



MINUTES OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Children's Commission



February 26, 2020
4:30 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The 2020 Snohomish County Children's Commission Meeting was held at The Snohomish County Government Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave Everett, Washington on Wednesday February 26, 2020. The meeting convened at 4:33PM, Charlotte Zissel and Vice Chair Karen O'Meara Pullen presiding.

Commissioners		County Staff		Guests
Charlotte Zissel	✓	Karen Matson	✓	Dan Myers
Karen O'Meara Pullen	✓	Ana Carratala	✓	Jim Dean
Nancy Mickels	EX	Bambie Fontana	✓	Dee Smith-Aikens
Shannon Smith	EX			
Mary Fischer	EX			
Anita Shad	EX			
Jerry Strieck	✓			
Desmond Pullen	✓			
Courtney Wooten	✓			
Argelia Grassfield	✓			
Karen McKeen	✓			
Lindee Tollefsen	✓			
Keith Smith	✓			

Welcome, and Introductions were made around the room.

Land Acknowledgement

Desmond Pullen read the Land Acknowledgement.

Introductions

Public Comment

No public comments

Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2020

- ✚ ***ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2020 Snohomish County Children's Commission meeting as written. Karen O'Meara Pullen seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

We Value Kids Awards - 2020

- ✚ Karen O'Meara Pullen is asking for assistance in helping with the nominations and awards for "We Value Kids Awards." Nomination forms can be accessed on our website.

Guest Speaker – Jim Dean

- ✚ Jim Dean gave a brief overview on his career and the accomplishments of Interfaith Family Shelter. Interfaith Family Shelter moto is “*No child sleeps outside.*”
- ✚ Jim Dean shared stories about several children residing at the shelter.
- ✚ Jim Dean identified three major causes are Homelessness: rent, stagnate wages, and low vacancy rental rates.
- ✚ Jim Dean distributed an article from National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) summarizing research related to students experiencing family transitions.

Below are key topics and recommendations covered in the presentation:

- *A collective approach that unites efforts with other areas such as Everett and Marysville will better serve families*
- *Interfaith Family Shelter data indicates that 80% of families move to permanent housing*
- *Plans to provide services need to include adequate Health Care*
- *Working with DHS, CPS, and Law Enforcement is crucial*
- *Quality education for children is essential to the long-term solution*
- *Goal needs to be to move families In / Out of shelter into permanent housing as quickly as possible*
- *Cars to Housing program and other innovative programs need to be explored as effective solutions to family homelessness*

County Updates by Karen Matson

- ✚ Kaitlynn Johnson has decided to join the Snohomish County Children’s Commission as a Youth member and Daniel Myers as a Community member. Both of their applications will be reviewed at next month’s meeting.
- ✚ A link to the Annual Report was sent to all Commissioners to share the 2019 report with the community.
- ✚ Revisions to the Code is still moving through the approval process.
- ✚ SharePoint folder is being established for the Snohomish County Children’s Commission and encouraged all Commissioners to please bring their notebooks to future meetings. Nicole McMurray will be sending out an email invite to Commissioners to join SharePoint. She will provide technical assistance.
- ✚ Bambie Fontana is being reassigned to new health Initiatives for ECEAP and Nicole McMurray will be the new staff support effective April 2020.
- ✚ Brief overview of two new initiatives: Increase Housing Stability for Families in Early Learning and Specialized Employment Services. Grant ends October 2020. The Display Case is not available but are possibly looking into a one-day event in April at the County Plaza. April is Early Childhood month.

Review Snohomish County Data

- ✚ No Comments

Speakers and additional data resources

- + Argelia Grassfield provided recommendations presented by the sub-committee on family listening session.
 - o Families will prepare a presentation for the Children’s Commission to allow them to choose the personal information they feel comfortable sharing
 - o Questions be determined ahead of time by Children’s Commission
 - o Families would receive questions ahead of time to allow them to prepare an answer and determine the level/type of information they want to share in public
 - o Families will represent different levels of housing instability and homelessness
 - o Recommend Mary Cline-Stively from Child Strive as a moderator as she has previously moderated similar presentations
 - o Recommendations for Questions:
 - Understanding what the challenges and barriers are
 - How it impacts the family and children
 - What has been the most helpful?
 - What contributed to experiencing poverty and homelessness?
 - What would have prevented them from homelessness?
 - What is preventing you from moving forward? Or stable housing?
 - What were your key supports that help you increase your income?
 - What services are working? And which are not?

Announcements

- + Charlotte Zissel mentioned “**Take the Next Step**” in Monroe has offered a safe space to hold meetings and asked all members to attend.
- + Charlotte Zissel mentioned there is a training at Everett Gospel Mission on **Poverty 101**. Check their website for dates and times.
- + Courtney Wooten mentioned there is a film screening “**PUSH OUT**” – (**A criminalization of black girls in schools**) on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at Edmonds Community College. Courtney Wooten will send out link once it is released. For more information contact Courtney Wooten.

Adjourn

- + Charlotte Zissel thanked everyone for attending.
- + **ACTION ITEM. Jerry Strieck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lindee Tollefsen seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:31 P.M.

The next Snohomish County Children’s Commission meeting has been CANCELLED due to the State of Emergency declared for Snohomish County. A reminder notice for April’s meeting will be sent out at the end of this month.

