

*The Mission of the developmental disabilities advisory board is to promote choice, opportunity, and support for people with disabilities in an enhanced community where all people are included, respected, and dignified.*

## **Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board**

**Date: April 7, 2026**

**Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**[Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

**Meeting ID: 841 0742 2234**

**Passcode: 092242**

**In-Person: Port Blakely Conference Room, KC Administration Building,  
619 Division St., Port Orchard**

---

### **A G E N D A**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF March 3rd, 2026, MINUTES\***
- 4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\***
- 5. Advocacy Reports**
- 6. Presenter, Carmen Smith, Kitsap County Parks Department – Gordon Park**
- 7. Transition Student Update**
- 8. Developmental Disabilities County Plan**
- 9. Legislative Update**
- 10. Program Updates**
- 11. DDA/DVR Provider Updates**
- 12. Provider Updates**
- 13. COMMUNITY INPUT**
  - a) *Please limit individual comments to 2 minutes. Written comments may also be submitted to the advisory board if this timeframe is insufficient.*
- 14. Officer Report**
- 15. Staff Report**
- 16. ADJOURN**

\* = Indicates action items ..

# Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Call to Order – Donna Gears called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Introductions – Members and guests introduced themselves; attendance was taken.

APPROVAL OF THE February 3, 2026 MINUTES\*

MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the February 3, 2025 minutes as amended. Kathy Louheed seconded. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\*

MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the agenda as presented. Kathy Louheed seconded. Motion carried.

Advocacy Reports

Leah shared during the People First February meeting they worked on the calendar, on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> attended the resource fair held at S'Klallam in Port Angeles. On March 28<sup>th</sup> they will be traveling to Pike Street and on April 24<sup>th</sup> Leah will attend the resource fair. Lastly, 1 new member joined for a total of 16 members.

Transition Student Update

Heidi shared that there has not been a lot of activity this month:

- i. 2026 class has noted 2 participants currently employed and. For those who are not employed by end of the school year, they will roll over to a different funding stream.
- ii. The 2027 class has seen a change from 25 to 20 participants. Continuing to track the numbers to provide a thorough understanding of where those participants are landing, KC DD is also tracking on a County level, while tracking is being conducted at the State level to determine what approaches need to be adjusted to reach more students.
- iii. Actively working on 2028 STW class 42 currently and working with DVR to get participants connected to services early as a result of the current waitlist.

Legislative Update

Heidi shared updates on several senate and house bills that impact developmental disabilities across the state:

- i. An underspend was noted for employment, family support and day programs, the state was tracking less than senate and house budgets, and will eventually come out of program dollars impacting those served by DCFS.

- ii. Heidi also shared some letters from advocacy groups, including one from the ARC, discussing proposed cuts and changes, and the significant impacts statewide. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) also sent a letter regarding the impacts of the cuts on services.
- iii. There is a purposed “claw back” of \$33 million (it is understood that the actual underspend estimated at \$8 million, not \$33 million) HS grads, transition students may be impacted, as well as families in crisis and/or restrict or shut down services by end of the year, 2026.

#### Program Updates

- I. Recently updated referral process, for client referrals to DVR. To strengthen support to families on accessing services. DDCS/DDA MOU for referral, agencies are required to send a referral to DVR to get connected to services 1<sup>st</sup>. DDCS to the case manager now and will share with DVR to provide greater support.
- II. Continue to spread the word about Holly Ridge Center managing Parent Coalition/Parent to Parent.
- III. Currently in monitoring season, updated monitoring documents, monitored completed for one agency thus far and another scheduled this week and will continue to monitor through the end of the year.
- IV. Heidi thanked board members for their time and service serving on the DAB and reminded members to complete the survey to attend the county plan, planning day for greater participation.
- V. Heidi also shared some upcoming events:
  - a. Tools for Success – March 24, in Pierce County, the target audience for this event are transition students with disabilities.
  - b. DD resource fair, save the date April 24<sup>th</sup>, Heidi also provided a brief overview of the resource fair website hosted by Holly Ridge [hollyridge.org/events/2026-dd-fair/](http://hollyridge.org/events/2026-dd-fair/).
  - c. Lastly, the Community Summit virtual watch party will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.

#### DDA/DVR Provider Updates

- i. Kim shared DDCS has a successful resource fair at Port Gamble S’Kallam, low on attendance. Gearing up for the DD resource fair, fully staffed. Service request list remains at 43 clients and still working through it and working to get all clients assigned. Port Townsend DDCS office continues to provide support to the Bremerton office.
- ii. Jay shared that Bremerton DVR is fully staffed except for the supported employment office assistant position, currently open and posted. All service categories currently closed. The goal is to get critical categories open by this

summer. All students with preexisting services will continue to be served. The agency received a federal cost of living increase and still waiting for state budget to come out. The referral process is being standardized across the region and Jay is looking forward to the resource fair in April.

#### Provider Updates

- i. Marina with Trillium shared that 1 student from the '26 cohort is stabled in a position and the other grads are close to placement. Working on 2027 cohort at present.
- ii. Shelley with Adaptable Dynamic Positive Support (ADPS) currently has a staff of 3 and working to make the agency more visible in the community.
- iii. Jacob, from the Foundation for The Challenged are working on 5 housing projects and wrapping up another in a few weeks in the Port Orchard/Manchester area.

#### Community Input

None

#### Officer Report

Donna shared the next meeting date, April 7

#### Staff Report

Heidi further noted the April 7 meeting will be both in-person and via ZOOM, meeting in-person on the County campus.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 7, 2026, in-person at 619 Division St., Port Orchard and virtually via Zoom.

## Attendance

### Members

#### **Present**

Donna Gearns  
Jennifer Crider  
Kimberly Adams  
Jennifer Acuna  
Kathy Lougheed  
Lauren Melone

#### **Absent**

Sandra LaCelle  
Veola Taylor  
Rachelle Williams  
Shannon Turner  
Cindy Bonilla

### Guests/Organizations

Shelley Garcia, ADPS  
Jacob Pollowitz, Foundation for The Challenged  
Jay Hopkins, DVR, Shelton/Bremerton  
Kim McCarty, DDA  
Marina Jacobsen, Trillium  
Leah Beth-Alchmy, People First, Bremerton Chapter  
Kimberly Adams, SSP2P

### Staff

Heidi Scheibner  
Kesha Anderson - Evans