

**Minutes of the  
Snohomish County Council on Aging  
July 28, 2021**



**CALL TO ORDER**

The monthly meeting of the Snohomish County Council on Aging was held via Zoom on July 28, 2021. The meeting convened at 9:04 am with Mindy Taylor, Vice Chair, presiding.

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bobbie Constantine	✓	Sunny Strong	✓
Nixon Opondo - Chairperson	EX	Mindy Taylor	✓
Keith Smith	✓	Dennis Wheeler	✓
Michele Blythe	✓		

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Leah Hammon, Senior Nutrition Manger, Homage; Erica Polney, Dietitian and Nutrition Assessor, Homage.

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Janet Gant, Linda Vizmanos, Christie Lee Kamka, Cole Caplan, April Fugate, Stefanie Novacek, Michal Glauner.

**SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM – Leah Hammon and Erica Polney**

Leah Hammon, Senior Nutrition Manager and Erica Polney, Nutrition Assessor from Homage Senior Services shared a presentation on senior food and nutrition programs provided by the agency. There are five core programs within Homage that include health and wellness, minor home repair, nutrition services, social services (ADRN) and transportation. The presentation focused on Food and Nutrition Services for Older Adults.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Dennis Wheeler and seconded by Bobbie Constantine to approve the Council on Aging meeting minutes for June 23, 2021, as corrected. **Motion carried.***

## **COA Officer Nominations for 10/01/21 – 09/30/22 – Linda Vizmanos**

Linda shared the Bylaws outlining the election process for COA Officer Nominations. A copy of the Bylaws is available [here](#). The Council on Aging is seeking nominees for the following three positions:

- Chair – No current nominations
- Vice Chair – Mindy Taylor self-nominated for this position
- Officer at Large – Bobbie Constantine self-nominated for this position

Please email Linda Vizmanos if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else (with their approval) who is interested in being nominated for an officer position. Nominations will be accepted through August 2021

## **State Council on Aging (SCOA) Member Nominations – Mindy Taylor**

Ron Vivion's term on the State Council on Aging ends September 30, 2021 creating a vacancy on the council. The Committee is seeking nominations for this position representing Snohomish County Council on Aging.

*Sunny Strong nominated Dennis Wheeler for State Council on Aging representing Snohomish County. A verbal count was conducted by council members. **The vote was approved.***

Dennis Wheeler has already submitted his application and a background check has been completed. The nomination will be presented to the State Unit on Aging and a vote will take place in August. If approved, Dennis Wheeler will represent Snohomish County at the September meeting.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Advocacy, Diversity & Outreach – Mindy Taylor**

Mindy Taylor reported that the Advocacy, Diversity and Outreach Committee has been working on brochures and other communications for recruitment for the Council and they will be sent out soon. She requested members who have friends, neighbors or relatives who would be a great addition to the committee, to send contact information to her and/or Sunny Strong. The Committee has been looking into opportunities to interact with the community by attending festivals, fairs, etc. The next Committee Meeting is Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 1 pm.

### **Senior Centers – Dennis Wheeler**

Mr. Wheeler stated there has not been a meeting since June and there are no current updates. The next meeting will be on September 1, 2021 via Zoom. Attendance from COA is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

Mr. Wheeler provided the following observations and comments:

- Extended special thanks to Laura and Janet for allowing Michal Glauner to support the

Senior Center Committee. She has been very well received by the Senior Center Directors.

- Janet Gant was thought very highly of by the Senior Centers Directors and they are pleased with her promotion.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **Chemical Dependency/Mental Health (CDMH) Advisory Board – Dennis Wheeler**

Mr. Wheeler reported that there has not been a meeting since the last COA meeting in June. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021 from 3 pm to 5 pm. There are no current updates.

### **State Council on Aging – Linda Vizmanos**

Linda Vizmanos reported, on the behalf of Ron Vivion, that there has not been a meeting since the last COA meeting in June and there are no current updates.

## **STAFF / AAA UPDATES**

### **Area Plan**

Janet Gant reported on the Area Plan on Aging. The AAA is required to develop a comprehensive description and cost allocation plan that guides the work we do. Every two years an update of the Area Plan on Aging is required. We recently received the Management Bulletin providing guidance and instruction on what areas of the plan requires updates. Updates to the plan will identify the impacts of COVID on older populations.

A draft plan will be sent to the committee for review before public comment for review and feedback late August/early September. The submission date of the completed Area plan update has been extended to November 1, 2021

## **NEW BUSINESS/OTHER**

### **Anticipated Funding Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Snohomish County has received ARPA funding. Based on proposals by each division, Human Services senior leadership refined goals and strategies and presented a COVID recovery framework that was submitted to County Council for review/approval. ARPA funding will not be received all at one time. This initial tranche of funding primarily focuses on expansion of current LTCA services including:

- Phone Reassurance program – Homage;
- Hope Options program – Everett Housing Authority (stabilized housing for older adults); and
- Legal Services program – Northwest Justice Project

## **COA Protocol and Advising the County Executive – Janet Gant**

There have been questions regarding the role of COA members and meeting with County Executive. The COA has the opportunity to meet with the County Executive annually to discuss priorities and accomplishments. The COA collectively can decide what they would like to present. There is a process for requesting a meeting. A form is first completed that states COA accomplishments and priorities. The COA chair then requests a meeting with the Executive by communicating with LTCA staff. Staff will then make the request on your behalf and schedule the meeting. The COA Chair and the Co-Chair would then have the opportunity to meet with the Executive and present the agreed upon material.

The COA is also able to develop legislative priorities for the agenda. This is a task typically done in the fall so the COA is prepared for advocacy in the new year.

Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) is offering an Advocacy Workshop on Thursday, August 5, 2021 via Zoom. This is an opportunity to learn more about how to advocate for older adults. Linda emailed members with training information.

## **Tribal Relations & 7.01 Training – Michal Glauner**

Michal provided information about an upcoming Administrative Policy 7.01 training that will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 from 10 am to 12 pm via Zoom. Michal will send out invitations to those who are interested in attending. DSHS follows a government-to-government approach to seek consultation and participation by tribal governments in policy development and service program activities. Michal is our tribal liaison for our AAA. She meets quarterly with other DSHS, AAA, APS liaisons and tribal representatives to collaborate and communicate information on services and supports available and how to effectively provide services to tribal members.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am. The next meeting will be held on August 14, 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am via Zoom.