



Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Monday, January 25, 2021 4:30-6:00 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Ken Larson
Kathleen Harrigan
Aaron Perzigian
Megen Porter

Russ Sapienza
Kathy Kershner
Jeffery Hart
Arrissia Owen-Turner

Board Members Excused:

David Charleston

Board Members Absent:

Alysa Oradat

Guests Present:

Beverly Porter, Arc of Whatcom County
Sara Billington, DVR Intern
Shannon Neely, DDA
Reagen Miller, Board Applicant
Valerie Billmire, Board Applicant

Aaron Dickson, Cascade Connections
Rod Duncan, DDA
Scott Watling, DDA
Gina Bring, Board Applicant

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

Aaron motioned to approve the November minutes; Russ seconded. The motion passed and minutes were approved.

ACTION November 23, 2020 minutes approved. Aye 8, Nay 0, Abstain 0



3. DDAB 2021 Slate of Officers and Committee Nominations Approval

Jessica shared the proposed slate of office and committee members: Co-chair #1 Alysa Oradat, Co-chair #2 Ken Larson; Executive Committee comprised of co-chairs, and Arrissia Owen-Turner and David Charleston; Nominating Committee comprised of Jeffrey Hart, Arrissia Owen-Turner, and Ken Larson. Aaron moved to approve the slate of officers and committee nominations. Kathy K seconded. The motion passed and slate was approved.

ACTION 2021 officers approved. Aye 8, Nay 0, Abstain 0



4. Nominating Committee – Recommendation, Valerie Billmire

Valerie has been interviewed by the nominating committee, and a recommendation for her nomination sent to the Executive's office for approval. There is another nominating committee meeting scheduled this week to interview the four remaining applicants.

5. Brief Legislative Overview

An overview of legislative issues and resources was shared. The Arc of Washington coordinates a Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) made up of stakeholders throughout the DDA system including residential providers, self-advocates, employment providers and counties. A list of current bills and budget proposals impacting individuals with DD as well as upcoming hearings are summarized on the Arc's website, and were reviewed with the board. https://arcwa.org/2021_session/ One page information sheets on a variety of issues impacting individuals with DD have been developed which can be shared with legislators. The county and the DDAB does not specifically endorse or make recommendations on any particular piece of legislation.

Rod Duncan from DDA shared that funding for transition aged adults exiting school is currently in the Governor's budget, and they feel fairly confident that funding will be available for students exiting in 2021. The board and guests discussed school transition services.

6. County Services Satisfaction Survey/Employment During COVID

A County "employment services during COVID" satisfaction survey was sent to all 387 enrolled adult clients in Whatcom County. There was 21% response rate. Jessica shared a snapshot of what was learned from the survey in the following categories: individual supported employment, average number of service contacts per month, how remote services were conducted, satisfaction with services, barriers to virtual participation, and what clients did and did not like about virtual services.

7. Topics for Discussion at Future Meetings

Jessica reviewed that the topics of homelessness/affordable housing and equity and diversity issues were two topics of interest for future board discussion

Follow up on bills that are still active in March, including the bill addressing youth with DD exiting foster care were also identified as topics of interest.

8. Public Comment

The local DDA office is excited about working on enrolling transition aged youth this time of year and has gotten better about starting the process with adult case managers earlier in the process to avoid gaps in services.

Rod Duncan, DDA, reminded the group that DDA has put emergency rules in place to purchase technology during the pandemic. Technology must be needed for the individual to access services remotely.

The Max Higbee Center construction is completed; the building passed final inspection and certificate of occupancy was received. Max Higbee aims to use the space for small group programs in early 2021 prioritizing respite services families who are essential workers.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Ken Larson at 5:51pm

Next Meeting: Monday, March 22, 2021. This meeting will be virtual on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Geleynse, Coordinator

HD Staff

Jessica Lee

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