

The Mission of the developmental disabilities advisory board is to promote choice, opportunity, and support for people with disabilities in an enhanced community where all people are included, respected, and dignified.

Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Date: September 3, 2024
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: In-Person, Communitas, 2nd Floor Training Room
920 Park Ave., Bremerton

A G E N D A

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF June 4, 2024 MINUTES***
- 4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA***
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Working Age Adult Policy Implementation**
 - B. Transition Student Update**
 - C. Accessible Communities Advisory Committee**
- 6. COMMUNITY INPUT**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Legislative and Budget Update**
 - B. Advocacy Reports**
 - C. IDEA to 22**
 - D. DVR-Order of Selection**
 - E. Contracts 2024-2025 Update**
 - F. DDA/DVR Provider Updates**
 - G. Provider Updates**
 - H. Officer Report**
 - I. Staff Report**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

* = Indicates action item

**KITSAP COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

5:00pm – 6:30pm
Tuesday, June 4, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Sandra LaCelle called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. via Zoom.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS** - Members and guests introduced themselves; attendance was taken.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE May 7, 2024, MINUTES***

MOTION: Donna Gearns moved to approve the May 7, 2024; minutes as presented. Jennifer Acuna seconded. Motion carried.

4. **ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the agenda as presented. Heidi Scheibner seconded. Motion carried.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Working Age Adult Policy Implementation**

- i. Updates on federal employment efforts and the Employment First Coalition (EFC) activities including, Partners for Work (PFW) was provided:
 - Kelly shared that the efforts in the development of a PSNS position is ongoing. More details to come.
 - EFC members will be meeting with the WISE social media team on June 5 to discuss and develop additional materials relating to the PFW social media face book site. Kelly shared that Kitsap Rotary PTW is being combined with the King County Rotary PFW on a dedicated PFW face book page. Already posted on the site were pictures of the mock interview event from April that took place at the BI club. Kelly will be looking into connecting this information to the County's DD Program website.
- ii. Kelly provided data for the last 12 months of Individual Supported Employment (IE) services. Highlights included:
 - In Kitsap County, 80% of people receiving IE services earned a wage; the average amount worked was 44 hours per month; and average wages earned was \$736.
 - The statewide IE data averages over the same timeframe, included 73% of people receiving IE services earned a wage; the average amount worked was 46 hours per month

worked; and average wages earned was \$831.

B. Transition Student Update

- i. 2024 School to Work (S2W) – One additional STW student will be starting work by the end of June; from agency feedback, anticipate a few more employed soon.
- ii. 2025 Job Foundation/School to Work –Kirsten has processed and scored all but one of the JF reports that were submitted. 2025 students will begin STW services in July.
- iii. 2026 Transition Students-Kirsten is working on identifying the 2026 students for the upcoming year to begin Job Foundation.

6. COMMUNITY INPUT

A. Kitsap County Parent Coalition (KCPC) upcoming June events include:

- i. Autism Training: Advocacy for Appropriate Service Supports is scheduled on June 18 from 5:30p-8:30p.
- ii. KCPC Meeting with Alta Vista Integrated Life Services (ILS) is scheduled on June 27 from 6p-7:30p.
- iii. For registration details on all upcoming events visit the KCPC events page: <https://kitsapcountyparentcoalition.org/events/> You can also contact Melia Hughes at 360-347-6412.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative and Budget Update:

a) IDEA to 22 Decision

- i. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Superintendent of Public Instruction were sued due to students with disabilities having public school services discontinue at the end of the school year when the student turns 21; the claim stated this was a violation of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as states are required to provide special education services to students with disabilities up to their 22nd birthday. While IDEA does require this, states are allowed to discontinue special education services as early as 18 if this would be inconsistent with state law or practice. The claimants argued that Washington does offer older students publicly funded basic education programs and therefore should offer special education services until the student's 22 birthday. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a lower court's decision that had denied the claimants an injunction to allow students with disabilities in Washington to attend school until their 22nd birthday as the court proceedings continue.

- ii. Jennifer Acuna shared although this isn't a final decision, things need to be corrected. Jennifer has been telling districts to hold Individualized Education Programs (IEP) meetings immediately about extending special education services terms to age 22. Students that are ready to graduate will be contacted about this extension. Schools will need to utilize their current budget as they will not receive additional resources for this change. Jennifer is expecting additional clarification from OSPI soon.
- iii. It is not clear with this change going into effect immediately, how student transition services will be impacted currently and in the future. Funds and timing of services have been predicated on students exiting school the year they turned 21.
- iv. Information about Apple Health for Workers with Disabilities (HWD) put forth by the State's Health Care Administration (HCA) was shared; the information was a reminder that it is an option that enables people with disabilities who work to continue their Medicaid coverage through this "buy-in" program. It allows workers to earn as much as they want as there are no income or asset limits; they can work as long as they want and continue to receive Medicaid coverage as there are no age limits; and the monthly premium will never be more 7 ½ percent of the person's total income.
- v. Information regarding four Adult Community Residential Service videos was shared; the videos highlight DDA funded residential services that show the similarities, differences and experiences in Supported Living, Group Training Homes, Companion Homes and Alternative Living Services. You can view the videos [here](#).

B. Advocacy Reports

- i. Cathy Borrelli with People First shared her excitement about the 2024 Community Summit and how fantastic the event was.
- ii. An update was provided on the annual statewide People First Conference that will take place in Bremerton in October; currently 115 people are signed up to attend, with 14 of those from Kitsap; the conference has the capacity to support 225 attendees.
- iii. The Kitsap People First Chapter continues to meet the first Thursday of the month at Communitas at 4 pm; the meeting is hybrid.

