

Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

October 2023 Edition

New Staff Alert

❖ Please Welcome our new Transition Resource Coordinator: Jen Chong Jewell!

Jen Chong Jewell (she/her/hers) has been a member of the Snohomish County community for years and is excited to step into the role of Transition Resource Coordinator (previously held by Deb Gall). Prior to joining the County team, Jen served as Director of Parent Training and Information at PAVE and was part of state efforts to improve equity and access for students with disabilities through the promotion of Inclusionary Practices and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. She had also served on state and national councils and workgroups to expand equitable practices for family engagement and uplifting the rights of families to access trained language interpreters and translators in public schools.

Jen is a member of the Asian American community and is mom to an awesome 13-year-old son with developmental disabilities. She is thankful that Snohomish County has a long history of establishing and maintaining crucial relationships on behalf of DD-eligible students. She believes “Snohomish County and our partners have accomplished a great deal in expanding and enhancing transition services for DD-eligible students. We still have so many more opportunities to work with our students, families, schools, agencies, employment service providers and community partners to reach even more students; to ensure that every student who wants a career path after high school, has that opportunity.”

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

❖ Advancing Access and Equity: Then, Now and Next

Disability Employment Awareness month honors and celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities past and present, and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices.

- [Click here](#) to read the Proclamation from Snohomish County Executive, Dave Somers
- [Click here](#) to read Resolution No. 23-037 from the Snohomish County County

Helpful Websites

Click on the [links](#) below to view websites

- [BenefitsU](#) - Social Security Benefits Planning for DDA Eligible Adults
- [Community Homes](#) - Housing Workshops
- [Developmental Disabilities Administration \(DDA\)](#) - Eligibility and Application
- [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation \(DVR\)](#) - Find your Transition Counselor
- [Goodwill](#) - Job Training & Education
- [Informing Families](#)
- [Snohomish County Energy Assistance](#)
- [Social Security - 'The Red Book'](#)
- [The Arc of Snohomish County](#)
- [Wise](#) - Supported Employment Training Opportunities
- For additional resources, please check out our visit our [Resource Books](#) page or visit our [website](#).



Housing

❖ Community Homes

- Offers many workshops
- [Click here](#) to view workshop schedule
- If you have any questions, contact Cathy Murahashi - cathy@community-homes.org/Office: 425-233-6930

❖ Partners4Housing

- Offers free webinars to learn about Roommate Matching Pool, online Residential Assessment and Consulting Services
- [Click here](#) to get a free Residential Assessment
- [Click here](#) to learn more

Clubs

❖ Club Independence

- Meets the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm via Zoom
- A monthly group that The Arc of Snohomish County facilitates and is a place for young adult self-advocates to discuss topics for successful independent living.
- Club Independence is currently doing a "Relationship & Dating" series.
- For information contact Brandi Piecora - Brandi@arcsno.org/425-258-2459 x113
- [Click here](#) to learn more about Club Independence

❖ Transition Clubs

- The Arc of Snohomish County facilitates monthly clubs in partnership with local school districts and community organizations.
- Transition Clubs use the [Charting the Life Course Tools and Philosophy](#) in order to teach participants and practice the skills for Self-Determination, Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy.
- If you are interested in partnering with The Arc for the 2023/2024 school year, please contact: Jessie Moore - Jessie@arcsno.org/425-258-2459 x109
- [Click here](#) to learn more about the Transition Clubs

Training Opportunities

❖ Wise Webinar Series (virtual setting)

- All sessions are 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm & free
- [Click here](#) to view Wise's Training Calendar

❖ Arc of Snohomish Events (virtual setting)

- October 9th, 2023 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
 - ◆ Guardianships & Alternatives to Guardianship
 - ◆ [Click here](#) for more information.
- October 18th, 2023 – 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
 - ◆ Understanding Social Security Benefits
 - ◆ [Click here](#) for more information.
- October 23rd, 2023 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
 - ◆ Sexual Awareness & Response
 - ◆ [Click here](#) for more information.

Transportation

❖ Everett Transit Free Youth Transit Pass

- For those 18 years and under
- [Click here](#) to get your free Transit Pass

❖ SNOTRAC

- [Click here](#) to view events around transportation.

Technology

❖ Technology Opportunities for DDA Clients

- If you have a loved one who is eligible with Developmental Disabilities Administration, even if they do not have an assigned case manager, they could be eligible for a free phone.
- [Click here](#) for more information and to access the online form to make a request for a free phone
- If you do not know who the DDA case manager is, you can contact DDA - 425.740.6400