



# King County

Department of Community and Human Service  
Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division  
Board for Developmental Disabilities

## MEETING MINUTES

**Day/Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021

**Time:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Streaming via Zoom

**BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL:** Anquida Adams  
Steve Andrews – Excused  
Theresa-Ann Clark  
Joe Cunningham

## WELCOME AND BOARD INTRODUCTIONS

The Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, via Zoom. The Board Chair, Theresa Ann Clark, called the meeting to order with a Land Acknowledgement.

## CHAIR'S REMARKS

Theresa-Ann, Chair explained the widening of the community that the Board represents to include the following:

- DeafBlind and Deaf communities;
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy; and
- Other neurological conditions.

She also discussed the Board is awaiting approval of new members sometime in early November to include:

- Laura Escude;
- Hameed Quraishi; and
- Tiffany Lee.

The Board is always recruiting and welcomes applications from self-advocates, neurodiverse people, allies, youth and family members. Learn more about the board by visiting our website at [https://kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/developmental-disabilities/board-developmental-disabilities/Join\\_the\\_board.aspx](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/developmental-disabilities/board-developmental-disabilities/Join_the_board.aspx).

Theresa-Ann Clark, Chair also shared information on the following areas of Board interest:

- Housing - plans to create a Housing Committee. This committee would plan a virtual

housing conference in 2022.

#### Transportation – King County Regional Transportation Plan

- More access for vulnerable communities

#### Future goals:

- Training to support self-advocates in becoming more active on the Board.
- Forming liaisons to connect with other boards and commissions sharing similar concerns.

#### Monthly Board Resources:

- The Board for Developmental Disabilities' website references the Department of Community and Human Services' blog, slide shows, happenings, Board Chair's newsletters, and events at: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/developmental-disabilities/board-developmental-disabilities.aspx>.
- Theresa shared the Art of Autism's website with the Board. For more information, please visit <https://the-art-of-autism.com/>.

#### Importance of audio self-descriptions:

- Helps people with low vision or are blind picture who is speaking.
- Reminder to use the AGREES mnemonic.
  - Age;
  - Gender or gender expression;
  - Race;
  - Ethnicity;
  - Eye color/hair color; and
  - Surroundings or environment (if it feels safe to do so).
- Reminder to vote in the upcoming local election on November 2, 2021. [Voter Registration in Washington | Vote.gov](#).
- Jim Ott sent out an email poll and will also conduct a poll during the meeting to gather input for an alternate evening meeting time for Board meetings.
- Accessibility during meetings – Theresa-Ann asked staff if the Board could provide American Sign Language as a standard accommodation at future Board meetings.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Theresa-Ann Clark, Chair called for a motion to approve the September 1, 2021, Board Minutes. The Minutes were so moved, seconded, and approved as written.



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## SHARING OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Theresa-Ann, Chair provided a reminder of the upcoming Legislative Forum in November where legislative priorities are outlined. She then opened the floor to share community information.

- Ginger Kwan, Open Doors for Multicultural Families, shared information on rental assistance to families in need, especially for the Developmental Disabilities' population. More information can be found at [Referral Form – Open Doors for Multicultural Families](#).
- Ramona Hattendorf, The Arc of King County, shared that in Washington public schools, it is Disability History and Pride month. More information can be found at [Alliance of People with disabilities | \(disabilitypride.org\)](#).

## STAFF REPORTS

### KING COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORTS (DDECDS) DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Liz Snow, DDECSD announced the next King County Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and the Early Supports for Infants and Toddler (ESIT) updates.

The ESIT team recently closed a work force provider survey. Details on the survey included:

- Input from 462 providers who work with contracted ESIT.
- The purpose was to gather data to help staff to encourage, support and hold each provider, so they can thrive in their role and continue a career with ESIT.
- Over the next two months, staff will analyze the results and will share information back to ESIT agencies in 2021.

The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Group:

- In September, staff held a training entitled Observing as Witnessing, Clinical Observations of the Parent-Child Relationship. The purpose of this training was to support the power of observation and bearing witness when working with babies and caregivers.

Susy Stremel, DDECSD provided the following updates from the Adult Services Team:

- The Adult Services Team is working with service providers, stakeholders and system partners to provide stability and sustainability issues caused by the pandemic. One issue entails the hourly fee for services that employment provides can charge. This fee has not increased in over ten years making it difficult for employment providers to support participants in their jobs, especially now when people are returning to work and placing additional stress on job coaches.
- The Adult Services team is looking at the hourly fee for service rate and working toward making the hourly fee for service more sustainable.



