

BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



No July Board Meeting or Event

CELEBRATING DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

Disability Pride Month is a time to celebrate the achievements, experiences, and diverse identities of people with disabilities. July commemorates the anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) signing, which recognized the rights of individuals with disabilities. The month also serves as a platform to promote visibility, awareness, and understanding of the disability community, challenging perceptions and advocating for inclusion.

DID YOU KNOW?



King County School-to-Work Turns 20!

The 2024-2025 school year marked 20 years for the King County School-to-Work (S2W) Program and nearly 2,500 students served!

Employment is an important step when looking beyond school and building a good life. To be prepared and know the supports that may be available for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), it is critical to understand adult service systems and how they are different from school.

The S2W Program provides significant outreach, offering education, information, and referral to hundreds of families each year. The program offers interpretation and has all primary materials translated in 20 languages. Working across King County schools, system partners,

providers, business champions, and family organizations, the S2W team's goal is to help students and families find their next step in building the life they want past high school.

For more information about the S2W, [visit our website](#). There you will find orientation [videos](#) about the program, [applications](#) (apply any time!), and contact information for the S2W Team. We love to talk with you and welcome your calls or emails.

More S2W information to come!

HEARTFELT THANK YOU!



We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Molly McCoy and Beth Bardeen** for their informative and inspiring presentations at the DDECSD Resource Fair. Your insights and expertise truly enriched the event and resonated with attendees.

We also deeply appreciate the dedication of **Molly McCoy, Beth Bardeen, Devony Boyle, and Laura Musso Escude** (not pictured) in staffing the board's resource table. Your presence and engagement helped to inform and support the community.

Holly Woo, thank you for supporting the Board, your leadership continues to showcase our team's strength and commitment to the community.

Thank you all for your time, energy, and meaningful contributions to a successful event.

SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 2025 THEME

The [National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#) is emphasizing the need for community, accessibility, and opportunities for people with

developmental disabilities to be recognized and championed every day in their 2025 theme "We're Here All Year!" They are emphasizing the need for community, accessibility, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be recognized and championed every day. True awareness happens when we commit to creating an accessible environment and productive opportunities year round.

When individuals from the developmental disabilities community engage and get involved, it is a win-win for everyone.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

JOIN THE BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Are you a self-advocate receiving services through the Developmental Disabilities Administration? This is your chance to make a real impact!

The Board for Developmental Disabilities wants YOU to bring your unique experiences and ideas to the table.

By joining the board, you can:

- Help improve access to supports and essential services that directly affect people with developmental disabilities and delays and their families.
- Connect people to essential services that meet their unique needs.
- Encourage others to speak up, make their own choices, and have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Being a self-advocate on the board means you are a leader for change. You are helping create better opportunities and a stronger, more inclusive community. Your voice matters now and always!

Step up. Speak out. Make a difference.

If you are interested in learning more about the Board, please contact James Ott, Community Information, Outreach, and Referral Manager at 206-263-9060 or by email at James.Ott@kingcounty.gov.

Additional information about the Board can be found by visiting the Board's webpage at <https://kingcounty.gov/DDBoard>.



Reimagine DSHS

The Department of Social and Health Services made a significant organizational transformation titled, "[Reimagine DSHS](#)." Their ultimate goal is to streamline access to the support, care, and resources provided to clients and families throughout Washington state.

The Developmental Disabilities Administration has a new name: Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS). They are a division within the newly formed Home and Community Living Administration, their leadership, mission and values remain the same and they are striving to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live and thrive in their chosen communities with the supports they choose.

WHAT'S NEXT

JULY UPDATES

Please select the links below for the May Minutes and Presentations and the July Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division's (DDECSD) updates:

[May Minutes](#)

[May Presentation](#)

[July DDECSD Updates \(Services for Children/Youth/Adults, and their families\)](#)

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Join us on August 6, 2025, for the next quarterly hybrid Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting. The meeting will be held from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Tukwila Community Center located at 12424 42nd Avenue S., Tukwila.

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/82755601310>

Meeting ID: 827 5560 1310

Passcode: 372027



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