

ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, February 19, 2025, | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Summary of Attendance

Attended meeting via Zoom:

- Board Members:
 - Gazel Tan
 - Heidi Shepherd
 - Nancy Colson
 - Brian Berry
 - Jenn Ramirez Robson
 - Brenda Farwell
 - Julia Colson
 - Preston Anderson
 - Theresa Demeter
 - Alex O'Riley
- Staff:
 - Marjan Didra
 - Jenna Franklin
 - Michael Bailey
 - Joanna Bomba
 - Susan McLaughlin
- Guests:
 - N/A

Attended meeting on-site:

- Board Members:
 - Carrol Stripling
 - Pete Lewis
- Staff:
 - Shayna Pepin
- Guests:
 - N/A

Welcome and Icebreaker

- N/A

Meeting Summary

- Susan McLaughlin, Director of King County Department of Community and Human Services joined to speak to the board. She overviewed that she is not sure how long she will be in the role, that she's continuing to meet with the Executive. She shared that the Executive is organizing work around the 4Bs, and that we will learn more about those priorities in the coming months. She also overviewed the first Executive Order.
- Board Chair expressed support for equity-based procurement scoring and requested that a similar approach be considered for Best Starts for Kids procurement. Director expressed support for equity-driven investments.
- Susan offered closing reflections on navigating uncertainty and change, and gratitude for the board.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Heidi moved the motion
- Jenn Ramirez Robson Seconded
- Nancy Colson abstained

Public Comment

- No public comment was received.

Subcommittee Report Outs

- Veterans:
 - The committee did not meet this month.
 - Proposed bylaws updates have been circulated for review.
 - Feedback will be discussed at the next Veterans Committee meeting.
- RC:
 - Reviewed proposed bylaws changes.
 - Echoed the need to clarify oversight as a core board responsibility.
 - Identified oversight language as a priority issue for full board discussion.
- Seniors:
 - Met recently and conducted a second review of proposed bylaws.
 - Significant discussion focused on oversight responsibilities
 - Committee plans to continue reviewing strategy areas impacting seniors and caregivers

Board Business

Bylaws Discussion: Board went through proposed edits of Bylaws to review committee and individual feedback.

- a) **Board Member Terms**
 - a. Clarified that:
 - i. Initial term: 3 years
 - ii. Second term: 2 years

- b. Consensus emerged that:
 - i. Three years is necessary due to the complexity of VSHSL and county systems.
 - ii. A formal check-in during the second year of the first term should occur to assess interest in reappointment.
- c. Staff will draft proposed bylaw language reflecting:
 - i. 3-year initial term,
 - ii. 2-year reappointment term,
 - iii. Early reappointment check-in to avoid service gaps.
- b) Reappointment Process Challenges**
 - a. Members raised concerns about historical delays in reappointments.
 - b. Emphasized the need for clearer process coordination with:
 - i. Council offices,
 - ii. Executive Office.
 - c. Staff confirmed active efforts to streamline processes with the current administration.
- c) Committees vs. Subcommittees**
 - a. Board agreed that:
 - i. Veterans, Seniors, and Resilient Communities groups should be referred to as committees, not subcommittees.
 - b. Staff will revise terminology throughout the bylaws.
- d) Committee Naming**
 - a. Agreed to formally replace “Vulnerable Populations Committee” with Resilient Communities Committee for consistency with levy language.
- e) Oversight Definition Discussion**
- f) The board engaged in an extensive discussion on the meaning and scope of **oversight**.
- g) Shared Understanding:**
 - a. Oversight includes:
 - i. Reviewing allocations, expenditures, and remaining balances at a high level,
 - ii. Monitoring alignment with voter intent,
 - iii. Reviewing outcomes and performance measures,
 - iv. Advising on transparency and public trust.
 - b. Oversight does not include:
 - i. Contract management,
 - ii. Operational decision-making,
 - iii. Micromanagement of expenditures.
- h) Next Steps:**
 - a. Staff will:
 - i. Draft proposed bylaw language clarifying oversight responsibilities,
 - ii. Ensure requests align with reporting capacity and existing county systems.
 - b. A revised draft will be circulated prior to the next meeting for consideration and vote.

Staff Updates

- Board Packet Enhancements:

- Current vacancies list,
- Board roster with term expirations,
- Attendance tracking,
- FAQs and staff role definitions.
- Board Email Accounts:
 - Transition to official King County emails will occur once all members confirm access.
- Committee Liaison Update:
 - Resilient Communities Committee liaison confirmed as Marjan Didra, with staff support from Taylor Gaston.
- Meeting Time:
 - Board agreed to keep the current meeting time for March 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM

VSHSL Advisory Board

Minutes taken by <<Marjan Didra, staff>>