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## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

March 26, 2026, 5:00pm

### **In attendance:**

Members of the Board:

#### Public Sector:

Melissa Beaton – not present

**Ron Wesen – present**

**Danny Hagen – present**

**Ash Gregorius – present**

Elli Haddick – not present

#### Private Sector:

**Kate Bennett – present**

**Silvia Reed – present**

Gregg Davidson – not present

**Morgan Curry – present**

Carl Young – not present

#### Client Sector:

Kati Ortiz – not present

**Heather Wallace – present**

**Loly Gomez – present**

**Tina Tate – present**

Vacant

Staff: Bill Henkel, Sandi Phinney

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Danny Hagen called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

### **QUORUM PRESENT**

### **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from the February 26, 2026 Board of Directors Meetings

Correspondence:

Letter from DSHS Secretary Angela Ramirez Email from Jeff Deluca- State Supplemental Budget Outcomes for WSCAP Press Release: Home Trust of Skagit Signs Purchase and Sale Agreement for 43 Acres in Hamilton; Begins Feasibility Work for Affordable Housing and Flood-Resilient Community Development Email: Introduction & Meeting Request – Hamilton Uplands Property  
Division Reports: Melissa Self, Jazmin Flores and Sandi Phinney, Elizabeth Jennings, Taylor Babcock, and Michele Metcalf

**Motion to approve the consent agenda (February Board minutes) made by Kate, seconded by Morgan. Passed unanimously.**

### **III. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

#### **7. State of the Agency; Henkel**

Danny started the meeting here, as we awaited a few board members who had let us know they would be a few minutes late. Bill thanked everyone for supporting Spirit of Hope through their participation, donations, table sponsorships, etc. He highlighted the Google review for Mariana and the senior and disabled volunteer services program, who, the writer said, had “literally saved us from freezing.” Bill also shared a beautiful note from Angela Ramirez, the new Secretary of the WA State Department of Health and Human Services, as well as shared a story by a donor, who has been housing our clients for over a decade, and was able to watch as they went from homelessness to thriving as a family. The donor said that they have been amazed at how diligent and responsible they’ve been through the years, always paying their rent on the first of the month, even during holidays and weekends. Bill also encouraged the Board to check out our 2025 Impact Report if you haven’t yet, which focuses, like the Spirit of Hope, on prevention. One strong example of our increased focus on prevention, is the launch of Whole Family Approach pilot, where a group of families will receive wrap around supports across programs, as well as compensated involvement in a Parent Advisory Council to help guide our services. Bill also provided an update on Senior Nutrition, as no organization had applied for the RFP, which was due March 4. The Northwest Regional Council is now leaning into its role to develop the partnerships necessary to sustain the program, and brought city administrators, county staff, potential funders, and potential providers together on Tuesday to have a good initial discussion. Though there remain plenty of significant challenges, including the July 1 transition, and bridging the significant funding gap, many of the partners gathered signaled strong interest in support its success, once there is a plan and a provider in place. Our plan A is support Skagit Council of Aging if they can take it on (including administrative support, if that’s necessary). If SCOA is not able to do so, we need to define what we would need to deliver the service successfully. On Kulshan View, we started our presentations with the Mount Vernon School District to service organizations. We will have an in person board meeting on May 28 and will likely host the Kulshan View ground breaking right before it. Bill ended with a brief update on the Hamilton project, after a meeting with Home Trust and the Hamilton mayor, town clerk, and public works director, as well as a representative of the tribes. Home Trust has begun its public outreach on the project (which lists us as a partner in the feasibility work), and will likely release a press release once the town is informed and generally on board with the direction.

#### **6. Finance; Hagen**

Danny reviewed the March Finance report through January 2025, and to highlight what an amazing start to the year, with a net income of \$669,000 for the month. Note, however, that we expect much of that to be spent down in the coming months. Some of this positive number is deferred revenue from contract payments received in 2025 that will be spent this year (\$222,001). Some of this positive number is carryover Agency Program Investment (API) from the previous year (\$210,715), donated money targeted at specific uses (not “greatest need”) that was received in 2025 but will be spent this year. Some of it is from larger foundation grants we received payment up front for this year, such as \$100k from the Food Co-op, which will mainly go out as small grants to local small farms, who will replay this “loan” through donated produce to our Food Distribution Center. Usually, we provide services and then get reimbursed. In this case, we were pre-paid for services. In the coming month, we will also

include a larger upfront grant of \$550k from Skagit Community Foundation for flood relief. There will thus be some months that look negative in the next few months as we pay out and spend down these grants received for their intended purpose. Nevertheless, this strong positive number is worth celebrating, and shows how well the team's doing. The 49 days cash on hand is also good news, and represents a significant turn around from the not too distant past. Great position to be in.

**Motion to approve the March Finance Report (thru January) made by Tina, seconded by Kate. Passed unanimously.**

#### **CREAT and State level advocacy; Davidson, Henkel**

Bill went over the outcomes of the short legislative session in Olympia. Through CREAT, we were able to meet with many of our representatives and senators from the 10<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>. Item 3 in the Board packet (from our state Community Action partnership) has a summary of the major focus of our network's activities, including in Weatherization Plus Health, Statewide Energy Assistance, Housing Capital and Operational Support, Home Repair, and ECEAP Expansion, as well as \$250m (over four years) to remediate the impacts of federal cuts to SNAP and Medicaid. There was also a 10% to Recovery Navigator services (part of our street outreach efforts), as well as a \$780m cut to Working Connections Childcare. A so-called "Millionaires Tax" will go into effect in 2028, imposing a 9.9% tax on individuals earning over \$1 million in a year.

Danny added that most changes were helpful for Community Action, though not particularly helpful for local governments, who can be burdened with costs not carried by the state.

#### **Board Committee Work; Committee Leads**

Danny said that we want to build in time in Board meetings to hear our various committees report out, in part to find out where we need cross committee work and where to strategize prioritization of projects.

Tina shared from the Housing Work Group that Kulshan view is rolling along well, as we prepare for the ground breaking for phase one this spring, May 28. We've begun civic presentations, and we are brainstorming naming options to share with the Board. The group is also talking about the potential purchase of Cascade Landing and feasibility study, as well as the Hamilton project. To Ash's question about population served at Kulshan View, Bill shared that Phase 1 will be focused on students and their families with housing instability (those who are on the McKinney Vento list). We are still working with school district on how to prioritize families, and serve them across our organizations.

Sandi shared that Board planning and engagement just hosted a "test run" of Board Finance 101. We will update and send recording out to the Board. We are also still needing ideas for client sector board members to pursue.

Kate then shared from Donor Development. The good news is we're over 30% of our way to our development goal for the year. She also celebrated the recent Spirit of Hope, which grossed about \$132,000. There were so many successful components to the event, including powerful personal testimonies, a generous crowd, a beautiful slide stack, and impressive data points. Please fill out the surveys for the event, so that we can continue to improve.

Silvia finished this section by sharing that the Personnel Committee will meet on April 2 to review and discuss the latest survey on staff satisfaction and agency culture.

**IV. ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm

**BOARD REVIEW & APPROVAL:**

Approved as submitted

Approved with changes noted  
below

x \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary     Acting Board Secretary

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Date Signed