

Media Advisory – Aug. 31, 2009

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

County's Council on Aging accepting new members

Snohomish County residents interested in the needs and issues facing older persons and younger persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply for membership on the Snohomish County Council on Aging (CoA).

The Council is a 30-member citizen's advisory board that works with the Long Term Care and Aging Office of the County's Human Services Department on issues facing older persons and younger persons with disabilities in Snohomish County.

The Snohomish County Long Term Care & Aging Office manages federal, state and local funds targeted to local elderly citizens. The Long Term Care & Aging Office relies heavily on its Council on Aging advisory board.

CoA members serve as ambassadors to the community, strategists for funding and program issues, activists around legislative matters, and monitors of the quality and responsiveness of programs and services.

New members will begin three-year terms on Jan. 1, 2010. The Council on Aging meets the fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Smaller committee groups meet according to need.

It is the expectation that every council member regularly attend and participate in the monthly council meetings and commit to serve on at least one subcommittee of interest. All meetings occur during work hours.

Subcommittees include the Legislative, Finance & Allocations, Mental Wellness, Executive and the Senior Center Committees.

The Council on Aging strives for a membership that is geographically balanced throughout the county. Snohomish County residents who represent the needs of ethnic and racial minority communities, older persons wishing to improve the quality of life for senior citizens, persons who represent organizations that serve older and younger disabled persons, locally elected officials and members of the general public are encouraged to apply. A majority of the members on the Council on Aging are age 60 or older.

It is the policy of the Snohomish County Council on Aging that persons shall not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, age,

marital status, sexual orientation or disability. Snohomish County actively encourages members of diverse communities to apply.

Interested persons must complete and file an application form by **Friday, Sept. 11**, with Snohomish County Long Term Care and Aging. Applicants will be nominated by the Council on Aging and submitted to Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon for recommendation. All nominees are subject to approval by the County Council.

To receive an application form or to find out more about the council, contact Joyce Frasu at Snohomish County's Long Term Care & Aging Division at (425) 388-7377 or j.frasu@snoco.org.

Applications may also be printed directly from the Council on Aging Web site. Go to www.snoco.org and search "Council on Aging."

###