



# Online Meeting Minutes: Oct 17, 2023

## **Guest Speaker: Alicia Spinner, Executive Director [The Circle](#)**

- The slide presentation will be available on the INN website with these minutes
- Originally from Mexico, Alicia has been in the Issaquah community for over 14 years. In that time, she has hosted a Day of The Dead celebration at her house with the event growing each year.
- In 2017, the City of Issaquah and Alicia partnered to create a community event to share the Day of the Dead celebration as well as cultural significance.
- During the pandemic, there was increased urgency for navigating community resources, and additional barriers of language and sense of safety
- From these efforts, Alicia has started the new non-profit The Circle which works with the communities of Issaquah, Sammamish, Renton and Bellevue.
- One program of The Circle is community navigation, assisting community members who come from across the globe with understanding local resources and how to connect
- The Circle also hosts The Giving Circle which connects donors with community members who need specific items (could be crib, twin sized mattress, and more). There is a SignUpGenius where donors can learn of the needs in the community, and volunteers connect with the community members
- The Circle has also started offering English As A Second Language classes through collaboration with Renton Technical College.
- The Circle hosts multiple playgroups for families to connect
- The Circle is a place where community members can comfortably learn about this area by visiting local organizations, or with meeting representatives who come to The Circle.
- Upcoming program for community members to receive computers in conjunction with 20 hour training workshops in how to use the computers, as well how to do go about searching for information

## **Communities in Schools, Sabrina Hull**

- Welcome Sabrina and CIS to the Issaquah School District!
- Although CIS is brand new to ISD, CIS has been working with local school districts like Lake Washington and Renton.
- Currently, one staff member at Issaquah Middle School and currently hiring for Issaquah High School
- CIS works within schools to support students and families through case management services.
- Services include food, mental health, cultural competency in the schools, attendance supports and more

## **City of Issaquah Human Services, Hannah Roberts**

- Eastside Human Services hosting event on Thursday on cash flow strategies in nonprofits
- Will research information on the new Metro Flex option in Issaquah

## **Issaquah School District Equity & Family Partnership, Lorna Gilmour & Sharon Roy**

- Event on Wednesday for families and support in navigating the American school system

- Coming soon is event regarding college admissions and GET
- In December there will be more events – stay tuned
- Equity (Sharon) is supporting students and teachers through after school clubs, student interventions, professional developments and more

#### **Bahá'í Faith of Issaquah, Fara & Saba Maharian**

- Once per quarter, host a community service event, and local providers are invited to contact them to learn more and participate

#### **Friends of Youth Healthy Starts, Eowyn Reitz**

- Healthy Starts works with families with children under the ages of 5 & 6 years old with home visit, video visits, child development information and education, and hosting family group connections
- Healthy Starts currently has openings now!

#### **Hopelink Financial Capabilities & Education, Donna O'Connor**

- Financial Coaching is a free service to everyone in the community, no eligibility requirements. Start with an initial consultation and further resources as needed
- Financial Education program is a free class for the community. Donna can present at your organization and share financial information. Could be a one-time event or classes
- Launched a series for those who have recently arrived in the US, with an introduction to the American banking systems. Available in multiple languages and all materials are provided for free. Contact Donna to collaborate

#### **Issaquah Schools Foundation, Lisa Haynes**

- Monster Mash 5k is on Oct 28, registrations almost full

**Next INN Meeting: Nov 21, with a panel of presenters with information on shelter and winter resources**