



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children's Commission



Wednesday, May 25, 2022

ZOOM Meeting

4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The Snohomish County Children's Commission Meeting was held via ZOOM on Wednesday March 23, 2022. The meeting convened at 4:35 PM, Whitney Stohr and Vice Chair Courtney Wooten presiding. Quorum met.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Charlotte Zissel	EX	Karen Matson	✓	Anthony Fletcher	✓
Karen O'Meara Pullen	✓	Cathy Butler	✓	Kelsey Kraupa	✓
Nancy Mickels	EX	Mellissa Hiatt	✓		
Whitney Stohr	✓				
Lindee Tollefsen	✓				
Anita Canter	AB				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Courtney Wooten	EX				
Becky Megard	✓				
Charles Adkins	✓				
ShaKima Tozay	✓				
Lark Kesterke	✓				
Monica Wilson	✓				
Ashvi Shah	✓				

Mission Statement

Whitney Stohr welcomed all and read the Mission Statement.

Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- ✚ Karen O'Meara Pullen shared a Langston Hughes poem from 1938, 'Kid's Who Die', in reflection of yesterday's events in Texas and children in crisis.
- ✚ Whitney Stohr shared a Zoom link documentary film premier at the UW Haring Center for Inclusive Education.

Equity Reflection

- ✚ Children's Commission Executive Committee agreed to review and reflect on the concepts shared during the January 2022 meeting by Snohomish County Human Services Department Planning and Research Division Manager, Nate Marti.
- ✚ The Chair reminded and encouraged Commissioners to focus discussion around and be mindful of those children and families furthest from opportunity.

Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2022 meeting

Snohomish County Children's Commission – Minutes of April 27, 2022 Meeting

- ✚ **ACTION ITEM.** *Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2022 Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting as written. Argelia Grassfield seconded the motion. Motion passed with Lindee Tollefsen abstaining.*

County Update

- ✚ Applications for new appointments (7) and re-appointments (2) to the Children's Commission were approved by County Council. Another application for new appointment is in process.
- ✚ Staff reminded new Commissioners to access their County email account as this is the email you are required to use for Children's Commission business.

Executive Committee Membership

- ✚ Our bylaws state that Executive Committee with consist of the current chair and vice-chair, past chair, and two other Commissioners.
- ✚ Currently the Executive Committee consists of the chair, vice-chair (on-leave), previous chair, and Argelia Grassfield.
- ✚ As the by-laws does not provide guidance on the temporary appointment of a vice-chair in Courtney's absence,
 - ❖ Kima Tozay made a motion to appoint a temporary vice-chair, Karen O'Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint a temporary vice-chair.
 - ❖ Nominations for the temporary appointment of vice-chair: Charles Adkins
 - ❖ Lark Kesterke made a motion to appoint a temporary vice-chair, Karen O'Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Charles Adkins as a temporary vice-chair. Charles Adkins abstained.
- ✚ There is one additional position open on the Executive Committee.
 - ❖ Nominations for the position: Karen O'Meara Pullen
 - ❖ Lindee Tollefsen made a motion to appoint a temporary vice-chair, Argelia Grassfield seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Karen O'Meara Pullen to fill the vacant position on the Executive Committee.

WE VALUE KIDS award and Letter of Recognition

- ✚ Karen O'Meara Pullen provided an overview and history of the We Value Kids awards: kindness, courage, and leadership. For the last couple of years, these awards have not been distributed due to COVID. Karen recommended that perhaps this be delayed for another year – allowing time to clarify the purpose, process and appropriate vehicle for recognizing these efforts.
- ✚ Commissioners discussed Karen's recommendation.
- ✚ Whitney recommended that the group discuss the other agenda items and that perhaps this discussion will provide a broader, longer-term approach to their work, including this topic.

Kids Count Report

- ✚ County staff provided an overview plan for this year's Kids Count Report. County staff recommended staying with a format similar to last year's report and to utilize

the first page to outline the focus (equitable solutions) and vision for the near future of the Children's Commission.

Group Discussion

- + Whitney reviewed the discussion from the last meeting and the priority focus areas that emerged.
- + Commissioners discussed which areas are the top priorities, including which areas they can potentially impact the most, areas that no one is really focusing on, and areas where they have interest/passion.
- + The Commissioners agreed to continue this discussion during the June meeting with goal to finalize their areas of focus.

Member Share-Out

- + There was not enough time remaining in the meeting to

ADJOURNMENT:

- + ***ACTION ITEM. Lindee Tollefsen made a motion to adjourn the Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting. Kima Tozay seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

*****The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.*****