for anyone who would like one. Mary Kanter, Mike Shaw, and Jennifer Lautenbach will be sent one of each. Lucretia Devine has joined NWSSB. Welcome Lucretia!

Public Comment: None.

NWSSB Meeting Schedule: Discussion as to frequency and rules for in-person meetings. NWSSB meets every other month currently. It was decided that there would be two mandatory meetings per year – one in September and one in May. The September meeting would be hybrid and the meeting in May of 2025 in-person. Members would meet for lunch prior to the in-person meeting. Motion put forward by Georgiann Dustin to approve. Motion was granted by Marshall Gartenlaub and seconded by Mike Shaw. **Motion Passed.**

Request to attach meeting dates to every meeting agenda.

Committee Discussion: Information

For Committees – Each lead should set up meeting dates and notify members. If the meeting cannot be held in person, NWRC staff will help in setting up Zoom meetings for you.

- Social Isolation
Committee Members: Marshall Gartenlaub, Jen Lautenbach, Mike Shaw, Mary Kanter
Presentation of focus for group. How to reach out and locate seniors who are suffering from social isolation. Some possible avenues would be church groups/ministries, emergency responders, and meal

deliveries. A potential new board member in Skagit works with emergency responders and is very interested in the focus of this committee. NWRC is sent referrals frequently from police, fire and EMS.

- **Save our 'selves'**

Survey for San Juan Island-Domestic Services

Committee Members: Stephen Shubert, Carl Bender, Lucretia Devine, Mary Kanter

The focus of this group is to obtain funding -fundraiser- for use in hiring caregivers for those who cannot afford to pay privately on San Juan, and possibly other islands. The goal is to keep elders from having to leave their island homes before it is truly necessary. Reference Survey Questions – Demand for In-Home Domestic Services in meeting packet. Discussion of a needs assessment survey divided into medical needs or domestic needs. NWRC has Survey Monkey account and could help in creating a survey for use in gathering information. Bethany has offered to assist with survey. Lucretia to possibly set up meeting with Orcas and other islands to determine interest and needs. It would be helpful to put a face to the problem, getting the story of how this issue impacted an individual due to lack of caregiver help. Request to invite Kate White Tudor to meeting. Bethany and Stephen to meet via phone regarding survey.

- **Advocacy**

Committee Members

Mention that Ryan Blackwell will gather information for this committee.

Contact Bethany Chamberlin or Georgiann Dustin to sign up for a committee.

NWSSB Meeting Schedule: Information

Break: 2:05-2:15

NWWRC Outreach and Information – all share

Georgiann invited anyone who could attend to Senior Day in the Park on August 7th.

Ryan was able to meet with Circle of Care in Point Roberts. Holly will reach out to Circle of Care for follow-up meeting, possibly with Amanda in attendance.

Possibility of meeting with church groups for presentations on what NWRC does and talk about Social Isolation.

Carl to check with Lopez Senior Center for opportunities for outreach.

Bethany to reach out to Interfaith Coalition and Aging Well Whatcom.

Discussion ensued as to other groups for outreach.

Executive Director Updates: Information

- Agency Updates – NWRC staffing adjustments with addition of three positions.
- Review Governing Board Meeting held in Skagit with a strong turnout. Mid-year budget was on-point with conversation surrounding 2025. Covid dollars being spent by September of 2024.
- US Aging Population Reports – 13 agencies, including Kate White Tudor, with discussion focused on nutrition and caregiving. The urgent need for more caregivers a main concern.

- Legislative Priorities are nutrition and the need for caregivers. Board members requesting statistics from the US Aging Population Report for use in Olympia.

WA Cares Update Initiative 2124

Overview of WA Cares – LTC Trust Act. Initiative 2124, if passed will change WA Cares, making it not mandatory. Refer to information on WA Cares and I2124 in meeting packet. Discussion of cost and benefit compared to individually paid LTC insurance. The ease of access for persons who have paid into WA Cares compared to Medicaid requirements.

State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)

Need for Georgiann to be voted back in to SCOA by board members.

Motion put forward by Shirley to re-elect Georgiann to SCOA. Vote taken. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Communities: Information

Whatcom County: Senior Day in the Park at Hovander Park in Ferndale. August 7th.
Bethany was excited to announce that Dementia Support NW with a grant of \$240,000. Is to open a short term respite center in Bellis-Fair Mall. The space will act as a community hub which would include a social area, support groups, and short term respite. The center would serve early-stage individuals with mild cognitive impairment. NWRC will be available for support and outreach. There is hope that this would be a feeder program with outreach to other areas of Whatcom County.
Mention of ADR staff and outreach in Camano Island. Jenn Lautenbach inquired About the possibility of same, with Holly Robinson working on scheduling outreach for Point Roberts. Possibly during a Food Bank gathering. Discussion ensued over logistics.

Lynden:

Mount Vernon:

Orcas:

Snohomish/Island Counties:

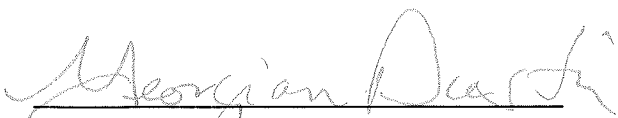
Adjourn: Motion

A motion was made to adjourn by Georgiann Dustin and seconded by Carl Bender. **Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM

Jeri Johansen, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the September 10, 2024, meeting.



Georgiann Dustin, NWSSB Chair/Carl Bender, NWSSB, Vice-Chair

