

Northwest Senior Services Board
May 13, 2025
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Hybrid Meeting

In-Person
Mount Vernon NWRC Office
301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 100
Mount Vernon, WA
(360) 676-6749

[Join Teams Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 252 321 420 963 3
Passcode: hU9Qp39T

AGENDA

Agenda Topic	Action Required	Time
1. Call to Order Chair- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of guests• Roll call• Review of March minutes• Announcements• Public Comment	Motion	1:00 pm – 1:10 pm
2. Committee Updates	Information	1:10 pm – 1:30 pm
3. Lighthouse Mission Tour -volunteer opportunities Presented by Amanda McDade	Information	1:30 pm – 1:50 pm
4. Break		1:50 pm – 2pm
5. NWRC Overview and Medicaid Data Presented by Amanda McDade	Information	2 pm – 2:30 pm
6. Legislative Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- State and Federal Landscape- Advocacy Efforts Presented by Amanda McDade and Bethany Chamberlin	Discussion	2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
7. Updates from our Communities	Information	3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
8. Adjourn	Motion	

****Upcoming 2025 Meetings:**

- **May 13, 2025**
- **July 8, 2025**
- **September 9, 2025**
- **November 18, 2025**

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a meeting should contact NWRC at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

For more information, please contact the NWRC office at (360) 676-6749
600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025

Members Present In-person, via Zoom, or Telephonically:

Mary Kanter, Stephen Shubert, Gail Leschine-Seitz, Mike Shaw, Morgan Hendricks, George Edward, Jana Finkbonner, Jennifer Lautenbach

Members Absent:

Shirley Bennett, Carl Bender, Lucretia Devine, Holly Robinson, Jodi Sipes, Georgiann Dustin, Marshall Gartenlaub

Staff Present:

Amanda McDade, Bethany Chamberlin, Darla Smith, Katie Durbec

Guest:

Cheryn Weiser, Island Senior Resources
Kayleasha Davis, Nooksack Tribe

Quorum at 1:15 PM

Review of the January 14, 2025, Minutes: Motion made by George Edward to accept the minutes from the January 14, 2025, meeting and seconded by Mike Shaw. **Motion Passed.**

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None.

Dementia Program Update

Bethany Chamberlin informed the Board that the Dementia Support Team has been working on a special project to help people maintain their brain health. The Maintain your Brain video was shared with the group https://youtu.be/33hTHu_tUME

Caregiver Outreach Update

Bethany Chamberlin asked the Board if there was additional interest for the Caregiver Outreach training that was provided by Melody Woodrich at the last meeting. Stephen Shubert expressed interest on the behalf of the Mullis Center. There was discussion about having an online version of the training available so that more people could attend. The Board requested a short program description and online training be made available.

Transition to Teams

Darla Smith spoke to the group about a change regarding the agency Zoom account no longer providing live captions. Teams has this option available, and the agency is thinking about transitioning Board meetings over to Teams. Stephen voiced some concern about Teams working with Apple products. Darla will work with the IT

Team to see if there are any known problems and how to resolve them. No other Board members voiced concern about transitioning to Teams.

Legislative Updates

Amanda McDade spoke with the Board about the potential upcoming funding changes. The State of Washington is planning to cut funding to every department. It is believed that the State budget will be presented the week of the 17th and until it is we do not know how the agency or the clients receiving services will be impacted. It is believed that Title 19 (Long-term care case management) will remain intact. We have heard that Health Homes is under discussion but do not know what this means. Health Homes is an important program that focuses on clients that need greater care coordination and has shown to be successful in reducing overall costs and improved health outcomes. Tribal communities are concerned about impacts that the Federal Administration is proposing which may limit access to programs and funding. Kate White Tudor, our legislative advocate, believes the advocacy for Nutrition dollars went very well but acknowledged that this is a very difficult time for the state's budget writers. There was discussion about the importance of needing to feed people and trying to keep the program as whole as possible. This may require private fundraising. There was a question about what NWRC's response will be given that cuts are anticipated. Amanda McDade informed the group that the funding that is given to NWRC for Nutrition is turned around and given back directly to our nutrition partners that provide those services in each community. We have strongly advocated for increased nutrition program funding. There was a discussion about local townhalls in each community and the importance of attending them.

Community Conversations

Bethany Chamberlin led a discussion around community concerns with the unknown budget cuts and how the communities are responding to the potential changes. While some of the Board members agreed it is difficult to understand the impact there was also discussion about communities trying to prepare. The Mullis Center is very active in the community and trying to shore up support. Island Senior Resources is holding leadership sessions trying to imagine everything from worse case scenarios to 'everything stays the same' to develop appropriate plans. Mike Shaw, who is on the Board of the CHC of Snohomish County, stated they are working with local churches and a pool of volunteers to better understand what the needs are at the senior centers, they are also looking at expanding services north. Jana Finkbonner expressed that their funding comes from the Department of Education, and while their funding is guaranteed, the whole Department of Ed may get cut so they are waiting to better understand if they may be restructured under a different department. In addition, she mentioned that many of the tribes have funding that comes from the casinos. With the upcoming expected recession, the tribes are expecting decreased revenue from the casinos.

State Council on Aging Update (SCOA)

None

Updates from our Committees: Information

- Save our 'selves'
Committee Members: Stephen Shubert, Carl Bender, Lucretia Devine, Mary Kanter
The focus of this group is to obtain funding for caregivers for Island seniors who cannot afford to pay privately on San Juan, and possibly other islands.
No updates.

- Social Isolation
Committee Members: Marshall Gartenlaub, Jen Lautenbach, Mike Shaw, Mary Kanter, Jodi Sipes
The focus of this group is to discuss how to reach out and locate seniors who are suffering from Social Isolation.
No updates.
- Advocacy
No updates.

Updates from our Communities:

San Juan County: Stephen Shubert reported that they are implementing an Aging in Place program that will start late summer to early fall and will be 6 sessions. If the program is successful, they would like to expand the program across the region. Stephen Shubert expressed that he believes that online programs for seniors are the way to go. You can reach more people, charge less, and get them involved. There is a national organization that holds zoom meetings, with a variety of topics, for seniors that are free. The Mullis Center joined village to village. Illness has delayed implementation. They have 2 areas of interest to start with including home maintenance and yard care. They have a home health agency and have been approached about starting a home health case management program for the VA. This may be an avenue to explore. The nutrition program on the island is strong and there is a deep desire to keep the program going. Stephen is looking into a GoFundMe as a way to raise money for the program.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by George Edwards and seconded by Stephen Shubert. **Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Darla Smith, Administrative Manager.

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the May 13, 2025, meeting.

Georgiann Dustin, NWSSB, Chair