C. Community Summit

- i. Kelly shared 32 people were supported to attend the Summit this year; there were a few cancellations but still a large amount of representation from Kitsap County. Summit feedback shared

included:

- Kim McCarty (DDA) attended the Innovation and Resource Expo at the summit and was happy to see the advancements in assistive technology and supports in place that would allow people with disabilities to experience more of a connection, more independence and more opportunity.
- Lindsey Woodruff (Trillium) shared her excitement about the Technology for Independence session that was held during the summit. The presenters highlighted technology ideas and emerging technology trends that have the potential to reshape the course of the lives of individuals living with a disability. Examples included robots, 3D printing, and hands free digital assistants.

D. Upcoming Events

- i. The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) is sponsoring the [Black ASL Nation Expo's third annual Juneteenth Celebration](#) on June 14 from 8p-1a and an all-day event on June 15 in Seattle.
- ii. The Olympic Education Service District (OESD) is providing an in person video screening of The Right to Read documentary on June 22 from 9:30a-12:30p in Bremerton. This includes watching the film; listening to a discussion panel and participating in a community conversation. Clock hours are available. You can visit the [OESD page](#) for more information and to register.
- iii. Supporting Infants and Toddlers Social Emotional Well-Being through Resilient Caregiving workshop is scheduled on June 7 from 5p-8p and June 8 from 9a-12p in Bremerton. These workshops are intended to inspire caregivers to consider transforming personal trauma to personal resilience. To RSVP for either workshop you can email Jessica Felix (Child Development Coach) at jfelix@oesd114.org.

E. Contracts 2024-2025*

- i. Kelly shared with everyone the projected Contract Budgets for 2024-2025 that run from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. County staff still working on two TA/Training contracts to plan their upcoming projected year's budgets which will come from the training and technical assistance dollars.
- ii. An updated budget will be sent to the Board once the two TA/Training contracts projections are finalized.
- iii. Funds are planned to be increased for School to Work services as program funding hasn't been increased since it began 10 years ago, and costs have increased.

MOTION: Shannon Turner moved to approve the 2024-2025 Contract Budgets as presented. Jennifer Acuna seconded. Motion carried.

F. DDA/DVR Provider Updates

- i. Kim McCarty shared that the DDA is bringing on one more full-time staff member to assist with a transition aged caseload. Kim is hopeful that they will be fully trained by September.
- ii. To receive DDA information updates and alerts, go to [Department of Social and Health Service's Developmental Disabilities Administration \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com) to sign up.

a) DVR Annual Report

- i. Kelly provided updates from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) annual report. Highlights included:
 - DVR appointed a new Director, Dana Phelps in December 2023. Dana and the DVR team unveiled a new vision that encapsulates DVR's unwavering commitment. "Students, youth and adults with disabilities are empowered to dream big and achieve their employment goals."
 - DVR customers annual earnings increased from \$16,525.17 at application to \$35,689.86 at the closure of Fiscal Year 2023.
 - DVR sources of revenue included \$54 million in Federal grant funding and \$14.9 million in State Grant funding.
 - In 2023, a total of 2,167 customer with disabilities were employed. The majority of these hires were individuals between the ages of 16-24 and 25-34, accounting for more than half of the total employment figures for 2023.
 - \$7.3 million was spent on Job Placement and Retention in 2023.
 - Improved collaboration with Tribes around the state. In February, DVR formed a multi-disciplinary Tribal Relations Core Advisory Team to assess current processes related to collaborative work with the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Program and to identify service delivery improvements for Native American customers.

G. Provider Updates

- i. Lindsey W. with Trillium shared their offering of Community Inclusion (CI) services are underway; they are able to support more clients at this point than they had initially planned; 10 clients have begun to receive CI services with a goal of 22 clients by end of the third quarter. These services will further support participants to connect and be included in their local communities; many are receiving CI services in addition to their IE services.
- ii. Continuing to focus on their 2024 STW students; they will be supporting eight new jobs in June including one with the City of

Poulsbo.

H. Officer Report

a) QEC Committee – RFQ

- i. Kelly shared that Peninsula Services became affiliated with the Peninsula Alliance (formerly the Arc of the Peninsulas) back in September; they initially shared their intention to remain separate entities with a possible plan to merge the two organizations in the future; recently they shared wanting to move the Vocational Services program over to Peninsula Alliance and discontinue having the program with Peninsula Services. Kelly will be meeting with them this month to discuss the details that includes the need to successfully complete the RFQ process. As this process takes place, the Vocational Services department will remain with Peninsula Services.

b) Transportation – Heidi S.

- i. Heidi shared that she applied for the Transit Advisory Committee and is being invited to the next meeting, taking place on June 27 from 6:30p-8p. Heidi hopes to bring valuable information back to the group regarding transportation plans within Kitsap County.

c) September Meeting

- i. There will not be a July or August meeting. The September meeting will be in-person only at Communitas in Bremerton.

I. Staff Report

- i. Kelly shared information about the SUN Bucks Electronic Benefit Transfer Program. In December 2022, the federal government authorized a new permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefit program. This program supports children who lose access to free and reduced-price school meals during the summer months. SUN bucks provide \$120 in food benefits to each eligible child that families can use to buy food.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 3, 2024, in-person at Communitas in Bremerton.

* = Indicates action items

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	GUESTS / ORGANIZATIONS	STAFF
<p><u>Present</u> Donna Gears Shannon Turner Sandra LaCelle Jennifer Acuna Heidi Scheibner</p> <p><u>Absent</u> Veola Taylor Kathy Loughheed Jennifer Crider Rae Williams</p>	<p>Kimberly Adams, South Sound Parent to Parent Lindsey Woodruff, Trillium Kim McCarty, DDA Cathy Borrelli, People First</p>	<p>Kelly Oneal Justin Wing Sonya Miles</p>