



## Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Monday, July 26, 2021 4:30-6:00 pm  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:**

Jeffery Hart  
Alysa Oradat  
Kathy Kershner  
Ken Larson

Valerie Billmire  
Raegen Miller  
Gina Bring  
Dana Weber (late arrival)

**Board Members Excused:**

David Charleston, Aaron Perzigian  
Megen Porter, Caroline Applebee

**Board Members Absent:**

Artemis Langford

**Guests Present:**

Grant Zezula, DDA  
Kerri Holferty, ADS  
Patricia Alderete, DDA

Kristin Nguyen, Cascade Connections  
Shannon Neely, DDA  
Stephanie Jones, DDA

**Staff:**

Jessica Lee, DD Specialist; Amber Wolpers, 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**

Ken recommended that an amendment be made to the minutes in reference to the number of members who voted to approve the March minutes. The vote should read 9 ayes instead of 7. The minutes were approved with one amendment.

**ACTION** March 22, 2021 minutes approved. Aye 7, Nay 0, Abstain 0



Jessica shared that there were a couple of links on the agenda for board members to explore: [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net) and a School to Work video.

### **3. Presentation: Access and Disability Services, Whatcom Community College**

Amber introduced Kerri Holferty, Director of Access & Disability Services (ADS) at Whatcom Community College (WCC). Kerri gave an overview of the college's ADS program and processes. ADS at WCC serves about 300 students (11%) per quarter. Kerri encouraged board members to check out their [website](#) for more information about the program. Kerri answered questions from the board.

### **4. Job Foundations Pilot Program Update**

Amber, who coordinates the School to Work program at the Health Department, gave a presentation on Job Foundations, which is a five-year pilot program offered through the Developmental Disabilities Administration. A link to a video created to engage families was shared [What to Expect from Whatcom School to Work](#). Members were encouraged to watch on their own due to technical issues. The video was a collaborative project with Whatcom teachers, students, parents, vocational providers and the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment. (WISE)

The program engages students in their second to last year of transition. The goals of the program are to get students connected to the adult system earlier, complete a comprehensive vocational report, and prepare students to start the job search process their last year of school. The hope is to increase job outcomes and reduce the gap between when school ends and the job begins. Many of the services with School to Work remain the same but students now enter their last year of transition with a comprehensive Job Foundations report. The report details skills and strengths of the student as well concrete action steps needed to achieve employment outcomes.

There were 13 students, scheduled to exit school in 2022, who participated in the first year of the pilot. There were some challenges incorporating the pilot requirements into the County's existing School to Work program but overall the project went smoothly. The primary challenge was most students received more limited work-based experiences due to COVID.

Amber shared about other partnership strategies used to engage teachers and families, many of which are on hold or have had to change due to COVID. She also shared some stories of past graduates and their employment journeys.

### **6. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **7. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by Alysa at 5:44pm

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 27, 2021. This meeting will be virtual on Zoom.  
Respectfully submitted by Ashley Geleyense, Coordinator

**HD Staff**

Jessica Lee

**Direct Phone Line**

360-778-6047

**Email**

jlee@co.whatcom.wa.us