

Meeting Notes

Agenda:

- 12:00pm** Open Networking
- 12:15pm** Presentation: SEAS
- 1:00pm** Network Updates & Announcements

Attendance:

- Addison A. - Northwest Youth Services
- Allison D. - Health Ministries Network
- Allyson H. - Opportunity Council
- Annette B. - Bellingham Public Library
- Bonnie S.L. - Northwest Youth Services
- Cindy S. - NW Workforce Council
- Deirdra B. - Opportunity Council
- Destiny M. - Opportunity Council
- Edith T. - Opportunity Council
- Erika M. - Unity Care NW
- Esther C. - Opportunity Council
- Hannah R. - Lifeline Connections
- Heidi K. - Opportunity Council
- Imanat K. - Whatcom Center for Early Learning
- Jennifer W. - Bellingham Public Library
- Jeremy L. - McGregor Benefits
- Jonathan M. - World Relief
- Joni H. - Health Ministries Network
- Josh W. - Northwest Youth Services
- Julie S. - Cascade Connections
- Kate F. - Mt. Baker Foundation
- Keri A. - CTK Bellingham
- Kevi V. - Opportunity Council
- Khore P. - Community Health Advocate
- Kim S. - NAMI Whatcom
- Kimberly M. - Northwest Youth Services
- Mae T.L. - Lydia Place
- Maria (Maru) M. - Sea Mar
- Matt M. - Interfaith Coalition
- Nicole S. - Signature Health Care at Home
- Rachel M. - Lifeline Connections
- Rebecca P. - Northwest Youth Services
- Sandy W. - Northwest Regional Council
- Sarah T. - Lydia Place
- Stephanie B. - Humanitas Ministry
- Stephanie S. - Bellingham Food Bank
- Tami J. - Whatcom Literacy Council
- Tami R. - Northwest Youth Services
- Therese N. - Northwest Justice Project
- Tory S. - Whatcom Community College
- Von O.

Featured Presentation:

Single Entry Access to Services - Deirdra Brummer

- [Presentation](#)
- [Website](#)
- SEAS Phone: (360)715-7485
- [Notes](#)
- Contact: Deirdra, deirdra_brummer@oppco.org
- SEAS Fax: (360)676-6729

Network Updates & Announcements:

NAMI Whatcom

- Offering multiple peer support groups for mental health conditions, led by people with mental health conditions: weekly online, or in-person group 2nd and 4th Wednesday at NAMI office.
- Family support every week: 10:30am Mondays, and every Wednesday night.
- Lots of other stuff going on, and classes coming up -- all info on website.
- If you or someone you know needs support, refer to NAMI
- Contact: Kim, ksauter@namiwhatcom.org

Whatcom Community College

- Representing program that teaches students how to become drug and alcohol counselors.
- It's a big need in our community, so want people to be aware of the program at WCC.
- Students can join any quarter.
- Brochures and info available for medical and PT assistants.
- Starting this September, WCC is offering a BA in Social Work. Lower tuition, smaller classes than a 4-year university. A lot of students from the drug and alcohol counseling program are entering into the new program.
- If you are interested in talking to students as guest speaker, reach out p
- Contact: Tory, tsandoz@whatcom.edu

World Relief

- Exciting updates: From Home to Home exhibit coming up September 11 – 15, experiential walk-through of the forced displacement and resettlement experience.
 - Based on feedback, made exhibit free, open to anyone.
 - 2 hour sessions, or open house night September 12.
- Gala September 15: support refugees, sponsorship opportunities available.
- Contact: Jonathan, jmartens@wr.org

Whatcom Center for Early Learning

- Here to promote park plays around Bellingham, Ferndale, and Blaine, and wanting to get to East County.
- Upcoming opportunity at Kendall Elementary looking for volunteers.
- As trying to get more options in East Whatcom, finding it hard to get into those settings, so looking for connections.
- Contact: Imanat, imanat@wcel.net

