

**Whatcom County
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB)**

Whatcom County Health Department
3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham
March 26, 2018
4:30- 6:00 PM

Board Members Present:

Ken Larson
Tim Ballew
Megen Porter

Barry MacHale
Russ Sapienza

Board Members not Present:

Kathleen Harrigan (excused)
Jeffery Hart (excused)

Aaron Perzigian

Guests Present:

Beverly Porter, The Arc
Kait Whiteside, Max Higbee Center
Rod Duncan, DDA
Susan Larson, People First
Tarra Hollins, Community Member

Carrie Carron, Cascade Connections
Shannon Neely, DDA
Nicole Mathey, Kulshan Supported
Employment

Staff

Jessica Lee, DD Program Specialist; Amber Wolpers, DD Transition Coordinator;
Chris D'Onofrio, Clerk; Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager

1.  Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Russ Sapienza and introductions conducted. Quorum was present. Two new DDAB members were welcomed and introduced:

- Megen Porter- Parent
- Tim Ballew- Whatcom County Council representative

2.  Minutes Approval

Ken motioned to approve minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Russ.

ACTION November 2017 minutes approved as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0



3. Unfinished Business and Discussion

Legislative Session Overview: The 2018 Washington State Legislative session concluded at the beginning of March. Jessica gave an overview of key legislation/budget changes impacting the DD population.

- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is directed to develop a plan with DDA to improve transition services for young adults. No funding is attached.
- OSPI-An increase in the rate used to designate funding for special education was approved.
- OSPI- funding is provided to address inequity in discipline for students with disabilities. OSPI funding to ensure training of Para-educators
- DDA- funding approved to provide community residential services to 47 individuals waiting to move from state institutions
- SSB 6199: Instructs DDA to contract with a third-party administrator to manage and monitor respite and personal care providers by 7/1/2021.
- SSB 2382 Requires 10% of proceeds from sale of state property to go to the Housing trust fund. A % of the trust fund is designated to benefit individuals with disabilities.
- HB 2448 allows for the transfer of property to non-profit supported living providers while allowing for the person with DD to remain in the home.
- HB 2578 Prohibits housing discrimination based on a renter's source of income.

DDAB Priorities: Project Development Updates

The board's project priorities from the previous meeting were reviewed.

No new contracts have been developed, but the following are currently the focus of development efforts.

- Partnership Projects with school districts to improve post graduate outcomes for students.: Retreat with Districts scheduled in May, 2018
- Improve provider practices in supporting the social/emotional development of young children.
- Employer Engagement and Hiring Initiatives

4. New Business:

Personal Care and Respite:

An informal "quiz" was provided followed by discussion to engage and educate the board around personal care and respite services available through the state.

Whatcom County is now one of 5 counties that have been added to the Carina pilot. The Carina website allows Medicaid and state funded clients to find care

providers who have met state training and other requirements and are looking to provide those services. The website provides a description of the type of service, schedule and hours both client and care providers are looking for to better facilitate matches. Both client and care staff must choose to enroll in this service.

5. Public Comment:

- Susan Larson shared that she recently celebrated her “work anniversary” along with others at Kulshan Supported Employment’s annual banquet. Susan will also be attending the Community Summit from June 12-14 in Wenatchee.
- Jessica shared that stipends are available through the County to help offset conference costs for individuals with disabilities, their family members or interested board members. Contact Jessica for more information.
- There will be a forum on DD and dementia hosted by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council on June 28th at the SeaTac conference center. See www.ddc.wa.gov/demetia-forum/ for more details
- On May 6, there will be a Down Syndrome Outreach Spring Fling and potluck at Fairhaven Park from noon-3:00 with activities, crafts, and a toy & book exchange. More details available from the Arc of Whatcom County.

6. Meeting Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned by Russ Sapienza at 6:02 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 21, 2018. (Note the date change due to Memorial Day.)

Respectfully submitted by Chris D’Onofrio, Human Services Clerk

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