

Meeting Notes

Agenda:

- 12:00pm** Open Networking & Resource Sharing
- 12:15pm** Presentation: Ferndale Community Services & Opportunity Council
- 1:15pm** Network Updates & Announcements
- 2:00** Adjourn

Attendance:

- Ashley D. - FuturesNW
- Tami J. - Whatcom Literacy Council
- Juan M. - Opportunity Council
- Sara O. - Ferndale Community Services
- Alana P. - Opportunity Council
- Mikaila W. - Whatcom Community College
- Matt Maloy. - Interfaith Coalition
- Edith T. - Opportunity Council
- Anabel S. - Lydia Place
- Liz S. - Allied Arts
- Martha R. - Sea Mar
- Sarah K. - Lydia Place
- Jon S. - Western Washington University
- Gina E. - Western Washington University
- Amanda D. - Opportunity Council
- Kathy C. - Opportunity Council
- Sandy W. - Northwest Regional Council
- Keri A. - CTK Bellingham
- Maria M. - Sea Mar
- Tilda D. - Opportunity Council
- Piper T. - Law Advocates
- Josie H. - Brigid Collins
- Nicole S. - Signature Health Care
- Alex H. - Opportunity Council
- Thalia R. - Northwest Youth Services
- Miranda L. - Bellingham Public Library
- Peter L. - NAMI Whatcom
- Hannah K. - Interfaith Coalition
- Ashleigh E. - WCHCS
- Shannon E. - Whatcom Community Foundation
- Julie S. - Cascade Connections
- Jonathan M. - World Relief
- Ann B. - WCHCS
- Erika M. - Unity Care NW
- Jonathan M. - World Relief
- Kat D. - Brigid Collins
- Samantha Z. - Opportunity Council
- Larayne L. - Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Featured Presentation:

Ferndale Community Services - Sara O'Connor

Basic Food Application Training - Samantha Zee

- [Presentation](#)
- [Website](#)
- Contact: Sara, sara@ferndalecs.org
- Samantha, samantha_zee@oppco.org
- Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30 at 1111 Cornwall Ave.

Network Updates & Announcements:

Whatcom County Health and Community Services - Ann Beck

- Respond Whatcom Behavioral Health Training is a multi-part series designed to give first responders, behavioral health workers, and other professionals a closer look at behavioral health in our community.
- Features the voices of people who have utilized behavioral health services, families, and those working in the field.
- If you are a first responder, behavioral health worker, or other related professional, sign up for this [free online training here](#). This training is not currently available for the general public.
- Contact: Ann, abeck@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whatcom Literacy Council - Tami Johnson

- 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

World Relief Western Washington - Jonathan Martens

- 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

Brigid Collins - Kat Davis

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pinwheels for Prevention are available to wear/distribute throughout the month. Reach out if your organization would like some.
- Brigid Collins tours are relaunching
- Stewards of Children training is available on-site on a regular basis, but can also be brought to an agency. This training helps adults recognize and prevent child sexual abuse.
- Contact: Kat, kdavis@brigidcollins.org

FuturesNW - Ashley DeLatour

- Non-profit working to support students from under-served communities to achieve their career and college dreams.
- Assists with FAFSA and WASFA, which this year were released with many errors and has been incredibly hard for students and families. FuturesNW has resources and can provide 1:1 help.
- Events: Quick Start to College - summer program at WWU. Learning with Leaders coming to BTC in May
- Check out [events calendar](#) for more.
- Contact: Ashley, dreese@awayhomewa.org

Opportunity Council EcSA - Amanda

- 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

Early Learning and Family Services, OC - Juan Madrigal

- Head Start - classroom based and Early Head Start - home based for children under the age of three and pregnant parents.
- Connects families to services in the community. Registration for next year will start later this spring.
- Contact: Juan, juan_madrigal@oppco.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

Opportunity Council, Homeless Prevention - Alex Hopping

- The Homeless Prevention Program will be opening up to accept lottery applications beginning April 1st. Households that are selected from the lottery pool will be contacted to schedule an appointment.
- [Apply online](#), over the phone, or in person at 1111 Cornwall Ave in Bellingham or at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center in Maple Falls.
- This is NOT the same as the rental assistance program. This is a case managed program and it is not available to people already on a rental subsidy.
- Contact: Alex, alex_hopping@oppco.org

Bellingham Public Library - Miranda LeonJones

- The baby chum salmon in the childrens department are ready to be released! March 28th at 4:30pm, Maritime Heritage Park. Release party with Lummi Nation singing group and children's activities.
- Partnering with WWU's Sustainability Engagement Institute and Center for Community Learning to host a series of [Learning Together Forum](#) events.
- Contact: Brylie, btaylor@namiwhatcom.org

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 18, 12 - 2pm @ the Bellingham Library