

# Meeting Notes

## Agenda:

- 12:00pm** Open Networking
- 12:30pm** Presentation: World Relief
- 1:00pm** Network Updates & Announcements

## Attendance:

- Addison A. - Northwest Youth Services
- Amelia B. - Whatcom Center for Early Learning
- Amy C. - Northwest Regional Council
- Annette B. - Bellingham Public Library
- Brittany S. - Northwest Regional Council
- Cindy S. - NW Workforce Council
- Destiny M. - Opportunity Council
- Edith T. - Opportunity Council
- Erika M. - Unity Care NW
- Esther C. - Opportunity Council
- G. Rigby - Sea Mar
- Hannah K. - Interfaith Coalition
- Heidi B. - LAW Advocates
- Heidi K. - Opportunity Council
- Imanat K. - Whatcom Center for Early Learning
- Jenni J. - Bellingham Public Library
- Jeremy L. - McGregor Benefits
- Jonathan M. - World Relief
- Julia B. - Western Washington University
- Kari R. - Opportunity Council
- Kate P. - Sea Mar
- Katie C. - Lydia Place
- Lizeth V-S. - Lifeline Connections
- Mackenzie N. - Lydia Place
- Madison E. - Northwest Youth Services
- Maria (Maru) M. - Sea Mar
- Mariah D. - NWRC
- Matt M. - Interfaith Coalition
- Michelle B. - Bellingham Public Library
- Michelle C. - Unity Care NW
- Naomi S. - DSHS
- Nicole S. - Signature Health Care at Home
- Peyton B. - Brigid Collins
- Rebecca P. - Northwest Youth Services
- Samya L. - City of Bellingham
- Susan M. - Brigid Collins
- Sydney C. - Northwest Youth Services
- Tanner T. - Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center
- Trista B. - Unity Care NW

## Featured Presentation:

### *World Relief - Jonathan Martens*

- [Presentation](#)
- [Website](#)
- [We Belong Gala](#)
- [Notes](#)
- Contact: Jonathan, [JMartens@wr.org](mailto:JMartens@wr.org)
- [From Home to Home Exhibit](#)

## Network Updates & Announcements:

### Northwest Regional Council

- NWRC is the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Whatcom County, specializing in services for people who are older or have disabilities.
- Recruiting Registered Nurses, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists for contract opportunities. Great opportunity for someone looking for a side gig, or who can't do a typical 9 - 5 schedule. If you know someone who may be a good fit, contact Amy.
- Contact: Amy, [amy.charlot@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:amy.charlot@dshs.wa.gov)

### Bellingham Public Library

- Promoting All Hands Whatcom events:
- Author event: Sam Quinones, author of *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth* will be in Bellingham on August 1, 6pm at Bellingham High School.
- Additional book discussions taking place 8/14 and 8/17.
- Details [here](#).

### Northwest Youth Services

- NWYS provides housing programs for youth ages 13 - 24.
- The PAD: shelter for youth ages 13 - 17. Process to get in.
- HUSLY: 90 day shelter for youth ages 18 - 24. Home in a neighborhood setting with a backyard. Daily check-ins, rules, safe environment while working on long-term housing options.
- TLP: 540 day shelter for youth ages 18 - 24. All beds full right now. Youth build independence and life skills, staff provide care coordination and constant support.
- Ground Floor: day shelter at 2500 E St. Open 9 - 4, for ages 13 - 24. Can provide Narcan, fentanyl test strips, food, help with paperwork, employment/education support, LGBTQ+ support, housing intake, etc.
- Contact: Rebecca, [rebeccap@nwys.org](mailto:rebeccap@nwys.org)

## Lifeline Connections

- Lifeline provides community based Behavioral Health outpatient services.
- Currently recruiting clients for substance use and mental health outpatient services.
- Provides Behavioral Health assessments, individual therapy, group therapy, case management (housing, applications, recovery resources -- whatever supports needed for recovery journey), peer support.
- Starting September, will be able to offer onsite prescriber for medications for clients enrolled/assessed.
- Services available to anyone ages 13+ on Medicaid.
- 2 - 3 hour assessment is the first step for all services. Assessment indicates whether services for mental health, substance use, or both, are needed.
- Spanish speaking providers and interpretation services are available.
- Contact: Lizeth, [lizcainosandoval@lifelineconnections.org](mailto:lizcainosandoval@lifelineconnections.org)

