



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Snohomish County Children’s Commission



February 27th, 2019
Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting
4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2019 Snohomish County Children’s Commission Meeting was held at The Everett Public Schools Resource Center, Everett, Washington on Wednesday February 27th, 2019. The meeting convened at 4:35PM, Desmond Pullen presiding.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Desmond Pullen	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Lindee Tollefsen	✓
Karen O’Meara Pullen	✓	Ana Carratala	✓	Keith Smith	✓
Nancy Mickels	✓				
Shannon Smith	EX				
Kristen Anderson	✓				
Mary Fischer	✓				
Anita Shad	X				
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Charlotte Zissel	EX				
Courtney Wooten	EX				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				

Welcome to All

Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes of December 5th, 2018

- ✚ **ACTION ITEM.** *Jerry Strieck made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th, 2018 Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as written. Kristen Anderson seconded the motion. Mary Fischer and Kristen Anderson made an abstention and Motion passed.*
- ✚ Desmond Pullen mentioned the January 30th meeting did not have a quorum, so only notes were taken and distributed.
- ✚ Argelia Grassfield commented the January meeting was great and looking forward to today’s meeting.
- ✚ Karen O’Meara Pullen spoke about her visit to the Diversity Council in Monroe for a “Diversity Inclusion Equity 101 training” meeting was difficult but interesting.
- ✚ Desmond Pullen commented on his visit back home, a private school with two classes 280 kids had an event in his honor and as a gift they named a rooster after him “Master Desmond”

Old Business

- ✚ Desmond Pullen mentioned Keith Smith and Giovanna Schachere (*Not in attendance*) have shown interested in joining commission members. Desmond Pullen handed there Biography to all for review. Keith Smith was asked to step out of the room for nominations and voting.

- ✚ Desmond Pullen gave a brief overview of Keith Smith which is District 3. His experiences and knowledge are with Health and Human Services, and Law and Justice. Giovanne Schachere which is District 0. His experience and knowledge are with Health, Law and Justice, State Department of Social Services and concerned citizen.
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to accept the nomination for Keith Smith into the Snohomish County Children's Commission. Jerry Strieck seconded the motion. Six votes were accepted. Motion passed.***
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to accept the nomination for Giovanne Schachere into the Snohomish County Children's Commission. Kristen Anderson seconded the motion. Seven votes were accepted. Motion passed.***
- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned all nominations will be sent to the Snohomish County Council for approval.
- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned there is a training for Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019. Karen will send out an email with all the details.
- ✚ Desmond Pullen mentioned Anita Shad has relocated and her former District 5 is now District 2, voting will take place at today's meeting.
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Desmond Pullen made a motion to move Anita Shad from District 5 to District 2. Kristen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.***
- ✚ Karen Matson asked all Commissioners to please inform Snohomish County if move in order to update file.
- ✚ Karen Matson spoke about the Bylaws, both the Commission and Mary Jane Brell Vujovic reviewed all changes and was returned to the Commission for approval. Karen Matson explained all Bylaws were approved and will be sent to all via email.

New Business

Committees (Dates of Meetings)

- ✚ Desmond Pullen mentioned the Membership meeting will be on March 6th, 2019 4:30PM at Everett Public Schools Resources Center.
- ✚ Karen Matson spoke about the Code revision have been made all around. This will go up to Executive Office for approval.
- ✚ Karen Matson mentioned the Snohomish County Children's Commission website is still on hold and changes will be made this week. Mid-March is the expected date for the website to be up and running.
- ✚ Karen Matson expressed to all commissioners to please send in their Biography to her or Charlotte Zissel in order to update the new website.
- ✚ Karen Matson spoke about a request from Giovanne Schachere were he would like to be able to dial in (Conference Call) when he is not able to attend meetings. This might not be possible due to the county needs to follow the "Open Public Meeting Act" and the public would need to be notified within two weeks' notice.

- + Karen Matson mentioned the “Obesity” flyer was reviewed.
- + Karen Matson mentioned Nate Marti and Kelsey Bang-Olsen will collect more data and bring to the next commission meeting.
- + Desmond Pullen expressed to all Commissioners to please attend all Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting as much as possible.
- + Karen O’Meara Pullen spoke about this years “We Value Kids Awards” which is based on acknowledgement for kids looking for kids. These are the categories:
 - o Kindergarten - 3rd Grade – We Value Kindness
 - o 4th – 8th Grade – We Value Courage
 - o 9th – 12th Grade – We Value Leadership
- + Karen Matson explained they will be using same format just changing date. This year we will be contacting public schools Principal and Teachers. Application dates might change this year and all applications can be accessed through the County website.
- + Jerry Strieck read a quote “People are people because of other people”
- + Jerry Strieck introduces the next part of the meeting, reading a quote from Sockertees “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old built building the new”
- + Karen O’Meara Pullen briefly spoke about who we are as a Commission, and how the County has changed and the role of the Commission has also changed.
- + Karen O’Meara Pullen and the Executive Committee came up with a statement and read to all. Comments and discussion to follow.