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- There was a recent extension of a higher rate reimbursement for employment and community inclusion providers. That rate has been extended through June of 2022.

Adult Services Team updates:

- Susy acknowledged the work folks are doing within the Employment First goal area work groups.

Holly Woo, DDECDS presented for the Community Information Outreach and Referral (CIOR) Team updates:

- Board members:
  - Three board candidate's applications have been reviewed by the executive's office and forwarded on to the county council for confirmation.
  - Board recruitment continues.
- Legislative Committee meetings:
  - The last Legislative Committee meeting was held on September 23, 2021. The committee members finalized eight potential legislative priorities.
  - Three major areas of focus:
    - Increase housing options, making sure that housing options are accessible, equitable, healthy, safe and affordable.
    - Ensure equitable access and connections to culturally relevant services and resources and community.
    - Invest in workforce development to improve family's access to Early Support for Infants and Toddler services.

The Committee members shared DDECSD honored its commitment to center the voices of people with disabilities, Black, African American, Indigenous and people of color in developing these priorities.

- Holly provided a reminder the division's virtual Legislative Forum will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Magan Cromar, Division Director shared job opportunities within DDECSD.

- The Early Childhood Team is recruiting for a Program Manager III position. This position will help support language access with our early childhood work, Deaf, Hard of Hearing programs and supports, vision impaired programs and supports, and community engagement.
- The Adult Services Team is recruiting for a School-to-Work Program Manager III.

## REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR / FIELD SERVICES REPORT

Merri Snow, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration provided the following updates:

- Waiver Capacity;



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- Individual and Family Services Waiver (with 2,435 people currently enrolled);
- Basic Plus waiver (4,187 people currently enrolled);
- Core Waiver (1,769 people currently enrolled);
- Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Supports (45 people currently enrolled); and
- Community Protection Waiver, (130 people currently enrolled).

Next month Merri will share about the Consumer Direct Employer program and will provide updates on a new service entitled, Safe In Home.

### **POLLING FOR EVENING BOARD MEETING TIMES:**

Jim Ott, DDECSD administered a poll for an alternative evening meeting time to be held the first Wednesday of the month. It has been a goal of the Board to hold several meetings a year in the evening to make meetings more accessible to community members who work during the day. The poll revealed the majority of Board members and community members chose to meet from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at a future Wednesday evening meeting.

### **PRESENTATION – WASHINGTON STATE ABLE SAVINGS PLAN**

Peter Tassoni, [Washington ABLE savings](#) provided plan highlights.

- ABLE is an acronym: Achieving Better Life Experience
- Any and all funds in an ABLE account is exempted and not counted towards the \$2,000 resource limit. (A tax-free way to grow your money)
- Contributions up to \$15,000 a year, and you don't lose any benefits from the means tested disability benefit programs,

#### **Eligibility:**

- Participants receiving Social Security benefits and meets the Social Security definition for disability.

#### **Enrollment**

- The ABLE Plan is an online entity and at least a \$25 contribution.

#### **Contributions**

- Annual limit of \$15,000 per year (Family members, friends, anyone can contribute to the ABLE account).

Anquida Adams, Board Member would like to work with Peter to bring this information to communities of color.

For more information, contact Peter Tassoni by phone at 360-7250-3125, by email at [peter.tassoni@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:peter.tassoni@commerce.wa.gov), or visit the ABLE program website at <https://www.washingtonstateable.com/>.



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## BOARD RECRUITMENT

The Board for Developmental Disabilities is seeking residents of King County interested in serving on the board. The board is a 15-member citizen's advisory board, which provides oversight of community services for residents of the County who have intellectual/developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or other neurological impairments, and their families.

If you are interested in learning more about the Board, please contact Jim Ott, Information and Outreach Manager, at 206-263-9060 or [Jim.Ott@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jim.Ott@kingcounty.gov). More information on the Board can be found by visiting the Board's webpage at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/developmental-disabilities/board-developmental-disabilities.aspx>.

## MEETING REMINDER

- The next Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2021, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legislative Forum is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 9, 2021**, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- The next King County Interagency Coordinating Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

## ADJOURNMENT

Theresa-Ann Clark, Chair thanked everyone for attending. In closing she shared challenges the Board has faced due to the Open Public Meetings act as the size of the Board has diminished during the Pandemic. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Prepared by:  
Hope Lopez

Attested by:  
James Ott  
Michaelle Monday



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