

**Minutes of the
Snohomish County Council on Aging
August 25, 2021**



CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Snohomish County Council on Aging was held via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:03 am with Mindy Taylor, Vice Chair, presiding.

Welcome – Nixon Opondo

Nixon Opondo announced his resignation as COA Board chair due to personal reasons.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bobbie Constantine, Office at Large	✓	Sunny Strong	✓
Nixon Opondo, Chair	✓	Mindy Taylor, Vice Chair	✓
Keith Smith	✓	Dennis Wheeler	✓
Michele Blythe	✓		

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Karen Campbell, Staff Attorney, Northwest Justice Project; and Amanda Aragon, Senior Managing Attorney, Northwest Justice Project.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Janet Gant, Linda Vizmanos, Christie Lee Kamka, Stefanie Novacek and Laura White.

Northwest Justice Project – Karen Campbell

Karen Campbell, staff attorney at Northwest Justice Project shared a presentation on the legal services the agency provides in Snohomish County. The County contracts with Northwest Justice Project to provide provides free civil legal assistance to eligible 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 July 28, 2021, as corrected. **Motion carried***

State Council on Aging / Update and Vote – Mindy Taylor

Dennis Wheeler submitted an application to the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA) to represent Snohomish County on the State Council on Aging (SCOA). ALTSA approved to move forward with Mr. Wheeler's application.

*The COA chair called a vote to appoint Dennis Wheeler as the Snohomish County representative on the State Council on Aging. A vote was taken by the Council **All in favor.***

Officers Election – Dennis Wheeler

*Mindy Taylor was nominated as Chair for County Council on Aging. A vote was taken by the Council. **All in favor.***

*Bobbie Constantine was nominated as Officer at Large for County Council on Aging. A vote was taken by the Council. **All in favor.***

COMMITTEES

Executive – Mindy Taylor

No updates.

Advocacy, Diversity & Outreach – Mindy Taylor, Sunny Strong

M. Taylor reported that the Advocacy, Diversity and Outreach Committee did not have a meeting in August. The Committee has a lot of ideas for great initiative and work that can be done within the Committee, yet more members are needed. M. Taylor announced that she will no longer be able to serve as the Chair on the Committee due to accepting the COA chair position. Sunny Strong is the temporary Chair of the Advocacy, Diversity & Outreach Committee.

Senior Centers – Dennis Wheeler

D. Wheeler stated there has not been a meeting since June. The next meeting will be on September 2, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. via Zoom.

D. Wheeler reported that the City of Everett and The Volunteers of American in Western Washington have reached an agreement to reopen the Carl Gibson Center. The VOA will run the Center and the City of Everett will retain ownership of the building.

D. Wheeler is Chair of the Senior Center Committee.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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

D. Wheeler reported that the Board and the County Executive and County Council are in communication on the possibility of a spend down of the fund reserves.

STAFF UPDATES / AAA UPDATES

- J. Gant announced that LTCA is soliciting responses from organization to procure service provider to provide Congregate Nutrition Services and Home Delivered Meals to older

adults age 60 and over in Snohomish County. The Request for Proposals (RFP) are posted on Snohomish County website. Proposals are due to the County (via email) no later than September 15, 2021.

S. Novacek requested the assistance of two or three members to sit on the review panel. The panel will meet virtually the week of September 27 to discuss and score the proposals.

D. Wheeler and B. Constantine volunteered to sit on the panel.

- J. Gant reported that Michelle Barnes was recently hired to fill a vacant Human Services Specialist I position. LTCA is also currently recruiting for a Human Services Specialist II position that will provide direct services for the MTD Program.
- S. Novacek reported that the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program continues to distribute vouchers to eligible applicants. The program will close in early September.
- L. White thanked D. Wheeler for agreeing to represent Snohomish County on the State Council on Aging Representative.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Area Plan Update – Janet Gant

J. Gant reported on the Area Plan Update and the role the COA has in the update. This is a narrative plan that is developed every four years and updated every two years to address the current needs of the community. The Area Plan Update is due to the state by November 1, 2021.

Upcoming Events – Linda Vizmanos

Ron Vivion will be facilitating the 2021 Virtual Fall Conference that will be held on October 21, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers will include legislators and policy makers. The participation fee will be paid by the County for COA members.

Open Floor

- M. Taylor stated that the recruitment efforts for the Council on Aging are ongoing. S. Strong and M. Taylor are working on putting together outreach materials to help recruitment efforts.
- N. Opondo inquired about the spending efforts for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and if solicitation efforts are still open. L. White reported that the County Council approved initial ARPA funding for the continuation of established programs including the Phone Reassurance Program (Homage), Stabilized Housing/Hope Options (Everett Housing Authority) and the Aging and Disability Resource Network (Homage).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am. The next meeting will be held virtually on September 22, 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am