

Meeting Notes

Agenda:

- 12:00pm** Open Networking
- 12:15pm** Presentation: PSE Bill Assistance and Opportunity Council Energy Assistance
- 1:15pm** Network Updates & Announcements

Attendance:

- Addison A. - Northwest Youth Services
- Aislinn A. - Meridian Family Support Center
- Alicia R. - Meridian School District
- Alana P. - Opportunity Council
- Annie A. - Northwest Justice Project
- Annabelle S. - Lydia Place
- Brock S. - Opportunity Council
- Brylie T. - NAMI Whatcom
- Cassidy S. - Lydia Place
- Carl T. - St. Vincent de Paul
- Erika M. - Unity Care NW
- Esther C. - Opportunity Council
- Elizabeth P. - Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
- Gonzalo C.
- Hannah R. - Lifeline Connections
- Hannah K. - Interfaith Coalition
- Hunter H. - PSE
- Imanat K. - Whatcom Center for Early Learning
- Jeremy L. - McGregor Benefits
- Jerry F. - Contact Counseling Recovery Services
- John H. - Pouch Ministry
- Jonathan M. - World Relief
- Julia B. - Western Washington University
- Kathy B. - St. Vincent de Paul
- Luci S. - St. Paul's
- Matt M. - Interfaith Coalition
- Maria W. - Brigid Collins
- Maria M. - Sea Mar
- Melissa L. - Contact Counseling Recovery Services
- Nicole S. - Signature Health Care
- Peyton B. - Brigid Collins
- Rosie O. - Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center
- Stacie N. - Cascade Connections
- Sandy W. - Northwest Regional Council
- Summer S. - NAMI Whatcom

Featured Presentations:

*PSE Bill Assistance & Income Eligible Programs - Hunter Hassig, PSE
Energy Assistance Updates - Esther Chong, Opportunity Council*

- [Presentation](#)
- [OC Energy Assistance](#)
- [PSE Bill Discount Rate](#)
- OC Energy Assistance (Whatcom): 1-888-586-7293
- OC Energy Assistance [online scheduling](#)

Network Updates & Announcements:

Pouch Ministry

- Loss of important documents such as ID or EBT cards is an issue for people facing homelessness.
- Pouch Ministry is a growing effort by local churches and sewing groups to make and distribute safety pouches that can be worn around the neck and under clothing if desired. Can be made cheaply and are a way to keep important person items from being lost or stolen.
- Contact: John, johnhoyte12@gmail.com

Northwest Justice Project

- Northwest Justice Project provides legal representation to low income people.
- There is representation for clients with domestic violence involvement, or needed assistance with family law, eviction prevention, employment issues, foreclosure prevention, and consumer protection.
- Referrals can be made through the CLEAR line.
- Contact: Annie, annie.aslan@nwjustice.org

Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

- Just wrapped up some successful events for Housing Week, including eviction prevention panel with tenants and landlords.
- Check out more upcoming trainings and workshops in their website [here](#).
- Contact: Rosie, rosie@whatcomdrc.org

NAMI Whatcom

- Ending the Silence is a peer driven mental health presentation for middle and high school students. It is also available for families and staff members.
- Free support groups are only possible with volunteers - there are always opportunities to get involved, some of them offer stipends.
- NAMI is hiring for a Spanish bilingual community specialist starting at \$24/hour
- Contact: Brylie, btaylor@namiwhatcom.org

Whatcom Center for Early Learning

- WCEL partners with families to provide therapy and support services to children birth-three experiencing developmental delays and disabilities.
- Currently hiring for a bilingual Spanish specialist or interpreter.
- Contact: Imanat, imanat@wcel.net

McGregor Benefits

- Medicare open enrollment period has begun, and is open until December 7.
- Upcoming health insurance info session on 11/4 from 10-noon at 1846 Iron Street, Bellingham. The first hour will cover health insurance options for people in Medicare, and the second hour will be for those navigating and choosing health plans under age 65.
- Contact: Jeremy, jeremy@mcgregorbenefits.com

World Relief

- World Relief works to resettle refugees in Whatcom County.
- Currently looking to hire for two positions, learn more on their website.
- This year's goal is to have 175 volunteers to welcome people and introduce them to our area. If interested, reach out to Jonathan
- Contact: Jonathan, jmartens@wr.org

Western Washington University

- The office of off-campus living support students not living in dorms with basic needs.
- The Western Success Scholars (WSS) program is hiring. WSS is a campus-based supportive program designed to assist all incoming WWU first year, transfer and continuing students who have experienced foster care or homelessness.
- Contact: Julia, burnsj21@wwu.edu

Mount Baker Planned Parenthood

- MBPP offers cancer screenings, basic health care, menopausal care, birth control, maternity care, and more on a sliding scale system.
- Provides services to all genders, ages, and people.
- Community health education is available in English and Spanish.
- Sex education and healthy relationship workshops are available as community programs if you would like to bring a presentation to your organization. They are able to cater education services to meet the needs of every group.
- Contact: Liz, epitts@mbpp.org

Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 16, 12 - 2pm @ St. Paul's