



Department of Community and Human Services
Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division

BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Minutes

DAY/DATE: Wednesday, May 7, 2025
TIME: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Tukwila Community Center, Meeting Room B
12424 42nd Avenue S.
Tukwila, WA 98168

BOARD MEMBER ROLE CALL:

Beth Bardeen (joined virtually)
Devony Boyle (joined virtually)
Joe Cunningham (joined virtually)
Crystal Goodwin (joined in-person)
Molly McCoy (joined in-person)
Radhe Morgan (joined virtually)
Laura Musso Escude (joined virtually)
CeCe Stovall (joined virtually)

ABSENT:

Brandon Graham
Amanda Knott

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:

Sheila Collins, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
Michaelle Monday, Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division (DDECSD)
James Ott, DDECSD
Holly Woo, DDECSD

JOINED VIA ZOOM:

Naomi Blue Nieves Driver, American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter
Cat Braid, DSHS/DDA
Alice Casey, DDECSD
Magan Cromar, DDECSD
Ayan Elmi, Washington Multicultural Services Link
Katherine Festa, DDECSD
Asmeret Habte, DDECSD
Marlon Hall, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Ramona Hattendorf, The Arc of King County
Cori Jones, ASL Interpreter
Stephanie Jones, DSHS/DDA
Sue Anne Lemkin, DDECSD

JOINED VIA ZOOM (CONTINUED):

Louis Lok, DDECSD

Francisco Philbert, CART Captioner

TJ Protho, DDECSD

Paul Simon, DSHS/DDA

Gina Solberg, DDECSD

Amber Thompson, King County Regional Service, 911 Program Office

Jo Dee Wilch, Community Member

Jenna Wolfstone, DDECSD

Gsond, Community Member

Loraine Gustavia, Community Member

WELCOME AND BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Cunningham, Board Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, with welcoming remarks and asked for Board Member self-introductions.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Joe Cunningham, Board Chair announced the following topics:

- DDECSD's Recourse Fair;
- Three board members will be presenting at the Resource Fair;
- Legislative Session Update by The Arc of King County;
- The next Board meeting will be held on August 6, 2025; and
- Welcomed Paul Simon, new DSHS/DDA Regional II Administrator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe Cunningham, Board Chair called for a motion to approve the February 4, 2025, Board Minutes. The Minutes were so moved, seconded, and approved as written.

PUBLIC INPUT AND CELEBRATIONS

Molly McCoy, Board Member shared how helpful The Arc of King County's Resource Guide was for her and she invited others to join their [mailing list](#) to receive news and resources.

STAFF REPORTS

KING COUNTY DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Magan Cromar, DDECSD shared the following updates:

- Welcomed Sue Anne Lemkin, School-to-Work (S2W) Program Manager;
- Hiring for an Operations Manager (May 10 closing date); and
- Asked team members to provide program updates.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM

Alice Casey, DDECSD provided the following updates:

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Tri-County Community of Practice;
- May 16-18, 2025, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Summit will promote social emotional development for children prenatal to five in King County; and
- Early Support for Infants and Toddlers' (ESIT) Best Starts for Kids Request for Proposal for current agencies providing ESIT services.

ADULT SERVICES TEAM

TJ Protho, DDECSD presented on the following topics:

- Navigating the Transition to Employment: Understanding How the Intersection of Race & Disability Impacts Decision for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Young Adults with Disabilities and their Families.
- Coming Soon – Supporting Neurodivergent People Workshop by The Arc of King County.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION, OUTREACH, AND REFERRAL TEAM

Holly Woo, DDECSD invited everyone to attend the DDECSD Resource Fair on Thursday, May 29, 2025. The Fair will be held at the Microsoft Commons located at 15255 NE 40th Street, Redmond from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a variety of workshops and visit information tables to connect with people and tools to support your goals. [Register today!](#)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS), DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION (DDA)

The following updates were provided collectively by Cat Braid, Sheila Collins, and Stephanie Jones, DSHS/DDA:

- Lauren Bertagna retired on April 28, 2025;
- May 1, 2025, Paul Simon became the new Region II Administrator;
- Re-Imagining DSHS;
- Intake and eligibility reduced backlog;
- Waiver capacity;
- Budget; and
- Hiring.

