



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 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 is 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.

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.

Stories of past graduates and their employment journeys were shared.

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 Geleynse, Coordinator

HD Staff
Jessica Lee

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