

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

Whatcom County Health Department  
3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham  
May 21, 2018  
4:30- 6:00 PM

**Board Members Present:**

Ken Larson  
Megen Porter  
Barry MacHale

Aaron Perzigian  
Jeffery Hart  
Kathleen Harrigan

**Board members excused:**

Russ Sapienza

**Board Members not Present:**

Tim Ballew

**Guests Present:**

Beverly Porter, The Arc  
Susan Larson, People First  
Janet Malley, WTA

Alaina Caffrey, Community Member  
Sara Meadows, Community Member

**Staff**

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

**1.  Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Ken Larson and introductions conducted.  
Quorum was present.

**2.  Minutes Approval**

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

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



**3. Presentation: Whatcom Transit Authority-Janet Malley**

Janet Malley from Whatcom Transit Authority gave an overview of fixed route, paratransit, flex route and zone services. She reports that fixed route is the most inclusive and least restrictive route with the most flexibility.

- Paratransit is a “curb to curb” service that is available to eligible individuals.
- Eligibility is based on disability and criteria related to the individual’s ability to ride fixed route.
- Paratransit Routes extend for 3/4 mile on either side of the fixed route.
- Paratransit requires advance notice which is 5 pm the day before your scheduled trip.
- Zone service is available to everyone, and serves areas of the county without access to fixed route services. Geographic areas or “zones” within the county are only served on specific days of the week. Zone service typically connects riders to a fixed route hub, where they can transfer to their final destination.
- Flex route allows the fixed route bus to “detour” off of the existing route on certain rural routes, during certain times. This helps individuals who may have difficulty getting to fixed route stops.

Janet reports that WTA coordinates with many community partners including Medicaid Transportation, Council on Aging and school districts.

The WTA strategic plan was completed within the last year and is available on their website. She encouraged people to voice their concerns as the WTA is very responsive and values community input.

Susan Larson shared her experience using paratransit and the fixed route.

### **DDAB Priorities: Project Development Updates**

Jessica gave an update on the Partnership Project with School Districts. A district retreat was held on 5/18/18 and representatives from 6 of 7 school districts participated. The purpose of the retreat was to share resources, identify district priorities for improving transition outcomes and plan for training and technical assistance in the 2018-19 school year.

Districts requested three additional full day meetings to improve transition practices in the 18-19 school year. The County has contracted with Shaun Wood from Washington Initiative on Support Employment (WISE) to provide districts with Technical Assistance. Shaun specializes in working with individuals with significant barriers to employment and has worked with districts in both the US and Canada.

#### **4. New Business:**

##### **Annual Information, Education and Family Support Summary:**

Jessica provided a handout with annual data from 2016 and 2017 from the Arc of Whatcom County for Information, Education and Family support. Beverly Porter, Executive Director of the Arc gave an overview of services and explanations for the changes between the two years.

Parent to Parent (Parent peer support program) moved from Whatcom Center for Early Learning to the Arc in January of 2017. She also stated that program consolidation and prioritizing of program resources may account for the decrease in networking and social events. She indicated that there has also been a decrease in referrals from the Single Entry to Access to Services (SEAS) line.

#### **5. Public Comment:**

- No comments

**6. Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned by Ken Larsen at 5:58 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 23, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Wolpers, WCHD Transition Coordinator

#### **HD staff**

Jessica Lee

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