

# SNOHOMISH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## MCKINNEY-VENTO/FOSTER MEETING 2/26/2021

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**IN ATTENDANCE:** 28 participants from 10 districts, OSPI, NWESD 189, and representatives from Cocoon House, Housing Hope, and Treehouse via Zoom Meeting.

District/ Agency	First name	Last Name	Title
Arlington	Brenda	Dobry	Administrative Assistant
Cocoon House	Rachel	Mathison	Senior Director of Programs
Cocoon House	Claire	Petersen	Special Projects Manager
Cocoon House	Harpreet	Gill	Associate Director of Family Services
Cocoon House	Nancy	LaJambe	Host Homes Project Coordinator
Cocoon House	Jason	West	HSSeP Program Manager
Edmonds	Arlet	Gess	Transportation Dispatcher/MKV Router
Edmonds	Sally	Guzmán	Family and Community Engagement Coordinator
Edmonds	Karla	Sanchez Bravo	DEO Support Specialist
Everett	Lisa	Samaniego	KIT Program Transportation Admin Assistant
Everett	Angelica	Glaser	Foster Success Coordinator
Everett	Chad	Golden	Director of Categorical Programs
Everett	Sarah	Koehler	Routing Specialist
Everett	Amy	Perusse	KIT Coordinator
Housing Hope	Denise	Hollenbeck	ISA Collaborative Advocate
Lake Stevens	Sarah	Danielson	Director of Student Intervention
Lakewood	Jeannette	Hamilton	Administrative Assistant
Monroe	Kathy	Bernhardt	Family Liaison
Mukilteo	Beth	VanderVeen	Director of Student Services
Northshore	Chris	Bill	Transportation
Northshore	Dana	Rogers	Transportation
NWESD	Mark	Dennis	NWESD Regional Transportation Coordinator
OSPI	Melinda	Dyer	McKinney-Vento Program Supervisor Lead
Shoreline	Carol	Matsumoto	Student Services Specialist
Stanwood-Camano	Michelle	Kunzman	Family Support Specialist/Liaison
Treehouse	Stacy	Bailey	Education Specialist
Treehouse	Heidi	Barden	Education Advocate
Treehouse	Jamie	Tselnik	Program Manager

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was hosted via Zoom by Amy Perusse. The meeting was called to order at 10:02am Amy requested that everyone message in the chat room with their name for attendance purposes. Amy reviewed the minutes from our last meeting which was held on August 27, 2020. [Click HERE to view & print the minutes from the August Meeting.](#) Reviewed the resources and links from the August meeting too.

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### **Community Members and Shelter Staff— Q & A time (10-15 minutes):**

- Cocoon House staff shared that it is difficult to monitor students during remote learning, also really difficult to ensure they are attending.
- Some youth stay in their rooms where they don't have to mask up, others come to the living room spaces and wear their masks and social distance.
- Some schools and districts report having community resource centers and/or learning hubs in some of their buildings.
- Question was brought up regarding the number of students who are identified as McKinney-Vento eligible this year so far in our schools. Most are reporting lower numbers overall in our state, some in this group are seeing higher numbers especially in the "unsheltered" category. Monroe Liaison, Kathy Bernhardt, mentioned that one strategy that is helping identify youth this year is teaming up with the truancy office and going along on home visits. Many are being identified this way as the situations come to surface with overcrowded housing and inability to host multiple devices to the internet connection. Jason West of Cocoon House notes that this trickles down to Cocoon House too, as the schools have generally been the first contact/identification of youth who could use services. Cocoon House numbers are significantly down as well.

### **Treehouse Update**

Jamie and Heidi from treehouse presented and announced the **Treehouse CARES project**: a temporary program funded through the federal CARES Act to provide tutoring and eliminate financial barriers to success in school for Dependent youth of the State of Washington through DCYF. DCYF has contracted with Treehouse to provide this funding and it must be used by December 31, 2021. Can be used for materials and experiences that support social-emotional development and encourage youth to engage in school such as:

- Tutoring (virtual or in-person)
- School supplies and equipment
- Enrichment activities to support social-emotional development (sports and activities fees, music lessons, sports equipment, etc.)
- Credit Retrieval/Recovery
- Summer Camp or leadership programs, even if offered through non-school related locations and programs like parks & rec, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, etc...
- Musical instruments or rentals for a student who is taking lessons

Click this [Treehouse CARES project LINK](#) to download/print the details, [register for a webinar](#), and view the referral process. Also check out the embedded links to see all of the [support offered through treehouse](#).

**SAVE THE DATE:** Treehouse has their annual [Champions Luncheon virtually on March 17th 12-1pm](#). No charge. Come join us on your lunch hour to hear inspiring stories from our youth!

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### **Cocoon House Updates:**

#### **Safe Place**

Claire gave a [SafePlace Reminder](#), with the best ways right now to connect being the hotline call/text 425.877.5171. Many of the locations in the flyer are closed or very limited. Everett transit and Metro transit are still great places to direct youth to look for the yellow sign and ask the driver for help if they need it.

#### **Basic Needs Funds**

Harpreet announced that the second round of CARES act funding is being distributed in our county and shared that Cocoon House is managing the portion for basic needs coverage for families who have a youth aged 8-18 in the household and meet other eligibility criteria as described in the flyer below. Families who received assistance in the last distribution (which ended in December) can go through a fast referral directly through Harpreet as they are already screened as eligible.

