



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development **Analyst:** Ryan Countryman
ECAF: 2023-0353
Proposal: Motion 23-135 **Date:** April 18, 2023

Consideration:

Proposed Motion 23-135 would confirm the appointment of Jennifer Keene to the Snohomish County Community Services Advisory Council (CSAC) to serve an initial four-year term.

Background

The CSAC advises the County Executive and County Council on causes and solutions to poverty. It also oversees administration of the federal Community Services Block Grant program. (More details about the CSAC are on page 2.)

Jennifer Keene has applied to the CSAC as a concerned community member. Jennifer is a resident of Council District 4 who works for Snohomish PUD and manages energy assistance programs to serve low-income customers. She has previously served on the Cascade Public Media Community Advisory Board and City of Bothell Arts & Festivals Commission as a board member. Jennifer has indicated a willingness and ability to perform the duties of a CSAC member. The County Executive has nominated Jennifer to a first term of four years as a community representative expiring on March 29, 2027.

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 23-135 would appoint Jennifer Keene to the CSAC.

Effective Date: The appointment would begin upon passage of this motion.

Fiscal Implications: No impact.

Handling: Normal

Request: Move to General Legislation Session on April 26, 2023, for consideration.

Exhibit A – About the Community Services Advisory Council

Snohomish County created the Community Services Advisory Council (CSAC) in 1986 and to advise the County Executive and County Council on causes and potential solutions to poverty (SCC 2.420). CSAC is comprised of between 12 to 24 members with representation from relevant stakeholder groups (community/private sector, low-income representatives, and public elected officials). Efforts are made to ensure each district is represented; however, it is contingent on the pool of applicants. Appointments are to a four-year term and members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

CSAC is responsible for engaging with the Snohomish County community to address needs and address causes of poverty. Additionally, CSAC oversees administration of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a federal program that provides funds to “alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency in communities.”¹

CASA Mission “The Advisory Council’s mission is to make Snohomish County more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor by mobilizing both government and non-government resources, and creating greater institutional sensitivity through education and advocacy.”²

Members commit to identifying needs from the Community Needs Assessment; an estimated three hours monthly for CSAC meetings, activities, and preparation; attending all regularly scheduled meetings (which are held during business hours); and willingness to attend the annual planning meeting. Members serve without compensation.

Note: The date on the CSAC membership matrix transmitted with ECAF 2023-0353 for Motion 23-135 is February 2023. Accordingly, it does not reflect the following recent appointments and reappointments of other members to CSAC:

- Motion 23-114 confirming the appointment of Shakima Tozay on April 5, 2023
- Motion 23-115 confirming the reappointment of Barbara Tolbert on April 5, 2023
- Motion 23-115 confirming the appointment of Gregg Arnold on April 5, 2023
- Motion 23-116 confirming the reappointment of Jennifer Delia Bereskin on April 5, 2023
- Motion 23-118 confirming the appointment of Morgan Webb on April 5, 2023
- Motion 23-129 confirming the appointment of Laron Olson on April 4, 2023

¹ <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/506/Community-Services-Block-Grant>

² <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/140/Community-Services-Advisory-Council>