

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

**Date: May 5th, 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**

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF April 7th, 2026, MINUTES\***
- 4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\***
- 5. Advocacy Reports**
- 6. Transition Student Update**
- 7. Board Officer Elections\***
- 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 item

# Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE March 3, 2026, MINUTES\*

MOTION: Rachele Williams moved to approve the March 3, 2026, minutes as presented. Donna Gearn seconded. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA\*

MOTION: Donna Gearn moved to approve the agenda as presented. Rachele Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Advocacy Reports

None.

Presenter – Carmen Smith, Kitsap County Parks Department – Gordon Park

Carmen shared updates regarding the development of the Gordon Park Master Plan.

Highlighted included:

- i. Q1 – Q4 2026 focuses on gathering input, facilitating discussions and empowering access. Community members can share their experiences, concerns and ideas about Gordon Park by taking the [Community Accessibility Survey](#) by Thursday, April 30, 2026.
- ii. Q1 – Q2 2026 focuses on understanding the current existing conditions throughout Gordon Park.
- iii. Q3 – Q4 2026 will begin the development of preliminary concepts with a design kickoff in early May and concept design input in late July.
- iv. Q4 2026 will begin the drafting of the master plan with completion set for December 31, 2026.

Transition Student Update

Heidi shared updates regarding the School to Work (STW) program:

- i. The 2026 class has 2 participants currently employed and 17 set to graduate. For those who are not employed by end of the school year will roll over to a different funding stream.
- ii. The 2027 class has 20 participants and will be transitioning to STW soon. Heidi is analyzing STW data to determine the cause of why we have a high

eligibility and less people getting connected to School to Work participation. Job foundation reports are due to the County by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

- iii. Efforts continue with the 2028 class and although 41 students have been identified, 21 have declined STW for various reasons.

#### Developmental Disabilities County Plan

Heidi invited the board to attend a board retreat on May 12<sup>th</sup>, Kitsap County Administrative Building. Topics will include identifying and developing priorities for the County Plan and how engagement within the community will look like. WISE will be in attendance to help facilitate the conversations.

#### Legislative Update

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

- i. Cuts to DDCCS budget of \$10 million was finalized in the Governor's budget.
- ii. A \$10 million underspend was noted as concern for employment, family support and day programs.

#### Program Updates

- i. Heidi shared details about several upcoming events:
  - a. The DD resource fair is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Central Kitsap High School Gym in Silverdale. Heidi also provided a brief overview about DD resource fair [hollyridge.org/events/2026-dd-fair/](https://hollyridge.org/events/2026-dd-fair/).
  - b. The Community Summit virtual watch party will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Washington Tacoma Campus in Tacoma.
  - c. Transition Planning Day for Kitsap County is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have an intentional conversation around School to Work services. Representatives from all five school districts will be present. In addition to employment providers, DDA, and DVR.

#### DDA/DVR Provider Updates

- i. Jay shared that Bremerton DVR is fully staffed except for the recently closed Supportive Employment position. Service category one will slowly be opening up, with the goal to get critical categories opened by this summer.

#### Provider Updates

- i. Marina with Trillium shared that 11 students from the 2026 cohort is stable in a position and 4 additional students are in process to placement.
- ii. Hannah with Parent 2 Parent (P2P) will be sharing a table with Malia Hughes (P2P) at the DD resource fair to provide resources to parents.

- iii. Ronnie with Holly Ridge Center shared that they have hired a new Parent to Parent Coordinator, Hannah Guzman, and a new Parent Coalition Coordinator, Melia Hughes. To reach them please call the Holly Ridge front desk at 360.373.2536.

#### Community Input

None.

#### Officer Report

Sandra shared that Jennifer Acuna and Shannon Turner both renewed their 3-year term on the board; Jennifer Crider won't be renewing her term. The board is now accepting nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, contact Heidi or Sandra to submit your nominations.

#### Staff Report

None.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2026, in-person at 619 Division St., Port Orchard and virtually via ZOOM.

## **Attendance**

### Members

#### **Present**

Donna Gearns  
Sandra LaCelle  
Rachelle Williams  
Lauren Melone  
Chelsea Keidel

#### **Absent**

Veola Taylor  
Shannon Turner  
Jennifer Acuna  
Kathy Lougheed

### Guests/Organizations

Carmen Smith, Kitsap County Parks Department  
Jacob Pollowitz, Foundation for The Challenged  
Jay Hopkins, DVR, Shelton/Bremerton  
Marina Jacobsen, Trillium  
Melia Hughes, Parent 2 Parent Coordinator  
Hannah Guzman, Parent 2 Parent Coordinator  
Ronnie, Holly Ridge Center

### Staff

Heidi Scheibner  
Justin Wing