New referrals should Email : [Referrals@cocoonhouse.org](mailto:Referrals@cocoonhouse.org) or Call : 425-551-9661 [View/Print flyer HERE](#) funds are available through September 30<sup>th</sup> or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first. Note that the turnaround may take longer than usual as they are experiencing a high volume of referrals right now.

#### **Host Homes**

Rachel announced a new program coming out of Cocoon House and the results of youth needs from the YHDP efforts over recent years. We will soon be seeing Host Homes emerging as an option for youth aged 12-17 in our county! Host Homes are already happening in many of our areas on an individual basis as youth find people who will let them stay at their place. Cocoon House will take it to the next level by making it a coordinated and more comprehensive service as an option in addition to shelters. This is important as shelter options are very limited for youth and usually require a youth to relocate to unfamiliar territory. Host Homes will be screened and approved homes that are located through out the region and hopefully in the areas where youth are familiar and already are connected to neighborhood supports. Hosts and youth can plan the stays for up to 21 days to give time to coordinate a longer-term housing solution, or reunification with the family. Hosts and youth are provided additional wrap around support to make the stay successful, safe, and comfortable for everybody. Cocoon House's Central temporary youth shelter will be transitioning to a Host Home model as well. Nancy LaJambe who has worked as a North County Advocate, is taking the lead on this project and we are expecting to see our first youth utilizing the program in late spring or early summer.

[Click HERE for Downloadable/Printable Host Homes FAQs](#) (Please share with others who may be interested in becoming an authorized Host Home)

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**OSPI Resources for Foster Education** and **McKinney-Vento** are in the hyperlinks. Make sure your district contacts are updated and check back regularly for updates templates and resources. Melinda states that OSPI is starting to take orders again for printed materials so if that is a need, you may order through the OSPI links. [Schoolhouse Connection Resources](#) is another great one to have bookmarked to your favorites.

### **CARES Act funding**

**Amy shared that the county regularly updates a comprehensive guide to [rental assistance, basic needs](#)**, and more. Click the link and add to your favorites. You may consider adding this link as a resource on your district website.

### **Other good things happening in our communities:**

#### **McKinney-Vento Snohomish County Brochures**

Lisa Samaniego of Everett, finalized County Wide McKinney-Vento brochures that are available for you to use in your networks.

McKinney-Vento Snohomish County Brochures

[Arabic](#), [English](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#)

#### **Edmonds Hub**

Sally Guzmán shared that [Edmonds School District has successfully launched the eHub](#) which has a resource center along with a safe and reliable place for McKinney-Vento and Foster youth to come during remote learning to access items for basic needs as well as the educational needs. Staffed by paraeducators who can assist with the learning and includes a washer and dryer where families can schedule 2-hour windows of use. The educational support is working so well, they are also using it as a model and bringing in other students who are having difficulties, like EL students, and are using the model to expand into some of their buildings. [Click HERE for a virtual tour](#).

#### **Meals for youth**

The question was brought up: How are schools getting meals to students who are attending hybrid in person classes? Specifically, students who are not attending more than a couple of hours at a time:

Edmonds: food and nutrition team are doing meal boxes cold food.

Lakewood & Lake Stevens: continuing to do weekly meal pickups as our K-7 hybrid is half day as well. Some deliveries for families who cannot get to the meal pickup sites.

Northshore: delivery 5 days/week & Wed. PM daily/weekly, including home deliveries. Many schools are doing "grab and go" meals for onsite kids, and still doing meal distribution in other ways as well.

It is probably best to go directly to the district Food & Nutrition websites to determine the best way to guide students and families. If you run into complications, connect with the McKinney-Vento Liaison and they can assist.

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### **Transportation**

Foster care education has a recent change noting that districts can now request reimbursement for up to 50% of the excess costs for transporting students in foster care; **even for “fully funded” districts**. There is some clarification needed around this as many are not sure exactly what counts as “excess costs.” Mark Dennis noted that this is very new, and the details should be coming soon.

Returning to in-person learning and hybrid schedules is posing a real challenge for our transportation departments. Arlet from Edmonds suggests we put together one place for district start up plans. Perhaps we can create a shareable folder? Melinda mentioned that at one point there was a link/page on the OSPI website for district reopening plans. I don't know how current it is since district plans seem to change day by day. [The link to the page is found HERE. Please note that this is self-reported by district.](#) You can run a report and filter by district.

Melinda asked: would it be useful/helpful for OSPI staff to offer another PD session pertaining to transportation as schools reopen? We replied with a resounding, YES!!!

### **Other questions/comments:**

Can districts use school address to enroll MKV student without mailing address? Melinda from OSPI replied yes if there are no other logical options, the school address can be used for this purpose.

**Resources for laundry in the north county area:** <https://nscoutreach.org/laundry-outreach>

The 2020-21 school year is a great opportunity to host a future MKV/Foster Meeting, virtually! If you are interested, please contact Amy Perusse. Amy strongly encouraged attendees to email her with programs or issues they would like to add to the agenda for future meetings.

### **NEXT MEETINGS (dates TBD, most likely will be Zoom hosted):**

May  
August

**Please email Staff changes or agenda suggestions to Amy at [aperusse@everettsd.org](mailto:aperusse@everettsd.org)**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.