

Agging Well Whatcom Steering Committee

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

By Zoom call

MINUTES

Attending:

Amy Hockenberry, Whatcom County Health Department
Becky Kirkland, PeaceHealth Center for Senior Health
Chao-ying Wu, Chuckanut Health Foundation Board/Family Care Network
Heather Flaherty, Chuckanut Health Foundation
Janet Malley, Whatcom Transportation Authority
Marie Eaton, Palliative Care Institute, WWU
Mary Anderson, Whatcom Transportation Authority
Ryan Blackwell, Northwest Regional Council
Sarah Lane, Health Ministries Network
Tessa Whitlock, Chuckanut Health Foundation
Tonja Myers, Christian Health Care Center

Regrets:

Adrienne Solenberger, Opportunity Council
Chris Orr, Whatcom Council on Aging
Dave Lynch, Chuckanut Health Foundation Board/Family Care Network (retired)
Heidi Bugbee, Generations Early Learning & Family Center
Melinda Herrera, Rosewood Villa
Tammy Bennett, YMCA

Welcome

Lara welcomed Steering Committee members to the new meeting time of 12:30-2:00PM on the third Wednesday of the month. It's great to have Amy Hockenberry back after time away due to the Health Department's key role with COVID response.

Minutes from the January 7, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

2022 Priorities

The group reviewed the proposed priorities for 2022 (attachment 2 in meeting packet).

Regarding the overarching goal of shift frame from "Agging Well Whatcom" to "aging well work," Ryan and Marie stated they see them as one and the same. Lara noted she sometimes hears people refer to AWW as an entity or program they aren't directly a part of, even though they are helping Whatcom County be a better place to grow old. She suggested striving to be intentional about communicating that many people and organizations are working to promote aging well. Ying commented (via the chat): Agree it's about the work not the entity

Tonja noted that intergenerational community is not included as a priority activity, which prompted discussion about the departure from outlining work around blueprint pillars vs. activities that relate to some or all pillars.

Comments:

- The priority activities are relevant to any/all blueprint pillars (focus areas).
- The blueprint pillars are the content, or the "what"; priority activities are "how."
- An image: the pillars are on a vertical axis, and the priority activities are on a horizontal axis that intersects with the pillars.
- The blueprint update will determine what pillars to focus on, or what strategies within those pillars.

Lara asked members to indicate areas of highest interest (no specific commitment 😊, just interest). Members responded via the chat:

2022 Priority Activity	Who is especially interested in this priority?
1) Refresh AWW Blueprint	Tessa
2) Expand partnerships	Janet, Ying, Becky
3) Hold a second AWW grant round	Tessa, Marie, Ryan, Mary
4) Elevate voices of older adults	Marie, Tonja, Janet, Ying, Becky
5) Implement "official" AWW Coalition membership	Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This needs to be fleshed out more • Seems more technical, "tasky" than others • Relates to the business pledge idea discussed in the past.
6) Address loneliness and isolation among older adults	Ryan, Tonja, Janet, Ying, Becky, Mary

Steering Committee Membership

Proposal to:

- Add Kenzie Nelson with Vibrant USA – Chris Orr suggested adding, and she has expressed interest
- Fill 2-4 seats in Spring 2022, and several more in the Fall.

Discussion regarding adding Kenzie:

- It's good to have anyone with time, interest and energy.
- Concern regarding motive associated with insurance company.
- Would bring connection and knowledge base to how health dollars flow into our community and domain expertise from which the steering committee could benefit.
- An orientation process is important for any new member, emphasizing AWW goals over those of the member's organization or business.

Decision: Agreement to add Kenzie.

Discussion regarding four areas of representation to add in the Spring (attachment 3 in meeting packet). The number in parentheses indicates the number of steering committee members who "voted" for this option as one of two highest priorities.

1. Tribal Community, elder focus (6 votes)

- Broader tribal entity may be advantageous over representation from one tribe (ie Lummi or Nooksack)
- Marie shared via the chat that NW WA Indian Health Board officers are Chair: Cheryl Raser, Swinomish; Vice Chair: Lona Johnson, Nooksack; Secretary/Treasurer: Marilyn Scott, Upper Skagit.
- Marie is willing to contact Danita Jefferson and/or Juanita Jefferson (both Lummi) if needed.

