

Northwest Senior Services Board
September 9, 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: 211 344 200 053 4
Passcode: Nv9GA9t5

AGENDA

Agenda Topic	Action Required	Time
1. Call to Order Chair- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of guests• Roll call• Review of July minutes• Announcements• Public Comment	Motion	1:00 pm – 1:05 pm
2. Introduction of New Board Member Laura Castro-Benzing	Information	1:05 pm – 1:30 pm
3. Committee Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Isolation Committee Members Jen Lautenbach, Mike Shaw, Mary Kanter• Save our ‘selves’ Committee Members Stephen Shubert, Carl Bender, Lucretia Devine, Mary Kanter• Advocacy Committee Members All	Information	1:30 pm – 2:00 pm
4. Break		2:00 pm – 2:10 pm
5. Board Memberships Renewals Members interested in renewing for a 3-year term	Information	2:10 pm – 2:30 pm
6. Executive Director Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency Updates	Information	2:30 pm – 2:45 pm
7. Intervention for Isolation & Loneliness Project	Information	2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

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| 8. State Council on Aging Update (SCOA) | Information | 3:00 pm – 3:10 pm |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Lobby Fall Conference- save the date | | |
| 9. Updates from our Communities | Information | 3:10 pm – 3:30 pm |
| 10. Adjourn | Motion | |

****The next meeting of the NWSSB will be held on 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.

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

Northwest Senior Services Board Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2025

Members Present In-person, via Zoom, or Telephonically: George Edward, Lucretia Devine, Jennifer Lautenbach, Mary Kanter, Mike Shaw, Morgan Hendricks, Gail Leschine-Seitz, Georgiann Dustin, Carl Bender, Stephen Shubert, Jana Finkbonner, Shirley Bennet, test

Members Absent:

Jodi Sipes, Marshall Gautenlaub

Staff Present:

Amanda McDade, Darla Smith, Katie Durbec, Ellen Johnson

Guest: Maryann Bender

Quorum at 1:07 PM

Review of the May 13, 2025, Minutes: Motion made by Jen Lautenbach to accept the minutes from the May 13, 2025 meeting and seconded by Morgan Hendricks. **Motion Passed.**

Announcements:

Georgiann shared an announcement about Senior Day in the Park in Ferndale on August 6th. NWRC will be present along with some of our elected officials.

Public Comment: None.

Committee Updates

The Mullis Senior Center has joined Village to Village. A questionnaire was sent to the Mullis Center to see if there is any interest in home maintenance repair, food assistance, etc. This subcommittee includes Gail, Lucretia, Stephen, and several other community members. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7/24 to review survey questions. The program will not start unless enough money can be raised to pay staff.

The Mullis Center is moving ahead with “Dorot” which is an online senior program that supports with health, exercise, and combatting social isolation. There is a “Living Along” program coming in the fall from Dorotusa.org. Seniors are not yet accessing the programs through Dorot but lists of available medical and home care providers are available.

An idea was proposed for the Senior Center board to visit a future NWSSB meeting and speak to what NWRC can do for local seniors.

Board Member Demographic Survey

The Older American's Act dictates the composition of the advisory council including a requirement for 50% of its members to be older adults above the age of 60.

The board was surveyed to determine if the required demographic groups are covered within the NWSSB members and it was verified that this requirement is being met.

Additionally, we found we are meeting all other requirements including:

- Representatives of older individuals
- Family caregivers
- Representatives of health care provider organizations
- Representatives of service providers
- Persons with leadership experience in the private and voluntary sectors
- Local elected officials
- The general public
- Representatives from the Indian Tribes, Pueblos, or Tribal aging programs
- Older relative caregivers, including kin and grandparent caregivers of children or adults age 18 to 59 with a disability

TSOA Program Updates

Ellen Johnson gave a presentation on NWRC's TSOA (Tailored Supports for Older Adults) program and educated the board on how members of our community can get in touch with our ADR team for outreach. Ellen covered an overview of services, eligibility, and goals of the program.

Executive Director Updates

NWRC Executive Director Amanda McDade provided:

- An overview of the July 17th governing board meeting including the budget and the county contributions that were passed. Reviewed the increase to the agency mid-year budget due to the transportation program and additional waiver money coming for Health Related Social Needs.
- WA Cares Updates – Now that NWRC has our contract for WA Cares, an overview was provided of the program, how eligible individuals will access the services, and how the funding works. Eligible, vested individuals will be able to access the program in 2026 and can use the benefit for multiple services over time or all at once. It was shared that not all tribes are participating in WA Cares and there may be some further conversations about opting in later.
- Legislative Updates - There was some discussion around the cuts to NWRC's dementia program. Further discussion on the federal bill that has passed, it's been confirmed that work requirements are coming for some Medicaid recipients and reduction in funding for the state overall. What is uncertain is how Washington State will handle the cuts, keeping in mind that 70% of NWRC's budget is Medicaid. There are still some uncertainties about the work requirement exemptions and how those will be determined. Adult expansion is what was largely targeted under the bill and there will likely be a large administrative burden on those who need to re-verify their eligibility. Refugee and asylum seeker populations will lose Medicaid coverage which we anticipate will overwhelm emergency rooms. In Fiscal Year 2026, there will be a program providing \$50 billion to states for rural health care providers. SNAP is going to face large cuts. NWRC is focusing on how to sit with clients and talk with them about the changes and fears. There is a lot of upcoming advocacy work ahead of us.

US Aging Campaign

Amanda McDade shared the new campaign from US Aging encouraging local community organizations to raise awareness of AAA's like NWRC and encouraged board members to keep these tools in mind when interacting within their communities.

Updates from our Communities:

George Edward shared that he enjoyed visiting NWRC's Ski to Sea booth. Mary Kanter asked if there is any opportunity for NWRC to partner with the Snohomish County AAA for Camano clients, and Amanda McDade asked if they are seeing any gaps in services in Snohomish. The Snohomish AAA functions differently than NWRC and operates under the county itself. There was discussion around eligibility based on income.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by George Edward and seconded by Jennifer Lautenbach. **Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM

Katie Durbec, Agency Administrator

Reviewed and approved by the Northwest Senior Services Board at the September 9, 2025, meeting.

Georgiann Dustin, NWSSB, Chair

Wednesday, October 15th, from 10am – 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4703318574?omn=81493147012>



**SAVE
the
DATE**

 **VIRTUAL Statewide Advocates Meeting**
*in association with the Washington State Council on Aging and the
Washington Senior Lobby's annual Fall Conference*

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 · 10 AM - 2 PM · via ZOOM
We hope to see you there!