



**King County**

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

# BOARD FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MINUTES

**Day/Date:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023

**Location:** WorkSource Tukwila, Conference Room 130

**Time:** 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

## **BOARD MEMBER ROLE CALL:**

Beth Bardeen  
Joe Cunningham  
Laura Muso Escude  
Tiffany Lee  
CeCe Stovall

## **ABSENT:**

Brandon Graham

## **IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:**

Abdullahi Bedel, Washington Multicultural Service Link  
Sheila Collins, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)  
Louis Lok, Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division (DDECSD)  
Michaëlle Monday, DDECSD  
Jim Ott, DDECSD  
Merri Snow, DSHS/DDA  
Paul Tan, Open Doors for Multicultural Families (ODMF)  
Holly Woo, DDECSD

## **JOINED VIA ZOOM**

Carol Allen, Community Member  
Zayla Archuleta, DDECSD  
Lauren Bertagna, DSHS/DDA  
Muffy Cave – American Sign Language Interpreter  
Stephanie Jones, DSHS/DDA  
Norma Lobo, DDECSD  
Karla Lynch, DDECSD  
Holly McKay – CART Captioner  
Erendira Mercado, ODMF  
Peter Musante, ODMF  
Sabra Quraishi, Community Member  
Karen Royea – ASL Interpreter  
Khalid Sirad, ODMF  
James Sotter Pilot, Community Member

Susy Stremel, DDECSD  
Margaret-Lee Thompson, Community Member  
Richard Wilson, DDECSD  
Jenna Wolfstone, DDECSD

## **WELCOME AND BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

The November 1, 2023, Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting convened at 3:33 p.m. at the WorkSource Tukwila, Conference Room 130. The Board Chair, Joe Cunningham called the meeting to order and asked Board Members and in-person attendees for self-introductions.

## **REMEMBERING HAMEED QURAISHI**

Friends shared positive impacts and heartfelt memories to honor the life of Hameed Quraishi.

## **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Joe Cunningham, Board Chair made the following announcements:

- Welcomed Board Candidate, Amanda Knott;
- The Board sponsored Housing Conference date has moved to the Summer of 2024; and
- The next Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting is February 6, 2024.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The November Minutes were tabled.

## **PUBLIC INPUT AND CELEBRATIONS**

Laura Musso Escude, Board Member provided an overview of the Washington State Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Programs Design Guide and asked the community to send comments by November 10, 2023, to [Weisgeb@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Weisgeb@wsdot.wa.gov).

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR/FIELD SERVICES REPORT**

Merri Snow, DSHS/DDA shared how Region 2 Developmental Disabilities Administration has expanded with additional legislative funds to establish new teams for Service Request and Referral, Transition Care Management, and Enhanced Case Management. To meet the growing demands on their leadership team, below are their staffing updates:

- Martha Gluck, Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) retired on 10/20/23;
- Merri Snow is the new DRA; and
- Cat Braid is the new Field Services Administrator (FSA).

Merri suggests for client specific questions, contact Case Resource Managers (CRM) and their supervisors. If you're uncertain who a client's CRM, supervisor, or FSA contact the front desk staff and they will provide that information. FSAs are excellent resources for more complicated or trending issues, or for escalating concerns. Below Merri has provided the front desk phone numbers:

**Kent** 253.372.5770

**Seattle** 206.568.5700

**Lynnwood** 425.977.6620

**Everett** 425.740.6400

**Mt. Vernon** 360.429.3103

**Bellingham** 360.714.5000

The FSAs have the following general areas of specialty:

**Cat Braid** – Enhanced Case Management (children and adults - regional) and in-home services for children and adults (Kent & Seattle). Contact: [catriona.braid@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:catriona.braid@dshs.wa.gov) or 206.550.4280.

**Sheila Collins** – intake and eligibility, initial assessments, service request and referral (regional), in-home services for children and adults (Mt. Vernon & Bellingham). Contact: [sheila.collins@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:sheila.collins@dshs.wa.gov) or 206.643.0972.