➔ **ACTION:** Lara will find out who the director of the NW WA Indian Health Board is and reach out.

2. Government/Policy maker (1 vote)

- Sarah and Ying would both be willing to reach out to Carol Frazey, County Council.

3. Housing (4 votes)

4. Business community (3 votes)

- Suggestion from Ying: Private residential real estate developer (fits both housing and business)

➔ **ACTION:** Lara will list the "first tier" of people to invite, and send out with the meeting notes.

Blueprint Update

Mary gave an update from the Blueprint committee, and reviewed the workplan timeline (attachment 4). Key points and dates:

- The workplan currently has the Blueprint release slated for May 18 (May Steering Committee meeting date).
- The Blueprint committee is recommending that the refreshed blueprint be the “2022 edition,” not a draft – though input and comments are always invited.
- There will be work sessions to review findings and identify new strategies and revisions. The work sessions will be similar to Blueprint committees for the first blueprint, but just a one-time meeting. Steering Committee members and members of the original Blueprint committees will be invited.

Discussion:

- Heather would like to re-engage the 200+ people who attended the 2019 Summit, and another Summit would be a way to do that. We could ask people to share what has changed since the last summit, then incorporate into the blueprint.
- Mary noted that the full AWW list (Summit participants and others added since then) was invited to listening sessions and to complete a survey; “What has changed” was one discussion/survey question. Opportunity to give input has happened; perhaps we could ask people to add to what has already been collected.
- Question: Did we get enough input from that?
- Blueprint release could be May, June or even in the fall.
- Agreement that a re-set/re-start/re-ignite event is needed.
- Spring and Fall all-Coalition meetings (as decided at the Jan Steering Committee meeting) are both opportunities to engage the larger Coalition.
- Ryan suggested more of a fun, social, re-connect gathering in the Spring (outdoors).
- Ying asked (via the chat): How about a when-covid-is-better gathering around the portraits?
- Fall meeting could highlight or showcase the many things happening to support aging well, including AWW grant recipients.
- Lara noted that solidifying the Blueprint release date is important as it’s a deadline for the Blueprint Committee.

ACTION → Sarah, Heather and Lara will meet to plan the spring meeting and Blueprint release.

Regarding data, Lara shared that the Whatcom County Health Department is building a new population health indicators platform and would like AWW to give input on what indicators to include. Going forward, data about older adults could be found on the Health Department platform.

Amy cautioned that the data on the platform will likely not be as comprehensive or detailed as what AWW may need. She also noted that the platform is replacing what in the past have been periodic health assessment documents; the platform will be more dynamic. They are still working on the design, and conversation with AWW will help with that.

Katie Stanford from the Health Department will attend the March 16 Steering Committee meeting to provide more information and lead this discussion.

Updates and Announcements

Heather shared via the chat that [DOROT](#) in New York hosts intergenerational activities that may be a source of inspiration. [*Lara’s note: I misread this during the meeting, and thought Heather was referring to the York neighborhood in Bellingham. I am sure you heard my error. Sorry about that!*]

Sarah shared information about the [AARP Community Challenge grant](#).

Mary shared that an event is being planned to recreate the photo of a 1948 bike parade in downtown Bellingham. They are seeking to locate people who were in the photo and will invite them to be parade grand marshals. They hope to use the YMCA's pedicabs, and Tonja offered to loan the two that Christian Health Care owns.



WTA's official communication:

Where were you on May 1, 1948?

Several organizations are partnering to re-create this May Day Bike Parade on Holly Street in Downtown Bellingham. It will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

If you were riding your bike in the original parade, on May 1, 1948, parade organizers would like to hear from you!

Please call 360-788-9303 or email maureenm@ridewta.com.

Next Steps

The next Steering Committee meeting will be March 16, 12:30-2:00 PM and will include discussion with Katie Stanford from the Health Dept regarding data on older adults on the population health indicators platform.