



## Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Monday, September 26, 2022 4:30-6:00 pm  
Hybrid Meeting – via Zoom and In Person

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Board Members Present:**

Caroline Applebee  
Jeffrey Hart  
Raegen Miller  
Valerie Billmire

Megan Porter  
David Charleston  
Gina Bing  
Kathy Kershner

#### **Board Members Excused:**

Lindsay Foreman-Murray

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Alysa Oradat

#### **Guests Present:**

Paul Simon, DDA  
Stephanie Jones, DDA  
Patricia Alderete, DDA

Kait Whiteside, Max Higbee Center  
Beverly Porter, Arc

#### **Staff:**

Jessica Lee, Program Specialist; Ann Beck, Human Services Manager; Amy Freeto, DD Transition Coordinator; Amanda Burnett, Community Services Supervisor

#### **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 July minutes as presented. Kathy moved to approve. Valerie seconded the motion. The board voted and the minutes were approved.

**ACTION** July 25th, 2022 minutes approved. Aye 8, Nay 0, Abstain 0



#### **3. Early Intervention Services (0-3) Demographic Data-Revisited**

Jessica revisited and provided more information regarding the Early Intervention Services Demographic Data form that was presented at the July 25, 2022 meeting.



Kathy asked questions for clarification regarding who we are currently serving in the program. Jessica noted that per census data our 0-5 population is more diverse than the population as a whole, and that the demographics (race/ ethnicity) of children 0-3 served in early intervention program generally mirrors the 0-5 census data.

#### **4. DD Millage Funding Overview**

**2021 Expenditures** Jessica provided an overview of Developmental Disabilities Millage revenue and expenditures for 2021. Millage is property taxes collected to benefit DD as well as Mental Health programs in the County. The process for charging administrative costs to programs is changing in 2022 and will likely result in a DD millage fund balance. Kathy asked how much the fund balance will be. Jessica is working on clarification. Ann explained the history of DD millage in more detail. Jessica reviewed the current millage contracts and estimated that \$159,000 of current annual revenue is not allocated to either administration or contracted services. (and would thus be available for additional services or staffing.)

#### **Planning for 2023 and 2024**

Jessica discussed the 2023 and 2024 Developmental Disabilities Program Planning document in the agenda packet, which detailed changes expected in the coming year that may impact program capacity and development. Impacts included DD program expansion funded by the legislature (School to Work and the allowance for clients to receive both employment and community inclusion) as well as several legislative reports (Including the Employment/ community Inclusion rate study, that will be impacting the program costs) Caroline asked for more detail regarding the rates for individual employment. Jessica explained some of the history behind individual employment rates and the methodology used by the state. Stephanie provided some additional clarification on the state's process. Paul suggested that DDA be invited to the November meeting to share on the various state reports due this fall to the legislature.

#### **2019 DDAB Priorities and Current strategies**

Jessica discussed the Whatcom Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB) Priorities provided in the board packet. These priorities help guide program development using both local DD millage as well as state information, education and training funds. Raegan noted themes related to capacity building in priorities. Kathy commented that she would like to see strategies which support families with child care needs. David shared his first-hand experience with care needs. Kathy provided additional comment with regard to the need for recreation spaces built to accommodate children with disabilities.

Jessica provided an overview of current investments and services in each of the 3 priority areas (1. Children and Families, 2. Individuals with DD 3. Community) Jessica noted that we have the fewest investments in Category 3, Increasing Community awareness, infrastructure and Inclusion. Beverly shared what her organization, the Arc, does to address DDAB priorities related to disability awareness and advocating for accessibility.

Valerie commented there's seems to be good support for children 0-3 and from 4-21, less support after individual's age out of the school system at 21.

Jessica asked the board what information they needed to amend or make recommendations on the priorities? She reviewed the previous community input process from 2018. Three forums were organized around each of the 3 priority areas. The board amended the priorities based on feedback from the forums. Jessica asked for suggestions on how to get feedback from the public – survey, forum, meetings with agencies serving individuals with DD etc.? David stated he would be open to holding a forum again. Ann commented she likes the idea of providing multiples ways for the community to provide feedback. Jessica will come back with a recommendation on community feedback design for board input at the next meeting.

## **5. Public Comment**

- Raegan opened discussion for public comment.
- Beverly provided more information on the Buddy Fest on October 2, 2022 at The Depot Market. Parent to Parent is planning a Halloween party that will be held at Bloedel Donovan Park.

## **6. Adjourn**

Reagan requested a motion to adjourn, which was made by and seconded by David.

**Next Meeting:** Monday November 28th, 2022. 4:30-6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Lee, Program Specialist.

### **HD Staff**

Jessica Lee

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