**Robin Reynolds** – children’s services, including in-home (Seattle, Lynnwood & Everett), residential and intensive mental health (regional), and in-home services for adults (Seattle, Lynnwood & Everett). Contact: [robin.reynolds@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:robin.reynolds@dshs.wa.gov) or 206.743.6441.

**Paul Simon** – adult residential services (supported living and adult family homes – regional) and intensive mental health (adult – regional). Contact: [paul.simon@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:paul.simon@dshs.wa.gov) or 425.422.0933.



## KING COUNTY DIVISION DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Holly Woo, DDECSD asked team members to provide program updates.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM

Norma Lobo, DDECSD reported on a Fall in-person workshop that covered the Workforce Development strategy entitled, “Cultivating Genius in an Equitable Society.” Discussions included the following topics:

- Black Cultural Capital and the Black community;
- Challenges of dominance, privilege, prejudice, and oppression; and
- Humanizing Principles.

Norma also announced the “Trauma and the Social Roots of Migration: Implications of a Liberation-based Practice with the Central American Community.” This workshop will explore the impact of historical trauma, the intersecting identities of Central American people and the layers of oppression, equipping them with the understanding and self-awareness needed to provide inclusive, historically responsive, and culturally sensitive support.

Learn more about Best Starts for Kids workshops by visiting [Workshops | Best Starts for Kids \(beststartsworkshops.org\)](https://www.beststartsworkshops.org).

### ADULT SERVICES TEAM

Susy Stremel, DDECSD reported on October’s virtual Employment First Community meeting. The group planned upcoming meetings and shared updates from the Goal Area workgroups.

Susy announced the Systematic Instruction Training for Employment Specialists. This training was

designed to develop critical skills and build stronger relationships with colleagues.

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION OUTREACH AND REFERRAL TEAM**

Holly Woo, DDECSD made the following announcements:

- The Board for Developmental Disabilities is actively recruiting members;
- The King County Developmental Disabilities and Delays in-person Legislative Forum is December 7, 2023, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Suites I Southcenter; Learn more about the forum by visiting: <https://KingCounty.gov/disabilities-forum>;
- The next Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024; and
- The Adult Services/CIOR Team is hiring for a Capacity Development Program Manager III. The position will support capacity development and service providers of Adult Services and Community Information, Outreach, and Referral services.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND DELAYS LEGISLATIVE FORUM AND PRIORITIES**

Jenna Wolfstone, DDECSD extended an invitation for all to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> annual King County Developmental Disabilities and Delays Annual Legislative Forum. Below are the 2024 Legislative Priorities:

- Improve access to culturally rooted and linguistically accessible services by investing in interpretation, translation, cultural navigation, and other language and cultural supports.
- Fund the first month of services provided by Early Support for Infants and Toddlers agencies with Special Education funds.
- Increase Employment and Community Inclusion provider rates as recommended in the State Developmental Disabilities Administration's Employment and Day Rate Study.
- Implement the recommendations in the State Developmental Disabilities Administration's Housing Fund Priority Study Report.
- Invest in recruitment and retention strategies to develop a behavioral health workforce that is responsive to the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## **2023 BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Jim Ott and Michaelle Monday, DDECSD celebrated by sharing the 2023 Board for Developmental Disabilities Accomplishments.

## **BOARD RECRUITMENT**

The Board for Developmental Disabilities is seeking residents of King County interested in serving on the board. The board is a 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 other neurological impairments and their families. The board values diverse perspectives and life experiences and people of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including people with disabilities, people of color, immigrants, refugees, women, LGBTQIA+, and veterans.

If you are interested in learning more about the board, please contact Jim Ott, Information and Outreach Manager at 206-263-9060 or by email at [Jim.Ott@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jim.Ott@kingcounty.gov). More information on the board can be found by visiting the board's webpage at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/developmental-disabilities/board-developmental-disabilities.aspx>.

## MEETING REMINDER

The next Board for Developmental Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2023, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

**Prepared by:**  
Zayla Archuleta

**Attested by:**  
Jim Ott  
Michaelle Monday