Lifeline Connections

- Behavioral health agency in Bellingham, for all of Whatcom.
- Outpatient mental health program just cleared waitlist, open for enrollment, and offering an additional prescriber.
- Anyone seeking affordable mental health services, call Lifeline.
- A few services for adolescents, usually provided through juvenile court system.
- Also have SUD services, IOP, OP, and access to Inpatient.
- PACT team: serves people with serious mental illness: someone who's tried other services, but nothing's working.
- Offers peer support, counseling, prescribing, medication support, case management, and access to other services like employment and education.
- Lifeline can take multiple sources of insurance, not just Medicaid.
- Housing program can help people find housing, but Lifeline does not have housing.
- Contact: Rachel, rmunroe@lifelineconnections.org

McGregor Benefits

- Local health insurance broker, services for people under and over 65
- Can walk through process with anyone who is dual eligible for Medicaid
- Services are available at no cost
- Open enrollment coming up
- Contact: Jeremy, _jeremy@mcgregorbenefits.com

Health Ministries Network

- Introducing a new Executive Director, Alison.
- Currently doing Ask a Nurse in Kendall: blood pressure tests, talk about health needs, get resources.
- Foundations course coming up, September 23 online. Course for nurses who may be connected to a church or faith community who want to take training on the spiritual aspects of health care.
- Contact: Alison, director@healthministriesnetwork.net

Bellingham Food Bank

- Client survey found there are 28 different languages represented among BFB clients
- If anyone has access to diverse groups of people, looking to make connections, help bringing outreach to more groups.
- Also looking for help with language support and communications including Mixteco, Arabic, Ukraininan, Russian, Punjabi, and others. Can easily make materials and content available in different languages, but it's more important to actually connect with the people who speak those languages
- Contact: Stephanie, stephanies@bellinghamfoodbank.org

Northwest Regional Council

- Minds Alive: event for people with dementia, December 18 at the Upfront.
- Family Caregiver Support Program: a program for friends, family, anyone taking care of someone 16 or older or with dementia.
- Contact: Sandy, sandy.wisecarver@dshs.wa.gov

Northwest Youth Services

- Josh, new Director of Adolescent Services at NWYS, primary point of contact for PAD program, teen support
- Emergency shelter previously located on State St. moved to Ridgemont neighborhood:
 - shelter for youth ages 13 -17, mainly short-term, plus 2 long-term beds.
 - Teens can call and screen, or can be referred.
 - Additional services provided during stay, including school enrollment, connection to resources, etc.
- Contact: Josh, joshw@nwys.org
- Teen Court restorative justice program: works with young people charged with a criminal act, provides help to navigate away from the traditional legal system into a restorative justice approach.
 - High school volunteers take on all roles: judge, jury, etc.
 - 6 different high schools across Whatcom participate.
 - Really special program with a goal to provide holistic services to young people to prevent repeat offenses, and get support they need.
 - First TC night: October 11th – second Wednesday of the month.
 - Anyone can come and observe
- Contact: Bonnie, bonnies@nwys.org

Unity Care NW

- Insurance navigators can help with Medicaid enrollment, Medicare, qualified health plans, and Medicare Savings Program.
- Important: with pandemic ending, Medicaid redeterminations affecting people under and over 65 if they are on Medicaid.
 - A lot of people over 65 losing Medicaid and don't understand why.
- Don't have to be a patient at UCNW to get help from an insurance navigator
- Contact: Erika, erika.mounts@ucnw.org

Seattle Block Project in Whatcom County

- Working to bring a variation of the Seattle Block Project to Whatcom.
- Build microhomes with net positive energy, plugged into a main house as an ADU
- Microhomes produce more energy than they use, so main house gets benefit.
- \$75,000 cost, \$150,000 value when sold. Profit put into next ADU for next homeowner wanting to participate.
- Very accessible for volunteers without construction experience
- Folks that move in are formerly homeless, independent, case managed at least 6 months prior, and go through a background check process.
- Seattle model is not currently charging rent, but looking into setting a 30% of income rent rate.
- Von is working on bringing together people to make it happen in our community. If you're interested in getting involved, or if you have a home and want to host someone, reach out.
- Contact: Von, veo.thepeople@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 21, 12 - 2pm @ St. Paul's