

Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Date: March 4, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Communitas, 2nd Floor Training Room
920 Park Ave., Bremerton

A G E N D A

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF February 4th, 2025 MINUTES***
- 4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA***
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Working Age Adult Policy Implementation**
 - B. Transition Student Update**
 - C. Accessible Communities Advisory Committee**
 - D. KC Annual Resource Fair Update**
- 6. COMMUNITY INPUT**

Please limit individual comments to 2 minutes. Written comments may also be submitted to the advisory board if this timeframe is insufficient.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Legislative and Budget Update**
 - B. Advocacy Reports**
 - C. Board Officer Nominations**
 - D. DDA Caseload Forecast Report**
 - E. DDA/DVR Provider Updates**
 - F. Provider Updates**
 - G. Officer Report**
Staff Report
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

* = Indicates action item

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

5:00pm – 6:30pm
Tuesday, February 4, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Donna Gearns 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 December 3, 2024, MINUTES***

MOTION: Shannon Turner moved to approve the December 3, 2024; minutes as presented. Rae Williams seconded. Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Shannon Turner moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jennifer Acuna 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 met with federal employers in January hoping to continue efforts of developing a position with PSNS in Bremerton. There is uncertainty right now on the federal level when it comes to funding, which is going to delay the development. Kelly and Heidi connected with WISE to coordinate a plan going forward. They will be pulling all documents pertaining to the work that has been done so far in trying to develop a position and once further clarity at the federal level is established, Kelly is hopeful that the process can move forward.
 - The WISE staff who supported PFW efforts to our local rotaries retired in December. Kelly met with the WISE team in January hoping to plan a transition to another staff member to continue the partnership with WISE. More details to come.
- ii. The WISE team, in partnership with DDA, that hosted and facilitated the Alderbrook Employment Forum in October, shared the report outlining strategies and plans from the event for the next five years. Highlights included:

- Celebrating Accomplishments – This is the 20-year anniversary of the Working Age Adult Policy (WAAP)
- Washington State leads the nation in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for people with I/DD.
- Data from the DDA shows a 63% increase in people earning a wage from 2004 to 2023. Employment Security reported a 320% increase in earnings by DDA clients, from \$30 million in 2004 to more than \$94 million in 2023.
- Other themes were discussed as long-term progress will call for significant collaboration at both the state and community levels.

B. Transition Student Update

- i. 2024 School to Work (STW) – Final data for the 2024 STW class was discussed; 9 of the 11 STW participants got jobs and two students who chose to attend another year through 2025 were counted in the 2024 data.
- ii. Details about the Arc 2025 Bills of Interest for people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Highlights included:
 - House Bill 1357 – This bill would increase the multiplier to 1.15 for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program for children with disabilities ages birth to 3 that receive early intervention services. It would also establish grants for up to 25 pilot schools to establish school-wide center of excellence for inclusionary practices.
 - House Bill 1493 – This bill would allow the DDA to provide employment services to clients beginning at the age of 19 instead of age 21.
 - House Bill 1257 and Senate Bill 5253 – These bills would allow students to stay in school through their 22nd birthday, funding currently stops when the student turns 22.
- iii. The next PAVE Individualized Education Program (IEP) workshop is scheduled on February 26 from 4:30p-5:45p via Zoom. This session is in Spanish only and will help participants navigate and interpret key components of IEP to better support students with disabilities. You can register for PAVE workshops here. [Special Education Workshops](#).

C. Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)

- i. The ACAC has a couple of projects nearing or at completion, Justin updated the group on the progress of each project. Highlights included:
 - The Sea Discovery Center (SEA) accessible front door contract between Kitsap County and Western Washington University (WWU) was signed this month. SEA is hopeful that the accessible front door installation will be scheduled

and completed by the end of March.

- The City of Poulsbo Accessible Tricycles project involved purchasing two electric assist, adaptable tricycles for Kitsap County residents to use free of charge. The City of Poulsbo has worked out an organizational agreement with the school district's special education department making it possible for the school district to reserve and use the tricycles at no cost. This brings more awareness to the accessible tricycles and opens up additional opportunities for students and staff to utilize the tricycles in their community.

6. COMMUNITY INPUT

A. Melia Hughes, Kitsap County Parent Coalition (KCPC) Coordinator shared details about the upcoming KCPC February meetings, highlights included:

- i. Autism and Inclusion Training for Parents and Professionals is scheduled for February 19 from 5:30-8:30pm via Zoom. This session explores the shift from the traditional medical model of disability to the more empowering social model.
- ii. Understanding the Special Education Process is scheduled for February 26 from 4:30-5:45pm via Zoom. This training will be entirely in Spanish with no English translation provided. The goal is to guide participants through the steps of identifying and supporting students with disabilities, from evaluation to developing and implementing an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- iii. KCPC meeting with Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) is scheduled for February 27 from 6-7:30pm via Teams. Participants will learn how KCR supports families and people with disabilities, which include Early Learning/Head Start, Financial Assistance Programs, and Home Improvements.
- iv. For registration details on all upcoming events visit the KCPC events page: <https://kitsapcountyparentcoalition.org/events/>. You can also contact Melia Hughes at 206-486-0300.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative and Budget Update

