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: November 3rd, 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 October 6th, 2026, MINUTES***
4. **ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA***
5. **Advocacy Reports**
6. **Accessible Community Advisory Communities (ACAC)**
7. **Program Updates**
8. **DDA/DVR Provider Updates**
9. **Provider Updates**
10. **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.***
11. **Officer Report**
12. **Staff Report**
13. **ADJOURN**

* = Indicates action items

Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6, 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 September 1, 2026, MINUTES

MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the September 1, 2026, minutes as presented. Donna Gearns seconded. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Jennifer Acuna moved to approve the October 2026 agenda as presented. Donna Gearns seconded. Motion carried.

ADVOCACY REPORTS

Heidi shared that People First of Washington held their 48th annual People First Convention from October 2, 2026 – October 4, 2026, at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton. 17 people attended that were sponsored by the Kitsap County Developmental Disabilities Program.

TRANSITION STUDENT PRESENTATION

Kirsten introduced herself and shared extensive information regarding the School To Work (STW) program:

i. Lifespan of Services – Spans from early childhood through retirement, beginning with Early Support for Infants and Children (birth to age 3), followed by STW (ages 19-22) and individualized Employment and Community Inclusion Services (ages 22 and beyond). Information and Education, along with the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, support individuals of all ages throughout their lifespan.
ii. STW Eligibility – STW services are available to individuals who are at least 19 years old, enrolled in a school or transition program in Kitsap County, and eligible for services through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). The program supports individuals interested in exploring employment opportunities and obtaining their first job.
iii. STW History and Purpose – The STW program was established through efforts by early advocates and Senate Bill 5790 to improve employment outcomes for students with developmental disabilities. Its purpose is to coordinate services before students leave school, ensure a seamless transition into adulthood, and increase the number of students who graduate with a job.

iv. STW Timeline – Outlines the four-year transition process for students ages 18-22, from initial outreach and job preparation to employment and adult services. The goal is to help students achieve employment stability by the end of their third year, with continued support available through DVR or DDA as they transition out of the STW program.
v. Kitsap County Student Numbers were reviewed

Heidi compared the 2027 and 2028 STW data and discussed the need to identify students who are not enrolled in DDA services. DDA and Kirsten Murray have revised their recruitment process to include visits to classrooms in schools to better assess student eligibility for STW services. Heidi also shared that the Kitsap County Transition Council is working with the Olympic Educational Service District (OESD) to develop new ways to better connect with special education teachers.

STW applications are now available online to better serve the community.

PROGRAM UPDATES

a. Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Legislative Priorities:
   i. ACHS has discussed lowering the eligibility age from 21 to 18 and is advocating for the STW program to transition from DVR to DDA.

DDA/DVR PROVIDER UPDATES

i. Kim McCarty with DDA shared that the Service Request List has decreased from 80 to 30 individuals and is expected to be fully cleared by December 1. She noted growing concerns about the Home and Community-Based Waiver capacity, as available waivers are being used. If waiver usage continues at the current rate, additional individuals may be placed on a waiting list.
ii. Jay Hopkins with DVR provided an update on the Order of Selection process and the current statewide waiting list for services. He reported that three releases occurred during the summer, with approximately 500-700 individuals expected to be released from the waiting list each month through the end of the year as resources become available. Jay also noted growing pressure to reopen Category 1, which serves individuals with severe physical or mental impairments that significantly limit functional capacity and require multiple vocational rehabilitation services over an extended period.

PROVIDER UPDATES

i. Marina announced that Trillium has surpassed its annual goal of creating 34 jobs, reaching 35 jobs created so far this year. This marks the first time Trillium has exceeded its annual employment goal.

COMMUNITY INPUT

i. Melia Hughes with Kitsap County Parent Coalition (KCPC) shared information regarding KCPC events:
   - Guardianship and Other Protective Arrangements took place on September 17 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Holly Ridge Center in Bremerton. Melia shared that it was a full house with a successful turnout.
   - Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Special Education is scheduled on October 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Holly Ridge Center in Bremerton.
   - For registration details about upcoming events, you can visit the KCPC events page here - https://kitsapcountyparentcoalition.org/events/.

OFFICER REPORT

Lauren shared that South Kitsap High School teacher Debra Adamson submitted an application to join the board. Lauren noted that Debra has extensive experience and knowledge working with individuals with developmental disabilities and recommended that her application be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for final approval.

MOTION: Lauren Melone moved to approve forwarding Debra's application to the BOCC for final approval. Kathryn Lougheed seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 P.M. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in-person at 619 Division St., Port Orchard and virtually via Zoom.

Attendance

Members

Present

Sandra LaCelle
Donna Gearns
Lauren Melone
Jennifer Acuna
Chelsea Keidel
Kathryn Lougheed
Shaneey Skelton

Absent

Shannon Turner
Veola Taylor

Guests/Organizations

Marina Jacobsen, Trillium
Melia Hughes, Kitsap County Parent Coalition
Kim McCarty, DDA
Jay Hopkins, DVR
Kelly Bentley, Community Member
Shelley Garcia, Informing Families

Staff

Heidi Scheibner
Kirsten Murray
Justin Wing