

# Meeting Notes

## Agenda:

- 12:00pm** Open Networking & Resource Sharing
- 12:15pm** Presentation: Law Advocates – Piper Tolbert
- 1:15pm** Network Updates & Announcements
- 2:00** Adjourn

## Attendance:

- Peter L. – NAMI Whatcom
- Daniel R. – A Way Home
- Rob V. – St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Amber L. – DSHS
- Alana P. – Opportunity Council
- Drew W. – Opportunity Council
- Trudy S. – Whatcom Dream
- Edith T. – Opportunity Council
- Killian W. – NWYS
- Liz S. – Allied Arts
- Martha R. – Sea Mar
- Katie C. – Lydia Place
- Alyssa J. – YWAM North Cascades
- Tory S. – Whatcom Community College
- Tilda D. – Opportunity Council
- Piper T. – Law Advocates
- Melissa I. – Whatcom County Prosecutors Office
- Nicole S. – Signature Health Care
- Melissa L. – Whatcom County
- Summer S. – NAMI
- Miranda L. – Bellingham Public Library
- Denice K. – United Way of Whatcom County
- Jenni J. – Bellingham Public Library
- Samantha Z. – Opportunity Council
- Larayne L. – Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center
- Karen P. – Northwest Justice Project
- Maria M. – Sea Mar
- Sandy W. – Northwest Regional Council

## **Featured Presentation:** ***Law Advocates - Piper Tolbert***

- [Presentation](#)
- [Website](#)
- Contact: Piper Tolbert, [pipert@lawadvocates.org](mailto:pipert@lawadvocates.org)

## **Network Updates & Announcements:**

### **Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center - Larayne Luthi**

- WDRC provides and promotes constructive and collaborative approaches to conflict.
- Now opening up nominations for Peace Builder awards. This can be anyone who brings forward peace of any kind in the community. Submit a nomination [here](#).
- [Wander to Wander 1K](#) coming up June 8th! Fundraiser fun run/walk.
- Contact: Larayne, [larayne@whatcomdrc.org](mailto:larayne@whatcomdrc.org)

### **Allied Arts of Whatcom County - Liz Smyth**

- Partnering with organizations to emphasize the culture and art of traditionally underserved communities. Hired a cultural outreach coordinator staff position.
- Art supply thrift store: has art, school, and office supplies available at discounted prices.
- Clients can get a free bag or art supplies once a month.
- Just received a large donation of art that can be picked up for offices, supportive housing facilities, etc.
- Contact: Liz, [lizs@alliedarts.org](mailto:lizs@alliedarts.org)

### **The Whatcom Dream - Trudy Shuravloff**

- Provides financial literacy classes to teens, adults, and seniors in Whatcom and Skagit counties.
- Available to bring the class to an organization by request.
- Looking for additional board members, in particular youth board members. Reach out to Trudy if someone comes to mind.
- Contact: Trudy, [trudy@thewhatcomdream.org](mailto:trudy@thewhatcomdream.org)

## **Evergreen Goodwill - Mackenzie Malpezzi**

- Registration for upcoming spring/summer class sessions will begin on May 6th. Those interested in registering can stop by the center to sign up.
- Job lab is available for any job seeker on a drop in basis, providers can always refer their clients to the job lab.
- New digital equity bus: mobile classroom that can provide services for folks that can't necessarily make it to the center. Organizations should reach out to ask about hosting the bus.
- Contact: Mackenzie, [kenzie.malpezzi@evergreengoodwill.org](mailto:kenzie.malpezzi@evergreengoodwill.org)

## **NAMI Whatcom - Summer Starr**

- NAMI offers support groups and classes for people struggling with mental illness and their families.
- New: Whatcom Peer Collaborative. Now able to offer some limited 1:1 peer support for people with mental illness. This is NOT for family members. Hoping to grow this program, Spanish language is available.

Contact: Summer, [starr@namiwa.org](mailto:starr@namiwa.org)

## **Northwest Justice Project - Karen Phillips**

- Northwest Justice Project is the largest civil legal aid agency in Washington, serving Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties.
- Available to help with most civil legal issues. CLEAR Line.
- WA Law Help has lots of legal information, how-tos and resources galore. Available in multiple languages.
- Contact: Karen, [karen.phillips@nwjustice.org](mailto:karen.phillips@nwjustice.org)

## **Whatcom Community College - Tory Sandoz**

- Substance Use Disorder Professional Program Coordinator at WCC.
- Currently a shortage of addiction counselors and social work professionals. High demand profession.
- WCC has programs in both, including associates, certificates, and continuing education options.
- Changes in licensing requirements have made it easier to become a SUDP.
- Contact: Tory, [tsandoz@whatcom.edu](mailto:tsandoz@whatcom.edu)