

**Whatcom County**  
**Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB)**  
Whatcom County Health Department  
September 24, 2018  
4:30 - 6:00 PM

**Board Members Present:**

Ken Larson  
Barry McHale  
Russ Sapienza

Kathleen Harrigan  
Jeffery Hart

**Board members excused:**

Megen Porter

**Board Members absent**

Tim Ballew

**Guests Present:**

Martha Gluck, DDA  
Shannon Neely, DDA

Scott Watling, DDA

**Staff**

Jessica Lee, DD Specialist; Samantha Murdoch, Coordinator

**1.  Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Russ Sapienza and introductions conducted. Quorum was present.

**2.  Minutes Approval**

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

**ACTION** May 2018 minutes approved as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0



**3. Comments from Co-Chairs:** Russ reported that he volunteered for the Whatcom Center for Early Learning (WCEL) Bacon and Kegs fundraiser. The event had great turnout and it was a lot of fun to participate.

**4. Old Business**

**DDAB Project Updates:**

An overview of progress made on the DDAB priorities for local funds was reviewed. Highlights include:

- Infant Mental Health Project: Purpose of project is to increase the capacity and skill of 0-3 home visiting staff to address the needs of families. 0-3 staff receive training and on-going consultation from an Infant Mental Health Specialist in reflective supervision practices. Planned start date in 2019.
- Partnership Projects with School Districts: A second work session is scheduled for October 16 to improve local transition practices for young adults and build connection between districts. 3 Districts have also applied to receive consultation in transition best practices.
- Community Connections Pilot- An overview of the proposed project was shared. It's primary purpose is to 1) Engage families to develop a vision for the future and identify the experiences/skills needed to achieve it 2) Model and increase the use of DDA community guide/ engagement services as a resource to increase community participation and inclusion. 3) Provide opportunities for families to meet and receive mutual support. The project incorporates the Charting the life course (CTLC) framework. A brief exercise incorporating the CTLC principles and tools was conducted.

### **Single Entry Access to Services (SEAS) Updates:**

Jessica provided an update and data on the SEAS program, currently funded in part through local county DD millage funding. SEAS is an intake and referral line available to anyone concerned about a child's development. The SEAS line also provides coordinated referral from primary care and social service providers. This program is currently provided through the Opportunity Council

- SEAS referrals have more than doubled since its start in 2013
- An estimated 60% of referrals relate to children ages 0-2. The coordinated referral process provided by SEAS has more than doubled the number of children served annually within early intervention programs for infants and toddlers.
- Top 3 referral needs identified through SEAS:
  - Developmental Evaluation
  - Special Needs Therapies
  - Medical Evaluations.

## **6. New Business:**

### **Early Intervention Services-Report to the Legislature**

The report, mandated by the legislature, provides an overview of the redesign and alignment of funding for Early Intervention services (EIS) for infants and

toddlers ages 0-2. An overview of the impacts in Whatcom County were reviewed. Changes include:

- The loss of the Opportunity Council as the local lead agency for EIS.
- EIS providers will contract with the state, eliminating a layer of administration, but also removing local, centralized service coordination effective July 1, 2019.
- EIS funding through the Opportunity Council currently helps fund the SEAS line. In preparation for the redistribution of these funds, new funding mechanisms will need to be developed to support the SEAS line prior to July 1, 2019.

## **DDAB NOMINATIONS:**

The board positions for which nominations will be accepted in November were reviewed. These include: 1) Chair and Vice-chair (or co-chairs) 2) Nominating committee and 3) executive committee.

## **6. Public Comment:**

Updates from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA):  
DDA has been actively working with case managers and families to improve use and access to services available through the DDA waivers. Waiver programs such as Individual and Family Services (IFS) provide families with a budget and menu of services. DDA is interested in identifying strategies which help families fully utilize the services they are eligible for.

A decision package, which details funding requested by the Developmental Disabilities Administration, has been submitted to the governor's office for review. The budget will be decided during the next state legislative session in January.

**7. Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned by Russ Sapienza at 6:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 26, 2018. This meeting will be back in the normal location at the Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway.

### **HD staff**

Jessica Lee

### **Direct Phone Line**

360-778-6047

### **E-mail**

[jilee@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:jilee@co.whatcom.wa.us)