

Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Date: September 1, 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 June 2nd, 2026, MINUTES*
4. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA*
5. Advocacy Reports
6. Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, Mark Stroh, Board Member
7. Transition Student Update
8. Developmental Disabilities County Plan, Cesilee Coulson, Executive Director WISE
9. Program Updates
 - a) DDA Monitoring
 - b) FY27 Budget
10. DDA/DVR Provider Updates
11. Provider Updates
12. 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.*
13. Officer Report
14. Staff Report
15. ADJOURN

* = Indicates action item

Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Call to Order – Sandra LaCelle called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. via ZOOM.

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

APPROVAL OF THE May 5, 2026, MINUTES*

MOTION: Veola Taylor moved to approve the May 5, 2026, minutes as amended.

Donna Gears seconded. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

MOTION: Lauren Melone moved to approve the June 2026 agenda as presented.

Donna Gears seconded. Motion carried.

Advocacy Reports

Heidi shared that multiple people first members of the Kitsap Chapter will be attending the Pierce and Kitsap County Community Summit Watch Party on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Washington Tacoma Campus in Tacoma.

Transition Student Update

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

- i. The 2026 class has 3 participants currently employed and 17 set to graduate in June. Agencies will continue to assist those who are not employed by graduation in finding employment. From June through September graduates will remain in S2W funding and after September will roll over to a different funding stream.
- ii. The 2027 class is wrapping up Job Foundation (JF) services and will start S2W on July 1. One JF student has already gained employment. 21 students participated in JF, but 7 students were unable to sign up with DVR in time. DD is working with DVR and providers to assist those 7 students.
- iii. Continuing to actively recruit for the 2028 class, students will begin JF services in September.

Lauren Melone shared an update regarding last week's PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) Planning Session that was co-hosted by Kitsap County and Olympic Educational Service District 114. PATH is a facilitated, collaborative planning process that helps groups envision a positive future and map the concrete steps needed to achieve it. More than 30 people were in attendance and included representatives from all five school districts in Kitsap County, Developmental

Disabilities Administration, Kitsap County, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, S'Klallam Tribe, School to Work employment agencies, and many more.

Developmental Disabilities County Plan

Heidi reported that the DD County Plan remains on schedule and is progressing according to the established timeline. The Community Needs Assessment Survey is still open, and a more in-depth analysis and deeper dive of the survey responses will be conducted in June.

Sandra reported that the board met on May 12 for a planning retreat focused on outreach efforts, statutory framework of the County Plan, the types of services provided to communities, and future priorities. During the discussion, a key concern emerged: many families are unaware of how to access available services and supports. As a result, the board identified the development of focus groups as an important next step to better understand community needs and improve outreach strategies.

In addition, outreach efforts are underway to connect with individuals who have historical perspectives, with interviews being scheduled to document and preserve their stories and experiences.

Community Summit Watch Party

The Pierce and Kitsap County Community Summit Watch Party takes place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the University of Washington Tacoma campus in Tacoma. 150 people have registered to attend and Gather Together Grow Together is assisting with transportation to and from the event.

Program Updates

a. DDA Monitoring

- i. Heidi shared that DDA conducts an audit of the DD program every two years. The process has been going smoothly, and no recommended actions are expected for this year's audit. DDA has requested and is currently reviewing specific documents, including invoices, employment plans, and monitoring forms. The final audit report is expected within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

b. FY26 Contracts

- i. Heidi reported that the revenue contract with DDA is currently going through Kitsap County's routing process. Once it is signed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), they will be able to proceed with contracts for their subcontractors. In the meantime,

contract preparation is underway so that agreements can be sent out as soon as the revenue contract is fully executed.

DDA/DVR Provider Updates

- i. Kim McCarty with DDA reported that they are losing one staff member but have hired a new case manager who will begin on July 1. Several case managers will also be on leave this summer, so if providers are unable to reach a specific case manager, they should contact Kim directly.
- ii. Heidi shared that DVR will be releasing 76 people from their waitlist statewide on June 9, 2026, while two are being released from Kitsap County.

Provider Updates

- i. Marina with Trillium shared that 3 students from the 2026 cohort are in stable employment and 2 others have job offers. Additionally, 2 students from the 2027 cohort have stable employment and are successful in their positions.
- ii. Hannah Guzman with Parent to Parent (P2P) shared that more parents are showing interest in the Helping Parent Program. P2P has hosted two support groups and anticipates 3 attendees in the upcoming support groups in June.

Community Input

- i. Melia Hughes announced that the Kitsap County Parent Coalition will be meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Holly Ridge Center in Bremerton. Participants will have the opportunity to meet Hannah Guzman, the new P2P Coordinator, and learn about a new program for accessible parks through the Dan Thompson Grant. The meeting will also include discussions on advocacy efforts, and attendees are encouraged to provide input on future education and meeting topics.

Officer Report

Sandra shared that Skelton will be joining as a new board member once the BOCC sign off.

Sandra reminded the group that there will not be meetings held in July or August, meetings will resume in September.

Staff Report

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 2026, in-person at 619 Division St., Port Orchard and virtually via ZOOM.

*Indicates and Action Item

Attendance

Members

Present

Donna Gearns
Sandra LaCelle
Lauren Melone
Veola Taylor
Jennifer Acuna
Chelsea Keidel

Absent

Shannon Turner
Rachelle Williams
Kathryn Lougheed

Guests/Organizations

Marina Jacobsen, Trillium
Melia Hughes, Kitsap County Parent Coalition
Hannah Guzman, Parent to Parent Coordinator
Kim McCarty, DDA
Robert Driskel, Teamsters

Staff

Heidi Scheibner
Justin Wing