

# Meeting Notes

## Agenda:

- 12:00pm** Presentation: Access ID with Opportunity Council  
**12:30pm** Open Networking  
**1:00pm** Network Updates & Announcements

## Attendance:

- Brook R. - Sea Mar
- Tami J. - Whatcom Literacy Council
- Daniel R. - A Way Home
- Annette B. - Bellingham Public Library
- Imanat K. - Whatcom Center for Early Learning
- Dawn K. - Whatcom Community College
- Matt Maloy. - Interfaith Coalition
- Edith T. - Opportunity Council
- Hadassah M. - Northwest Regional Council
- Michelle C. - Unity Care NW
- Isabelle K. - Law Advocates
- Kari A. - Christ the King Community Church
- Maeg D. - Bellingham Technical College
- Rocio C. - Puget Sound Energy
- Alana P. - Opportunity Council
- Brylie T. - Bellingham Public Library
- Sandy W. - Northwest Regional Council
- Chris D. - Whatcom County
- Maria M. - Sea Mar
- Brendan G. - Northwest Justice Project
- Maia M. - Sea Mar
- Corey S. - Opportunity Council
- Thalia R. - Northwest Youth Services
- Susan M. - Brigid Collins
- Michaela R. - Northwest Workforce Council
- Miranda L. - Bellingham Public Library
- Liz S. - Allied Arts of Whatcom County
- Jon S. - Western Washington University
- Michelle B. - Bellingham Public Library
- Kelly H. - Allied Arts of Whatcom County
- Nicole S. - Signature Health Care at Home
- Patricia R. - Sea Mar
- Jeremy L. - McGregor Benefits
- Amber L. - DSHS
- Jonathan M. - World Relief
- Kevi V. - Opportunity Council
- Samantha Z. - Opportunity Council
- Zyanya C. - Law Advocates

## Featured Presentation:

### *Access ID Clinic @ Opportunity Council - Corey Salas*

- [Presentation](#)
- [Website](#)
- Contact: Corey, [corey\\_salas@oppco.org](mailto:corey_salas@oppco.org)
- Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30 at 1111 Cornwall Ave.

## Network Updates & Announcements:

### **Bellingham Public Library - Jenni Johnson**

- New staff position at the library that is dedicated to addressing civic engagement, homelessness, and substance use in the libraries via outreach and engagement.
- Behavioral Health Specialist staff are on site during open hours moving through the library meeting and engaging with anyone in need of assistance, and supporting staff. This is a new program and a learning process.
- Skillshare: Organizations and programs featured in the Skillshare area include Law Advocates, Smart Trips, NAMI, Opportunity Council, NW Regional Council, Whatcom Literacy Council, and others.
- Resource display case: email Jenni with materials such as flyers or posters that can be displayed.
- Contact: Jenni, [jjohnson@cob.org](mailto:jjohnson@cob.org)

### **Whatcom Literacy Council - Tami**

- Provides one-on-one tutoring and small group classes around Whatcom County.
- Always in need of tutors. Numbers of people needing services continues to grow.
- Upcoming Trivia Bee fundraiser. Sign up [here](#).
- Contact: Tami, [development@whatcomliteracy.org](mailto:development@whatcomliteracy.org)

### **World Relief Western Washington - Jonathan**

- Recently hired a new ESL teaching and is now offering small group classes with a focus on those with refugee or immigrant status.
- Recently hired a new employment specialist, also focused on those with a refugee or immigrant status.
- Looking to diversify finding sources due to current political environment - open to any leads or suggestions.
- Contact: Jonathan, [jmartens@wr.org](mailto:jmartens@wr.org)

## **Whatcom Community College - Dawn**

- Now holding ELL classes for newly arrived immigrants
- High school completion program: An online, accelerated program that helps students complete the required remaining classes for a Washington State High School Diploma. Credits can be earned for life and work experience. No Washington State residency requirement, but students must have a WA address.
- To be eligible, students must be at least 18 years old and their graduation year must have passed.
- Contact: Dawn, [dkroontj@whatcom.edu](mailto:dkroontj@whatcom.edu)

