

Whatcom County
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB)
Health Education Center
July 22, 2019
4:30 - 6:00 PM

Board Members Present:

Todd Donovan
Aaron Perzigian
Russ Sapienza

Jeffery Hart
Arrissia Owen-Turner

Board members excused:

Megen Porter
Kathleen Harrigan

Board Members absent

Ken Larson
Barry McHale

Guests Present:

Rod Duncan, DDA
Martha Gluck, DDA
Beverly Porter, The Arc of Whatcom

Shannon Neely, DDA
Nicole Mathey, Kulshan Supported
Employment

Staff

Amber Wolpers, CH Specialist; Emily West, Coordinator

1.  Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Ken Larson and introductions conducted. Quorum was present.

2.  Minutes Approval

Jeffery motioned to approve minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Aaron.

ACTION May 20, 2019 minutes approved as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0



3. School to Work Program Presentation

Amber gave a presentation on the School to Work (S2W) Program. Presentation included a video of a student participant as well as an example of a video resumes. The video resume was developed as part of a training and technical assistance project with school districts, also referred to as the partnership project. School to Work focuses on a specific student's pathway to employment. The partnership projects pairs vocational providers with school district staff to focus on improving district transition practices.

Chris with Cascade Connections spoke about their work with students and districts. The S2W process includes:

- Observing the student at the school or job site and reviewing information gathered by the district.

- Developing a person centered employment plan with input from district staff, vocational agency and the student/their family to identify the student’s skills, interests, work experience and support needs. The intent of the plan is to identify what the student wants/doesn’t want, support needs and the type of jobs that will be a good match.
- Based on the person centered plan, Cascade schedules informational interviews, job site tours, and talks to employers in the field that the student is interested in entering to develop individualized work experience.

Chris passed around a booklet that showcased some of the young people who have participated in School to Work and talked about their journey.

In the Partnership Program Chris works to help connect the districts with local businesses to develop work based learning sites.

Amber presented the data from the School to Work Program.

4. DDAB Priorities

County staff are requesting that the proposed change to the DDAB priorities reviewed and discussed at the May meeting be finalized. The change was proposed under area 3 *“Promoting Community Awareness and Inclusion”* under element *“C”* to read the following: *“Build the capacity of generic community services and infrastructure to serve individuals with DD including housing, transportation, health, recreation, aging and other services.”*

The intent is to align the priorities with the County plan and to allow flexibility in the use of millage funding, where appropriate, as matching funds for affordable housing units, designated for individuals for DD for no less than 40 years. Funding would be one time commitments out of the current millage fund balance.

The board requested more information on the affordable housing matching fund proposal, which is currently being developed.

Aaron moved to approve the amended strategic priorities to include the changed language in item c. Russ seconded the motion.

ACTION Approved changed language to DD Advisory Board Priorities. Aye 5, Nay 0



5. County Plan-Discussion and Updates

Some additional edits to the draft County plan presented in May have been proposed. Amber went over the edits with the board.

- Changed the scope of the plan from to 5 years and align with the state fiscal year (July-June)
- Data correction, Page 12

- Add the following strategy on Page 13 under School Transition: “increase awareness of financial tools such as ABLE accounts, special needs trusts, etc.
- Page 14 updated school to work data to reflect changes in data definitions.
- Page 16 added new employment measure, related to participant progress toward work goals.

A brief discussion to further reflect and expand on the new plan priority area of “community infrastructure” on page 21 was conducted.

Who in the community has a role in improving infrastructure?

- Bellingham Housing Authority
- Lummi Transit
- WTA
- WCHD Housing Authority
- YMCA & YWCA
- Libraries
- Tribes
- Churches
- PeaceHealth
- Police and Fire Departments
- Mental Health Providers
- Substance Abuse Prevention Providers
- Whatcom Family & Community Network
- Center for Independence
- Local post-secondary education; BTC, WCC, Western
- City and County Council
- City and County Planning
- Neighborhood Associations
- Utilities
- Public Works
- Medical Providers
- EMS
- Builders/BIA
- Code enforcement
- Business Agencies (Government and Non-Profits)
- Tax payers
- School Districts
- Park District

How can they impact it?

- Prioritize inclusion, access, welcome
- Expanding services
- Updating requirements for services
- Grants and planning
- Coordination

What are some strategies for building capacity?

- Information and education of groups
- City/State/County Government lobbying State Legislature for funding
- Cascade Radio Group ads– involvement from profit and non-profits through
- Public service announcements
- Participation and representation
- Service clubs
- Build capacity for smaller cities i.e. Ferndale, Lynden, and East County

6. Community Summit-Russ and Ken

Russ talked about his experience at the Community Summit in Wenatchee. There were various workshops including one on ABLE savings accounts, one on encouraging creativity through kite making, and one on how to really understand a person who is living with DD every day. There were two very great speakers; one was a young woman who talked about her experiences with having has no arms or legs and playing the violin. There was a musical group with DD members, an art exhibit, technology workshops, and anti-bullying and anti-discrimination program workshops.

7. Public Comment:

- Martha Gluck with DDA will be acting Regional Administrator and Scott Watling is stepping into the role of Field Services Administrator. Martha anticipates more growth in the Bellingham DDA caseload and has hired a Children's Case Manager to serve Whatcom and Skagit County. Patricia Alderete has moved into the supervisor role for the children's team.
- The Whatcom Center for Early Learning (WCEL) will be hosting the second annual Bacon & Kegs Festival on Sunday August 11 at Depot Market Square. It is a fundraiser event to support infants and toddlers with special needs..
- The Arc of Whatcom County will have the 16th Annual Buddy Walk on Sunday October 6 from 12-3pm at Depot Market Square. The event is an awareness fundraiser opportunity specifically for Down syndrome and building connections and inclusion in the community.
- Tomorrow night there is a NAMI event at the Health Education Center on guardianship. Beverly from the Arc will be on the open panel. The Arc will be hosting a guardianship workshop on July 30th from 9:30-11:30. The guardianship packet should be purchased at the courthouse prior to the meeting.

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

Next Meeting: Monday, September 23, 2019. This meeting will be at the Whatcom County Health Department, 509 Girard Street.

Respectfully submitted by Emily West, Coordinator

<u>HD staff</u>	<u>Direct Phone Line</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Jessica Lee	360-778-6047	jilee@co.whatcom.wa.us