



Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Monday, May 24, 2021 4:30-6:00 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Aaron Perzigian
Reagan Miller
Valerie Billmire
David Charleston
Jeffrey Hart

Caroline Applebee
Gina Bring
Dana Weber
Alysa Oradat

Board Members Excused:

Megan Porter

Board Members Absent:

Artemis Langford, Kathy Kershner

Guests Present:

Kait Whiteside, Max Higbee Center
Beverly Porter, Arc of Whatcom County
Shannon Neely, DDA
Scott Watling, DDA

Bryli Blankenship, SEAS
Jana Burk, SEAS
Susan Jewell, Community Member

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

There were no objections to the March minutes as presented. The minutes were approved.

ACTION March 22, 2021 minutes approved. Aye 9, Nay 0, Abstain 0



3. Single Entry Access to Services (SEAS) Presentation

The Single-Entry Access for Services (SEAS) program, housed at the Opportunity Council, originated in 2013 out of the Whatcom Taking Action for Children with Special Health Care Needs planning group. <https://whatcomtakingaction.org/>



The program connects families with children who have (or are suspected of having) disabilities, delays or behavioral concerns to community resources. Care Navigator Bryli Blankenship gave a presentation on the SEAS program, including the referral process, referral data and outcomes. The board discussed and asked questions.

4. Arc Parent Information, Education and Support Services Presentation

Beverley Porter gave an overview of the many programs at the Arc of Whatcom County, and shared how the pandemic impacted service delivery.

In addition to program data, slides illustrating participants in the various Arc programs were shared including membership meetings, training, parent support groups, sibling support, social/networking events and the youth self-advocacy group. Support programs are organized by and for people with developmental disabilities their parents and caregivers. The board discussed and asked questions.

5. Brief 2021 Legislative Updates

Jessica briefly shared updates about the latest legislative session. The [WA State Arc website](#) provides a summary of bills and budget items impacting the DD community.

Highlights included:

- Elimination of Sub-minimum wage in Washington State
- Required exit planning between DDA and the department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) related to youth exiting foster care with DD.
- Increase in various DDA Waiver programs including the Children's Intensive In-home Behavior Support (CIBS) , Basic + waiver for High school Graduates exiting school to support employment and other services, Individual and Family Services.

6. Public Comment

Susan Jewell, invited everyone to the Arc's annual membership meeting on May 26th, which marks the Arc's 85th anniversary.

Jessica shared information about a [Family Information Session on "Transition Recovery Services Beyond Age 21" happening Wednesday, May 26th](#). It will also be recorded and available on the OSPI website. Jessica also shared information about the [2021 Virtual Community Summit: Thriving Through Equity, Resilience & Inclusion](#)

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Alysa Oradat at 6:03pm

Next Meeting: Monday, July 26, 2021. This meeting will be virtual on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Geleyense, Coordinator

HD Staff

Jessica Lee

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