

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
KITSAP COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting  
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER-** Donna Gearns called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. via Zoom.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS-** Members and guests introduced themselves; attendance was taken.
3. **APPROVAL OF February 2, 2021 MINUTES\***

*MOTION: Frances Aquiningoc moved to approve February 2, 2021 minutes as submitted. Marian Wiggins seconded. Motion carried.*

4. **ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\***

*MOTION: Marian Wiggins moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Jennifer Acuña seconded. Motion carried.*

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Working Age Adult Policy Implementation

- a) The Employment First Committee (EFF):  
Partners to Work is continuing with rotary clubs; the next event planned is to seek a club to host Informational Interviews with Rotarians. Committee will meet next on March 15.<sup>th</sup>
- b) Reminder: WISE is putting on free webinars every week, see details in handout.
- c) The WISE Community Summit will be virtual again this year; from May 6-June 24. The theme is Thriving Through Equity, Resiliency, and Inclusion.
- d) Staff is continuing to track employment during COVID. In December there was a downturn to 31%, but January was up to 33% employed. Starting to get calls from employers saying they are ready for employees to come back. As vaccinations roll out, people are getting more comfortable with themselves or their family members returning to work.

B. Transition Student Update

- a) Of the 2021 transitions students, a third person has gotten a job and has started working. There are two others close to gaining a position.
- b) 2022 Job Foundation rollout – There will be 13 students. Of the 13, twelve have selected a provider. Agencies have begun their Job Foundation activities. This month there will be a provider meeting and a Job Foundation Collaboration meeting.
- c) The statewide Job Foundation Team met with DVR last week and counites joined in on the meeting; a few items discussed: Gaps when Job Foundation report is completed and when School to Work activities begin in July. Also, there still might be a need for agencies to provide community-based assessments given schools have been unable to staff community-based work experience sites this year.
- d) Jennifer Acuña – OESD Newsletter
  - I. Latest topic was Person-Centered Planning (see Newsletter handout)
  - II. Inclusionary Practices Project – Have had a series of trainings for Inclusionary Classrooms; will continue throughout rest of the year. Have increased the number of preschool buildings completing trainings and being involved, from two to six buildings. One of the buildings is in South Kitsap and one in North Kitsap.
  - III. Other good news - LRE1 – Students in General Education classrooms; wanted to increase the goal from 39% to 50%, one year out, and have now hit 55%.

C. County Supported Employment Program Update

- a) There is an additional interested department at the County to hire a supported

employee. There are two existing positions at the County currently.

**D. Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) Update**

- a) ACAC is able to access funds from the state; one project recently funded was the purchase of two Hippocampe chairs to use in parks. The chairs have been purchased and are currently stored at Bainbridge Island Parks and Rec. There is one adult and one child chair. While they are free to check out, limited availability due to COVID.
- b) Next project they're looking at is purchasing a duet bike. Hoping to get the funding request in within the next couple of weeks.
- c) Kitsap County hired a new Parks & Rec Director, Alexander Wisniewski. He will be holding a meeting looking at the master plan for the Port Gamble area. Public is invited to provide input. He will be at the next ACAC meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>, a good opportunity to speak with him about accessibility.

**6. COMMUNITY INPUT**

- Melissa Lund, Kitsap County Parent Coalition (KCPC) – Melissa attended a variety of events in the past month, some of which included:
  - Held monthly Parent Coalition meeting – Topic: Self First, with Larry Davis
  - Extended School Year IEP Workshop
  - Advocacy Days online this year, began in February, held each Wednesday
  - Employment First Meeting
  - DD Resource Fair Planning Meeting
  - Upcoming events:
    - March 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00-1:00 pm – KC Parent Coalition- Topic: DD Housing
    - March 30<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm-4:00 pm - Autism Workshop: Social Stories
    - Each Wednesday in March – Advocacy Days
    - April 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm – IEP Workshop: Highschool Transition

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Legislative and Budget Update**

- a) Handout – Bills of Interest that are still on the list:
  - HB 1213 – Funding for ESIT and makes ECEAP pilot permanent
  - SB 5268 – Transform services in community residential, redesign ICFs
  - SB 5237 – Elimination of Subminimum Wage Certificates
- b) Kitsap County COVID Vaccine Handout – Options are available to sign up if someone doesn't have the internet, call-in option. There are still some appointment slots available for March 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Eligibility for vaccine currently includes caregivers and any that live in group home situation. If you have Kaiser insurance, look into their vaccine administration appointments.
- c) Federal Legislation – A package is in the works to help state and local governments in vaccine infrastructure and distribution and a proposal to increase the federal match to state dollars. Also included are funds to increase the number of individuals living in and accessing their local communities instead of institutional care.
- d) A proposed budget from House Republicans was a proposal to cut DDA's budget for employment and day programs; would cut \$7.1 million out of current budget and would cut \$13 million for next year. The proposed cuts are much higher than what is typically underspent; proposed cuts are 7-15%.