For more information, contact Cat Braid by email at Catriona.Braid@dshs.wa.gov or Sheila Collins at Sheila.Collins@dshs.wa.gov, or Stephanie Jones at Stephanie.Jones2@dshs.wa.gov.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORTS DIVISION'S RESOURCE FAIR

Jenna Wolfstone, DDECSD shared the Resource Fair builds on community input and the S2W Transition Fair. It is designed to support individuals with disabilities and delays across all stages of their life.

Registration is required for all attendees, regardless of age. Register today at [Eventbrite!](#) Pre-registration closes at 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025. You may still attend the resource fair, but you will need to register when you arrive.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Ramona Hattendorf, The Arc of King County provided the following 2025 Legislative review:

- Policy – **Substitute Bill (SB) 5393**: Mandating the closure of the Rainier School, A residential habilitation center by June 30, 2027.
- Policy – **House Bill 1130**: Directs DSHS to prioritize specific populations when enrolling clients in open home and community-based service waiver slots.
- Policy – **SB 1217**: Aims to improve housing stability, limiting rent increases, regulating fees and deposits, and ensuring tenant rights.
- Policy – **SB 1272**: Extends the multisystem care program to address complex cases of children in crisis through 2027.

- Other Policy – **SB 5680**: Establishes a right for individuals with disabilities to repair their mobility devices, including power wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs, and other mobility aids.
SB 5501: Prohibits employers from requiring a driver's license as a condition of employment or including such a requirement in job postings, unless driving is an essential job function or related to a legitimate business purpose.
- Bills that did not pass the legislative session:
 - Employ parents as caregivers of minors with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
 - Remove Community Protection Waiver from statute.
- Budget – Community: Two percent increase for Supported Living Community Residential.
 - Various rate increases for other waiver services.
 - Increases in rates for respite.
 - Community respite increase of one hour.
 - Funds to cover increased use of waiver services.
 - Slots for high school graduates for supported employment/Basic Plus.
- Budget – DDA, Housing, and Other:
 - Transitions to community funding.
 - \$50 million for the intellectual and developmental disabilities set-aside Housing Trust Fund.
 - \$12 million additional funds for Open Doors Multicultural Village.
 - \$797 million additional funds for The Arc Legacy Center.
- Budget – Special Education: **SB 5253** Extending special education services to students with disabilities until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22 years of age.
- Budget – Isolation and Restraint: Funds to continue support of Reducing Restraint and Eliminating Isolation project.
- Budget – Cuts: Case management removed from No Paid Services list.
 - Caseload ratios frozen/not decreased.
 - Defunded Meaningful Day Rate for Adult Family Homes starting July 1, 2025.
 - Reduction to the S2W program.
 - No reduction in eligibility for benefits or the number of waivers Available.

Ramona Hattendorf also shared on May 7, 2025, The Arc of Washington State's [2025 Legislative Session Wrap-Up webinar](#) where you can learn more about the outcomes of bills affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information, contact Ramona Hattendorf by email at Rhattendorf@arcofkingcounty.gov.

BOARD RECRUITMENT

The Board for Developmental Disabilities is seeking residents of King County interested in serving on the Board. The Board is a 9–15-member citizen’s advisory board, which provides oversight of community services for residents of the county who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another neurological or other conditions and their families. The Board values diverse perspectives, life experiences, and people of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including people with disabilities, people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQIA+, and veterans.

We are currently recruiting for new Board Members who are:

- Persons with a developmental disability;
- Parents of young children with developmental delays or disabilities; and
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

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. More information on the Board can be found by visiting the Board’s webpage at <https://kingcounty.gov/DDBoard>.

NEXT MEETING

The next hybrid quarterly Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2025, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at the Tukwila Community Center, Meeting Room B located at 12424 42nd Avenue S., Tukwila.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Prepared by:
Michaëlle Monday

Attested by:
James Ott