



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children's Commission



September 25, 2019 Annual Retreat
4:30 – 7:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2019 Snohomish County Children's Commission Annual Retreat was held at The Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County Center, Everett, Washington on Wednesday September 25, 2019. The meeting convened at 4:35PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O'Meara Pullen presiding.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests	
Desmond Pullen	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Barbara Davis	✓
Karen O'Meara Pullen	✓	Ana Carratala	✓		
Nancy Mickels	✓	Bambie Fontana	✓		
Shannon Smith	✓				
Kristen Anderson	EX				
Mary Fischer	✓				
Anita Shad	EX				
Jerry Strieck	✓				
Charlotte Zissel	✓				
Courtney Wooten	✓				
Argelia Grassfield	✓				
Karen McKeen	✓				
Keith Smith	AB				

Welcome, and Introductions were made around the room.

Desmond Pullen made opening remarks and reminded everyone, per Bylaws the two new officers Charlotte Zissel and Karen O'Meara Pullen will resume their duties at today's meeting. Desmond Pullen read the Land Acknowledgement to all and gave general information for the retreat.

Approval of Minutes of July 31, 2019

ACTION ITEM. *Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2019 Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting as written. Argelia Grassfield seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Charlotte Zissel gifted Desmond Pullen a plaque on behalf of the Snohomish County Children's Commission for his service and dedication to the Commission.

Charlotte Zissel introduced Barbara Davis as today's facilitator for the meeting.

Barbara Davis gave a brief overview on today's focus.

SCCC Philosophy and Vision *Statement of Philosophy*

The Snohomish County Children's Commission recognizes that children are our most precious resource and the most important investment relative to the future of our society. We recognize that it is up to all of us to invest wisely in our children, to protect and nurture them and to adequately prepare them to assume stewardship of the future.

Vision Statement

We envision a society in which:

- + All children have access to adequate health care and opportunities to reach their optimal health;
- + All children have opportunities to contribute meaningfully to their community;
- + All children receive a quality education tailored to their individual's needs and learning styles;
- + All children live in a permanent home where they experience safety and stability and where they are loved unconditionally;
- + All children are safe from abuse, bullying and the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs;
- + All children have availability of adequate nutrition and exercise for a healthy mind and body;
- + All children experience positive bonding with a parental figure(s) and have exposure to appropriate adult role models;
- + Decision makers routinely make abundant resources available for the needs of children and families and consider the best interests of children and families in all decisions.

Context and Drive of our Retreat

- + Barbara Davis focused on the Year 2 Strategic Plan and discussing one item from year one of Strategic Plan: Public Policy
 - o **YEAR 2:** *Develop community input processes (organizations, community experts, community members, families and youth) and engage a limited number of "community experts" (including families) to provide data and information related to one (1) indicator.*

Session Warm-Up

- + Ground Rules
 - o Active participation
 - o Respect
 - o Courteous
 - o Listening and Focus
 - o Open Minded
 - o Patience
 - o County rules and regulations
- + Sharing successes and accomplishments
 - o Membership growth
 - o Stable
 - o Focus on organization, development and structure
 - o Perseverance
 - o Role model, pay attention to people
 - o Proud of report, asked for help when needed

Barbara Davis asked all members to break-up into groups of four and discuss their ideas.

Conversation 1 – Developing our Community Input Process – Part 1

Strategies for gathering input – the “what”

- + Year 2 – Look up
- + Community focus groups
- + Wider community forum
- + Resource List
- + Keeping eyes/ears open to be able to connect, best practices
- + Surveys
- + Increase membership
- + Goal at end of year is info-graph for Executive’s Office
- + Community events, booth, etc.
- + School districts for resources
- + Speakers, experts, etc.

Three Focus Areas:

- o Being out in community more and bring back information.
- o Have speakers come to meeting to us or google information
- o Survey
- o Focus groups or Forums

Conversation 2 – Developing our Community Input Process – Part 2

Process and guidance for implementing strategies – the “how”

- + See attached chart with details

BREAK

Conversation 3 – Defining our Potential Role in Public Policy

What might that look like?

Potential strategies

Conversation 4 – Focusing our Work

Indicator selection

- + Criteria: where we can pilot our strategies, where we can have impact, where we have passion

Conversation 5 – Immediate Next Steps

Creating our annual calendar – who and how

Other considerations or needed actions to make our work possible

Children and Poverty – 50% mutual consensus

Public Policy

- ✚ October to June, work on project
- ✚ June/July create and sent to Executive's Office
- ✚ Identify problem, why does it exist? How does it impact Community?
- ✚ Where do lobbying efforts need to be?

Next Steps

- ✚ Create timeline
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM: Nancy Mickels made a motion to recommend the Executive Committee, between now and the October meeting will draft a calendar of activities for the Snohomish County Children's Commission to complete over the next year to be presented, discussed and reviewed by the Commission at the October meeting. Karen O'Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.***
- ✚ The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 14, 2019 at Everett Public Schools Resource Center, starting at 5:15 PM.

Wrap-up and adjourn

- ✚ Barbara Davis asked all to give their feedback, before closing statements.
- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Karen O'Meara Pullen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Desmond Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

The Snohomish County Children's Commission will not meet in November. The next Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting will be at 4:00PM. Wednesday, December 5th, 2018, at the Everett Public Schools Resource Center..