The Snohomish County Children’s Commission (SCCC) was established in 1986 to “serve as advisors on issues of health, safety and social service for infants, young children and youth in our community.” Much has changed – in our County as well as in our County organization – since the founding of the SCCC more than 30 years ago. While the current Commissioners are no less committed to this mission, we feel it is time to elucidate our purpose and intention in order to best utilize our time and energy and also to clarify the expectations from the County. We are all glad and grateful to be able to volunteer on behalf of the health and safety of our young people in order to learn about – and contribute to - the children’s programs and resources available in the County. Moreover, we wish to be assured that our time and energy are indeed serving a purpose and our work is being valued by the change agents in the County.

We propose to first examine, particularly through the lens of equity and inclusion, what areas and programs specifically for children are being currently addressed by the County, how they are being budgeted and by what measures of success they have been identified. We will be grateful for the participation of the Health Commission, Kids Count and other organizations, local and national, which will help us examine the data, identify gaps or redundancies in services and to offer recommendations to the County in a chosen category.

If the County does not feel this intention and purpose is the responsibility of the SCCC or a helpful tool for improving the lot of our children, the

Commission members may recommend to disband the SCCC so that we may continue to put energy and time elsewhere into other projects for our children.

- + Nancy Mikels commented, Commission has changed over the years and what is the value of the Commission.
- + Keith Smith spoke about recent changes from the Legislative and what changes could be made to help the aging population. There is a Chain of Command and should always be followed.
- + Karen Matson gave a brief history explanation about how the Snohomish County Children's Commission was run back in the day and has changed over the years. There was an economic down fall and commission was run poorly, so changes were made. As of today ECEAP funds are being used to fund program and commission. With the budget contract only 1% is being used for Human Services
- + Nancy Mikels asked "Were are we know"? Karen O'Meara Pullen replied "How to repurpose the Commission"
- + Karen Matson explained she and Mary Jane Brell Vujovic spoke about the future of Commission and the wellbeing of children. County Council would like to know what is happening in the county, state of children in county, trends, and other emerging issues. Mary Jane Brell Vujovic sees Commission as information source for the County Council.
- + Nancy Mikels commented, coming up with an idea and value for the Snohomish County Council seems overwhelming.
- + Karen Matson talked about the "Trends" packet handed out at last meeting is a good source of information. There are 16 indicators that matter.
- + Karen O'Meara Pullen asked what would be acceptable to Snohomish County. Karen Matson responded to focus on topic impacting the area and getting feedback in areas that are not doing well.
- + Argelia Grassfield commented she would like to find the purpose of the Snohomish County Children's Commission and felt lost at last meeting. She would like to continue with Children's Commission and move forward.
- + Desmond Pullen asked all for their opinions on continuing with the Snohomish County Children's Commission or be dissolved.
- + Jerry Strieck commented on how he felt about Commission and what is thoughts are. After reviewing the "Trends" packet he feels most of the ideas, areas and values have been identified here and Commission should focus on a certain subject, find a topic and refer to County Council. Possible have a public forum and obtain more feedback from public.
- + Lindee Tollefsen commented she would like to find the root cause of a certain topic and agrees with Jerry Strieck idea of a public forum.
- + Kristen Anderson commented she believes this lack of attention and how to maintain the Children's Commission alive. She would like to meet with County Council and get there feedback and input.
- + Desmond Pullen expressed to all he hopes all his work and time is being valued, or used. Desmond Pullen asked all for their opinion on if the Snohomish County Children's Commission should continue.
- + Karen O'Meara Pullen commented she would like to continue with the Snohomish County Children's Commission, but would like to invite back Nate Marti for more data and feedback.

- + Nancy Mikels commented if possibly tasking each Commissioner to find a particular area and bring back to next meeting.
- + Karen Matson will send link to all next week, and will ask Nate Marti to attend next month's meeting in March or April.
- + Keith Smith suggested viewing the website (Kids Count Data Book) for more information.
- + Mary Fischer asked what Snohomish County is currently doing to serve the youth.

Wrap-up and Announcements

- + Desmond Pullen remind all the Chair/Vice Chair meeting meets are held on the 1st week of month. 2nd week of the month is the Executive Committee were agenda and ideas are decided.
- + Karen Matson mentioned Charlotte Zissel is currently in Hawaii, but will be attending next month's meeting.

- + ***ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27th, 2019 at 4:30PM, at the Everett Public Schools Resource Center.