



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 Geleynse, 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

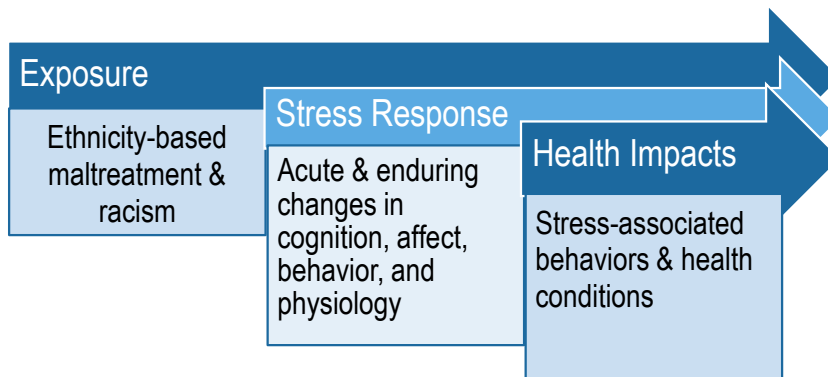
Nominating Committee

- 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 enrolled individuals 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 26th. 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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