## LAW Advocates

- Provides free civil legal aid -- not criminal -- for low-income.
- LA is 1 of 16 Volunteer Lawyer Programs in WA.
- Currently only have 2 staff + Executive Director; trying to call back messages within 3 days, but short staffed and reliant on interns, volunteers, and volunteer lawyers.
- Office moved in April to DVSAS location (1407 Commercial St.).
- Clinics:
  - Street Law: one Saturday/mo. at Bellingham Central Library. Tenant lawyer, family lawyer, and 2 general lawyers present. Pre-registration required, call/email 2 weeks in advance. Will offer this clinic at Whatcom Community College once a month during school year.
  - Kinship Custody Clinic: once a month at Opportunity Council. Attorney and 2 paralegals assist with guardianship process.
  - Wills Clinic: for ages 60+, disabled, or terminally ill.
  - Consumer Debt Clinic: two Fridays/mo. at Whatcom Court House. Next date: 7/28.
  - Street Law at Opportunity Council: focus on homeless population. Drop-in only.
- Contact: Heidi, [heidib@lawadvocates.org](mailto:heidib@lawadvocates.org)

## Opportunity Council - Energy Assistance

- New webpage launched: [oppco.org/utilities](http://oppco.org/utilities). Easier to navigate, more clear info about programs.
- Energy Assistance program year is wrapping up, appointments filled through August.
- Scheduling will begin in September for seniors and people on Disability (anyone in household, doesn't have to be on the utility bill), with appointments beginning October - December.
- General scheduling for all others will open later this fall.
- Contact: Esther, [esther\\_chong@oppco.org](mailto:esther_chong@oppco.org)

## Opportunity Council - Community Resource Center

- New free shower program for community members hosted by Lighthouse Mission, Salvation Army, and OC's Homeless Outreach Team: Shower Connect every Thursday, 9am - 3pm at Salvation Army. Hygiene Supplies and towels provided.
- Rental Assistance no longer available, but new Eviction Prevention program will be coming soon. Assistance will be very limited. Check OC website, or call Eviction Prevention phone line for updates: (360)746-3826.
- Contact: Destiny, [destiny\\_massey@oppco.org](mailto:destiny_massey@oppco.org)

## Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

- WDRC Provides conflict prevention and intervention services, including facilitation and mediation for all kinds of scenarios -- families, small claims, communities, businesses.
- Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP) has ended, but WDRC is working to revamp housing stability services. Can provide free mediation for landlord-tenant issues, roommate or neighbor conflict, any conflict that may impact housing stability. Anyone can contact to initiate the service.
- Contact: Tanner, [tim@whatcomdrc.org](mailto:tim@whatcomdrc.org)

## DSHS - Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

- DDA can bill Medicaid for a variety of services for people with developmental disabilities, including nursing, general respite, community engagement (one on one help getting out in the community, individualized support), specialized habilitation (life skills building, SLP, psychiatric services, safety awareness, adaptive skills), and home adaptations.
- Recruiting contractors for home adaptations
- Contact: Naomi, [naomi.siegel@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:naomi.siegel@dshs.wa.gov)

## Unity Care NW

- Medicaid redetermination: people on Medicaid need to reapply for health insurance for the first time since the pandemic. Many will lose insurance due to incomplete redetermination, so remind your clients on Medicaid to do it.
- UCNW Outreach and Enrollment Specialists can help anyone with this process -- not just UCNW patients. Drop-in at 1616 Cornwall Ave. #107, or call (360)788-2669.
- Medicaid redetermination period is impacting some Medicare patients as well. Medicare counseling and savings account enrollment help is also available through Outreach and Enrollment.
- Contact: Trista, [trista.barnhart@ucnw.org](mailto:trista.barnhart@ucnw.org)

## Next Meeting:

**Thursday, August 17, 12 - 2pm @ Deming Library**