

City of Poulsbo

Housing, Health and Human Services Department



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Title: Poulsbo City Council and Mayor Recognize Local Volunteers Helping with COVID 19 Response; over 300 People Assisted with Vaccine Appointments

Nine volunteers working with the City of Poulsbo and North Point Church were recognized by Poulsbo City Council this evening for efforts made to help Poulsbo residents with vaccination appointments. Each volunteer was given a certificate of appreciation and personal thanks by Mayor Becky Erickson.

“When COVID vaccines became available, we realized that the system to make appointments benefitted some people more than others,” said Mayor Erickson. “People with internet access who were adept at using the computer were able to make appointments, and people without internet and computer skills were not. We also realized that the appointment system was hard to navigate for people who don’t speak English as a first language. Over 10% of Poulsbo residents identify as Latino or Hispanic—and we knew we had to do something to increase vaccination access for Spanish speakers.”

In February of this year, the City established a COVID assistance line to help people needing help with vaccine appointments. In the past two months, volunteers have responded to over 350 calls and made over 300 appointments. 180 of these appointments were made for people identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

“Tonight’s recognition is important for several reasons,” said Housing, Health, and Human Services Director Kim Hendrickson. “So much of the COVID response, in Kitsap County, has been done by volunteers, and it feels great to honor a group of women who have gone above and beyond to help their neighbors. It also gives us a chance to remind people that the City of Poulsbo appointment help line is still up and running, and people are encouraged to call 360 394 9795 who need help making appointments.”

The volunteers recognized in this evening’s meeting were Alane Basco-Yu, Cherie Baker, Carmella Dellino, Linda Espinosa, Helen Kipps, Linda Obergottsberger, Laurie Sarver, Jane Vagstad, and Kathy Van Ye.