- i. An overview of Governor Bob Ferguson's Budget Priorities for 2025-2027, updates on the expected state budget deficit, and reviewed various House and Senate Bills. Highlights included:
 - The state is expecting a 10 to 12 billion dollar deficit over the next four years and have asked state agencies to provide potential cuts along with proposed reductions, the focus is on preserving current programs and not expanding or increasing current services and programs.
 - House Bill 1390 – Requiring the DDA to develop and

implement a plan to transition all individuals participating in the Community Protection Program into other services or programs by December 31, 2025.

- House Bill 1130 – Prioritizing specified populations when enrolling eligible clients in open waivers. Transition is not listed as a priority, but DDA leadership says it will remain a priority going forward.
 - House Bill 1344 – Requires the DDA to update the waivers to add respite care to aggregate services immediately upon the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval.
 - HB 1158-This bill was introduced in January and concerns were raised by counties, parents, and providers that this change would impact over 2,300 people receiving Community Inclusion Services (CI).
- ii. Advocacy Days 2025 presented by The Arc of Washington State was discussed. Virtual events are currently scheduled along with an in-person rally that follows each event. with the rally that will happen at 1pm that same day. You can [register here](#) to participate.
 - iii. Kelly updated the group regarding the Dan Thompson 2022-2024 Account Impact report and shared that a total of over \$51 million was awarded, which served an estimated 60,793 people.

B. Advocacy Reports

- i. Kelly met with WISE and representatives from the Kitsap People First Chapter to discuss the identified upcoming trainings for the members, they currently are working out the details. It is anticipated that some of the training will occur next fiscal year. More details to come.

C. KC Annual Resource Fair

- i. This year's Kitsap County Resource Fair takes place on April 23, 2025, at the Central Kitsap High School Gym in Silverdale from 4-6pm. Planning efforts are underway as the committee met in January.

D. 2025 Community Summit

- i. Due to the state budget deficit the 2025 Community Summit will be virtual with no in-person option. It will take place during the first week of June, no date has been officially announced. This year's summit will be free with no registration required. Early stages of planning have begun; more details to come.

E. DDA Day Habilitation Report

- i. The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) was directed during the last legislative session to create a Day Habilitation

Report detailing recommendations for the establishment of community-contracted day habilitation services statewide and their inclusion in the Medicaid State Plan. A three phased approach was recommended and discussed.

- ii. There are still concerns with the Home and Community based waiver settings rule as they require the use of federal funds to support people with disabilities to access the community the same way anyone without disabilities would. Other states that offer day habilitation as being proposed are moving away from this model to be more like WA state as services are currently administered.

F. DDA/DVR Provider Updates

- i. Kim shared that DDA is now fully staffed. There is currently people on the service request list dating back to July 2024, DDA has started to complete initial assessments on the applicants that have been waiting the longest.
- ii. DDA attended the Port Gamble Resource and Career Fair on February 1 in Kingston. This was an opportunity for DDA to connect with several agencies and providers of support for families of adults and children with diverse needs and to connect with agencies for career opportunities and job assistance.
- iii. DDA will be hosting an application event night at the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe on March 12, 2025, in Kingston.
- iv. To receive DDA information updates and alerts, go to [Department of Social and Health Service's Developmental Disabilities Administration \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com) to sign up.

G. Provider Updates

- i. Lindsey with Trillium shared their 2024 outcomes and spoke about their 2025 goals.

H. Officer Report

- i. Donna announced that Kathy Lougheed would like to remain on the board and her renewal will be forwarded to the BOCC.
- ii. Rae Williams shared upcoming dates and locations for the Toastmasters Job Interview/Effective Communication trainings. Upcoming trainings included:
 - February 13 from 5-6pm at the Poulsbo Library, located in the small meeting room.
 - February 27 and March 27 from 5-6pm at the Sylvan Library in Bremerton, located in the Heninger conference room.

I. Staff Report

- i. Kelly shared that Heidi Scheibner started on January 21 and it has been going well.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in-person at Communitas in Bremerton.

* = Indicates action items

ATTENDANCE		
MEMBERS	GUESTS / ORGANIZATIONS	STAFF
<p><u>Present</u></p> <p>Donna Gearns Shannon Turner Jennifer Acuna Kathy Lougheed Rae Williams Cindy Bonilla</p> <p><u>Absent</u></p> <p>Sandra LaCelle Jennifer Crider Veola Taylor</p>	<p>Kim McCarty – DDA Melia Hughes – Kitsap County Parent Coalition Lindsey Woodruff – Trillium</p>	<p>Kelly Oneal Heidi Scheibner Justin Wing Doug Washburn Sonya Miles</p>