



## Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Monday, January 24, 2022 4:30-6:00 pm  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:**

David Charleston  
Gina Bring  
Raegen Miller  
Kathy Kershner  
Caroline Applebee

Ken Larson  
Megen Porter  
Jeffery Hart  
Valerie Billmire

**Board Members Excused:**

Alysa Oradat

**Board Members Absent:**

Dana Weber

**Guests Present:**

Lindsay Foreman-Murray  
Kait Whiteside, Max Higbee Center  
Krishna Herrera, DVR  
Paul Simon, DDA

Grant Zezula, DDA  
Stephanie Jones, DDA  
Patricia Alderete, DDA  
Shannon Neely, DDA

**Staff:**

Jessica Lee, DD Specialist; Ann Beck, Supervisor; Ashley Geleyense, Coordinator

**1.  Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order and introductions were conducted. Quorum was present.

**2.  Minutes Approval**

There were no objections to the September minutes as presented. Raegen moved to approve. Jeffery seconded the motion. Caroline was not present for the vote. The board voted and the minutes were approved.

**ACTION** September 27, 2021 minutes approved. Aye 8, Nay 0, Abstain 0



### **3. Honoring Co-Chair Ken Larson**

Ken served a total of four terms (12 years) on the board. Jessica thanked Ken for his service on the DDAB and presented a plaque.

### **4. Nominating Committee Recommendation & Board Nominations for 2022**

The nominating committee met with prospective member Lindsay Foreman-Murray and recommended her appointment to the County Executive. Recommendations made to the Executive's office will be reviewed and approved in February. Lindsay introduced herself to the board. There is one more open position that is designated for an individual with disabilities. Alysa was not present but indicated to Jessica via e-mail that she was willing to continue serving as co-chair.

The following slate of officers and committee members was proposed for approval:

#### **Co-Chairs**

- Alysa
- Raegen

#### **Executive Committee, Co-chairs plus**

- David
- Megen
- Valerie

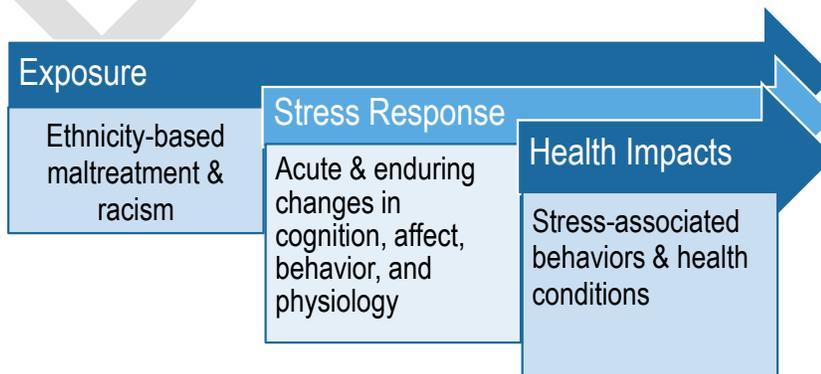
#### **Nominating Committee**

- Jeffrey
- Gina
- Kathy

Kathy moved that the slate of officers and committee members be approved. David seconded the motion. Caroline was not present for the vote. The board voted and the motion passed.

**ACTION** 2022 committee and officer slate approved. Aye 8, Nay 0, Abstain 0

**5. Racism as a Public Health Crisis** Whatcom County Council, acting as the Health Board passed a resolution affirming that racism constitutes a public health crisis. Ann shared



a graphic from [a presentation to Health Board/County Council](#) discussing how racism impacts individual health and leads to health disparities.

A brief overview of actions identified in Resolution 2020-054 were reviewed, including training to staff and board members, promoting diversity of race within county boards and commissions and supporting community efforts to alleviate issues of racism and bias in the community, among others. A brief series of virtual polls were completed to assess the board's current awareness and understanding of racial equity, implicit bias, and intersectionality.

## **6. 2022 Legislative Session**

The 2022 legislative session is a "short" session, during the second year of the state biennium which will end on March 4, unless a special session is enacted. Jessica shared several resources where information can be found about specific bills impacting services to individuals with DD, including the [Arc Legislative Notebook](#), [Arc's Bill tracker](#), and [leg.wa.gov](#) to [see original bill text and status](#). Jessica went over some of the bills that the County is tracking, including [HB 1980](#) which would allow DDA clients to receive both employment services and community inclusion at the same time. The Bill Tracker is updated every Monday during the session. The board talked about their experience using these tools, and asked questions. Jessica encouraged members to explore topics/bills that they found of interest and to contact her if they would like the board to explore a topic in more depth at a future meeting.

## **7. Public Comment**

Community member Susan Larson reminded the board of the advocacy day event, "Civil Rights: Nothing About Us Without Us" on January 26<sup>th</sup>. This event, along with many others, are a part of the Arc's Advocacy Days, and can be attended virtually or in person. Jessica showed the board [where these events can be found on the Arc's website](#).

## **8. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by Ken at 5:54 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 28, 2022. This meeting will be virtual on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Geleynse, Coordinator

### **HD Staff**

Jessica Lee

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