## **A Way Home WA - Dan**

- Statewide organization. Produces data to advocate for driving down youth homelessness.
- Youth Action Board: Youth with lived experience with homelessness. Involved in street outreach in collaboration with Northwest Youth Services. Always looking for additional young people interested in participating - it's a great way for those with opinions and direct experience to get paid for helping to make change.
- Working to streamline system for first contact - designed to be accessible to young people entering supportive housing for the first time.
- Contact: Dan, [dreese@awayhomewa.org](mailto:dreese@awayhomewa.org)

## **Opportunity Council EcSA - Kevi**

- Financial empowerment and coaching program for households looking to improve financial stability and employment opportunities.
- Families are paired with mentors, and connected to job search services and financial literacy programming. Incentives are awarded for completed goals. \$2700 worth of incentives are available for completing goals, and up to \$3000 additional for beginning employment.
- Always looking for more mentors. No experience is necessary. ~5 hour/month time commitment with upfront training provided.
- Contact: Kevi, [kevi\\_veldman@oppco.org](mailto:kevi_veldman@oppco.org)

## **Brigid Collins - Kat**

- Upcoming fundraising auction is sold out!
- Check out the website and follow on social media for upcoming events, news, and training information.
- Contact: Kat, [kdavis@brigidcollins.org](mailto:kdavis@brigidcollins.org)

## Allied Arts of Whatcom County - Kelly

- Partnering with organizations to emphasize the culture and art of traditionally underserved communities. Hired a cultural outreach coordinator staff position. Cultural Arts Festival March 15th-17th. Spaces available for nonprofits and social services organizations.
- Children's Art Walk downtown - downtown businesses can sign up to decorate windows for the event.
- 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: Kelly, [kelly@alliedarts.org](mailto:kelly@alliedarts.org)

## Law Advocates - Isabelle

- Civil and legal aid service for people at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
- Street law at the library: registration required, 20 minute consult with an attorney. Includes tenant, family and general law
- Will program: free sample will for people above the age of 60 or living with a terminal illness.
- Debt clinic with NW Justice Project at the courthouse some Fridays, check ahead to confirm.
- Contact: Isabelle, [isabellek@lawadvocates.org](mailto:isabellek@lawadvocates.org)

## NAMI Whatcom - Brylie

- Free support groups and resources for those living with a mental illness or a family member of someone living with mental illness.
- Support groups are back in person, while also available in Zoom.
- Ending the Silence presentation for middle and high school students. This presentation pairs youth with lived experience and health experts. Presentation can be brought to an organization for free if desired.
- Contact: Brylie, [btaylor@namiwhatcom.org](mailto:btaylor@namiwhatcom.org)

## Whatcom County Health and Community Services - Chris

- New funding opportunity available through the Healthy Children Fund. Funds can be used for programs for people experiencing housing insecurity and/or those that are severely rent burdened for housing related and childcare costs.
- The RFP is open until March 12th. The goal is to have this funding spread through different agencies throughout the county.
- Contact: Chris, [cdonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:cdonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us)

### **Whatcom Center for Early Learning - Imanat**

- Works with families with children ages birth to 3 with developmental disabilities.
- Classroom offerings include Toddler Time in Bellingham, Ferndale, and Lynden.
- Incredible Years program works with parents who have infants. A few spots left for the Bellingham location of this program.
- Contact: Imanat, [imanat@wcel.net](mailto:imanat@wcel.net)

### **Opportunity Council - Sam**

- Opportunity Council's new community services outreach specialist. Making connections with services providers.
- Available to table at events with resources and materials on OC services.
- Basic Food program: can sign clients up for Basic Food, or offer tutorials for service providers wanting to help people with the application.
- Contact: Sam, [samantha\\_zee@oppco.org](mailto:samantha_zee@oppco.org)

### **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, March 21, 12 - 2pm @ Bellingham Library**