**B. Advocacy Reports**

- a) Justin Maxwell, President of Bremerton, People First Chapter-  
Chapter members are currently meeting online, on the first Thursday of each month, at 4:30 pm. This past meeting, had the first guest speaker, discussing what it means to be an advocate and talked about his experience on Bainbridge Island. Have recently merged with the Bainbridge Island Chapter. Several chapter members have been attending Advocacy Days. If anyone is interested in joining the meetings, they can find information on the website, email their interest, or join the Facebook Page, Kitsap People First. A member survey can be found on the Page.

**C. Job Foundation – OSPI Materials**

- a) OSPI has completed new materials to share with teachers to get the word out on

Job Foundation. Material can be found online on the DDA Best Practices web page– see handout for more details. The material provides an overview of the Job Foundation project, what the role of school partners are, and how students and families can get connected to the project.

**D. Board Officer Nominations**

- a) Board officers are to submit their nominations now and will vote in April. Names can be sent to Sandy and Kelly; they will collate and provide in April.

**E. Virtual Annual Resource Fair**

- a) Virtual Resource Fair Page will be available starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and stay open through the full month of April. Information has been gathered from around 100 organizations that will be represented. They will be organized by category on the event page. Typically, the in-person fair has around 60 organizations represented. A flyer with more details and a link to the event page, should come out next week.

**F. DDA/DVR Provider Updates**

- a) Kim McCarty, DDA – The Arc’s Center for Future Planning is hosting an upcoming webinar on future planning; more details in handout. There have been issues with guardians or parents not planning into the future for what happens to their loved one when elderly parents or guardians are gone. This is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Additional information is provided on Consumer Direct Employer (CDE), which was discussed last meeting. It is very important that individual providers are paying attention to the changes. A webinar that was recorded is available online (see handout) that will inform providers of changes to ensure there is a smooth transition, they can continue to get timely payments, and support their clients.

**G. Provider Updates**

- a) Kimberly Adams, ARC – SibShop 2021 Calendar Handout- Geared towards kids 7-12 who have siblings with a disability. Life After High School Handout – Touching on transition pieces and will be 6 weeks long, starting March 18<sup>th</sup>; register online to participate. Arc is also continuing to have support groups on first and third Tuesdays of each month. Additional meetings on third Saturdays of each month. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, there is an online Jeopardy family fun event.
- b) Jenifer Andersen, Trillium – Jenna Ziegler, Interim Program Director is now overseeing and joined the Kitsap Team. Have had a lot of employers who are starting to bring people back since COVID starting; clients are getting vaccinated and clients are getting new jobs as well. Planning a training with North Kitsap School District, which will give them additional information on Job Foundations and School to Work. This will ensure they know the process so they can guide students and families in signing up. Jamie and Samantha from Holly Ridge will be completing a Job Development Training.

**H. Officer Report**

- a) None

**I. Staff Report**

- a) Kelly reported counties have been working with DDA on lifting the lid on provider rates for Employment Day Program Services to support vendors maintain provider capacity. Early on during the pandemic, they were given flexibility to allow providers to bill for remote services and fund training time. As time has passed, it hasn’t been enough; most providers are experiencing revenue losses and looking at layoffs if more revenue can’t be generated. DDA will lift the lids temporarily March 1-June 30<sup>th</sup>. Counties have to stay within their current budgets but based on the current expenditures, Kitsap DD plans to raise provider rates to maintain capacity and ensure providers will be around as we continue to move back to normal.
- b) Next meeting on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**8. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.**

\* = Indicates action item

### ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	GUESTS/ORGANIZATIONS	STAFF
<p><u>Present</u> <i>Frances Aquiningoc</i> <i>Donna Gearns</i> <i>Kathy Loughheed</i> <i>Marian Wiggins</i> <i>Jennifer Acuña</i> <i>Veola Taylor</i></p> <p><u>Absent</u> <i>Sandra LaCelle</i> <i>Christine Johnson</i> <i>George Adams</i></p>	<p><i>Justin Maxwell, Kitsap People First</i> <i>Colleen Bradley, PAVE</i> <i>Jenna Ziegler, Trillium</i> <i>Kim McCarty, DDA</i> <i>Jenifer Andersen, Trillium</i> <i>Melissa Lund, KC Parent Coalition</i> <i>Kimberly Adams, P2P – ARC</i></p>	<p>Kelly O'Neal Elizabeth Wilcox</p>