

Whatcom Community Health Workers' Network

General Membership meeting minutes

September 27, 2019 at the Roosevelt Resource Center, 2303 Moore Street

In attendance:

David Roehn, SeaMar/Pathways

Alesha Harrison, SeaMar

Michelle Cook, Unity Care NW

Laura Reardon, Unity Care NW

Alexis Fenton, Unity Care NW

Derek Devalle, Unity Care NW

Kristi Slette, WFCN

Coordinated Committee members

Megan Stephenson, Unity Care NW

Jennie Spencer, SeaMar

Katy Hetterle, Molina

Rochelle Hollowell, WFCN

Kristi Slette, Executive Director Whatcom Family and Community Network (WFCN) *Spotlight*

- Kristi gave a compelling run down of WFCN's activities throughout the community and what it means for WFCN to be our new fiscal sponsor, as well as listed off some of the other groups who are under the umbrella of WFCN. She talked about how they like to 'incubate' community projects so those projects can grow and possibly stand on their own one day. She listed a couple meetings CHW's could attend if desired.
 - 1st Thursday of the month for the Whatcom Coalition meetings
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month for the Columbia Valley Community Connections meetings
 - Also a seminar: The Power of Connections: \$25 per person on Nov 19, you can register through the WFCN website
- Community Projects: a few were listed as examples:
 - Birchwood International
 - Birchwood Food Summit
 - Kendal SummerFest
- Kristi mentioned the Resource Center is available to rent for functions
- Another new group they are a fiscal sponsor for is the LGBTQ+ Access Coalition who are working towards linking providers of dental, BH, and primary care to LGBTQ+ sensitivity training

Funding

Discussion:

- Proposal has been sent to Chuckanut Foundation and is still under review
- There is some indication that or request may be approved for 1 yr of funding (\$30K)
- Questions on the table:
 - Does the CHW Network want to continue to pay a consultant (i.e. Lara) for 6-12 months while we get our feet under us? **Vote result: Yes**
 - 2) Allow a stipend for Coordinating Committee members? **Vote result: Yes**
 - 3) to possibly help CHW's get reimbursed for time lost? **Vote result: Yes**

Transition Plan

Discussion

- We can start the transition plan once we have a solid answer on the funding
- Opening up opportunity for anyone to help with grant writing
- Opening up a 6th spot on the Coordinating Committee

Action Items:

- Can pay a percentage of the awarded amount of the grant to person who writes it up
- Use consultant budget to hire a grant writer on an as-needed basis
- Katy's 1 yr on the committee is up in April; if she doesn't renew, we will need a replacement

Facebook

Discussion:

- Like us on Facebook! Whatcom CHW Network
- Need photos for the page
- Please invite all your friends and ask them to invite theirs
- What to put on the page? What do we want it to look like?
- Lead to a discussion around the employer campaign to raise awareness and help other CHW's make the meetings part of their workflow
 - Do not have to be a CHW member to attend the meetings – welcome community members and stakeholders/supervisors
 - Non-CHWs do not have a vote on actionable items being voted on in the meetings

Action Items:

- Update FB page with Meetings (Time/Date/Place) & email to members
- Post Community Events
- Post Community news
- Post open employment opportunities
- Post upcoming trainings
- Post latest information on the expanding definition of a CHW and where it is in legislature

State of Washington redefining the CHW:

Discussion:

- State is listening to the CHW's opinions of what the parameters should look like
 - Join WACHWA (Washington CHW Association) to participate – chwsofwa@gmail.com
- Certification without barriers
- Debbie Spink to be invited as guest speaker in January

Updates/Resource Sharing

- Health screening – East Whatcom (May 2020)
- Chronic Disease Self-Management workshop hosted this fall by SeaMar

- Skagit car dealership offering free car repair day – nominate at <https://www.skagithyundai.com/neighbor-in-need>
 - How can we bring a car repair day to Whatcom County?
- Molina is giving out \$1M in grants: Katy has details
- Ferndale Unity Care hosting YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program class
- Who wants to learn the ins and outs of Medicare? Contact Laird at Unity Care to learn how to get trained laird.mchattie@ucnw.org. Open Enrollment Oct 15-Dec 7
- WA state marketplace (Washington Apple Health and subsidized Qualified Health Plans) Open Enrollment Nov. 1-Dec. 15. SeaMar and Unity Care NW have navigators
- Unity Care NW hosting Insurance 101 informational session – free – Bellingham and Ferndale. Flyer attached, please pass around the community and to your clients!
- Unity Care NW hiring – Case Manager and Outreach & Enrollment specialist <https://unitycarenw.org/join-our-team/>
- Megan is going to join Intro to Spanish 2 with Salud Spanish
 - Beginner Spanish 1, Mondays 6:45-8:00pm, Nov 4-Jan 6
 - Beginner Spanish 2, Tuesdays 5:30-6:45pm, Nov 5-Jan 7
 - Intermediate Spanish 1, Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45pm, Nov 6-Jan 8
 - Interm/Adv Grammar & Disc Mondays 5:15-6:30pm, Nov 4-Jan 6
 - Register at <https://www.saludspanish.com/adult-classes/>

Upcoming meetings

- October meeting will be ACH Pathways – 800 Chestnut St Suite 1-B (former WAHA bldg), Oct. 25 9-11 a.m.
- November/December meeting will be the evening social event
 - Rochelle to put out a Doodle poll with suggested dates
 - Coordinating Committee provide main dish, the rest potluck
 - 5:30-7:30 tentative time
 - Bring a co-worker!