Developmental Disabilities Community Plan

The mission of Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities is to foster inclusive communities that support people with developmental disabilities to achieve a full life through participation and contribution to all aspects of community life.
Dear Fellow Residents,

Welcome to the Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Resource Books, designed to provide you with helpful information that can shape and improve your quality of life.

Individually, each booklet in the four-book series provides a wealth of information. Collectively, they create an opportunity for making the most of services offered by the Snohomish County Human Services as well as connections to programs offered by other organizations and non-profit service providers within the area.

The topics in the series are:

- **Community Plan** - Current issues and efforts being made to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

- **Resource Guide** - Description and contact information for more than 300 resources.

- **Building a Successful Future** - Information to help you understand community resources and plan for your future.

- **Career Path Services Guide to Employment** - Supports for individuals interested in working and contributing in their community.

Together we can make Snohomish County a better place to live, work and play. Thank you for letting us do our part.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Brell Vujovic

Director Human Services

maryjane.brell@snoco.org
THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY
MISSION STATEMENT AND GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

The Mission Statement and the Governing Principles were developed in conjunction with the Citizen Advisory Board and serve as a guide to Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities in the development of public policy, supports and services. *Reviewed/Affirmed by Snohomish County Citizen Advisory Board in January of 2021*

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**Mission Statement**

*We foster inclusive communities that support people with developmental disabilities to achieve a full life through participation and contribution to all aspects of community life.*

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**Governing Principles**

**Individualized Supports**
Design and develop support to meet the specific needs and goals of each individual.

**Choice**
Create opportunities for individuals to have choices in their community and support individuals in advocating for themselves.

**Community**
Promote community-based options.

**Inclusion and Contribution**
Promote inclusive/diverse communities so people have opportunities to achieve meaningful and purposeful lives.
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STATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION
COUNTY GUIDELINES
REVISED AND UPDATED 1992
A COMPLETE COPY OF COUNTY GUIDELINES ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SNOHOMISHCOUNTYWA.GOV/DD
GO TO CURRENT TRENDS AND POLICIES

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Developmental Disabilities Administration, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and counties and service providers created the following County Guidelines to bring consistency across the state and frame the scope of work complimentary to Snohomish County’s Governing Principles. Counties are required to incorporate these guidelines in all community services.

The County Guidelines recognize the need to offer services and resources that meet individual needs and promote activities and relationships consistent with most citizens.

These include:

**Power and Choice**
Having power, control, and ownership over personal affairs, receive necessary support to pursue one’s personal interests and goals and the opportunity to make choices and direct one’s life.

**Relationships**
Having people in a broad range of relationships including family, friends, peers, and others to love and care about and who will reciprocate those same feelings.

**Status Contributions**
Feeling good about oneself, being recognized for one’s contributions; being valued and receiving positive recognition.

**Community Integration**
Actively participating in the community and using the same resources and enjoying the same activities as other citizens.

**Competence**
Having experiences that promote the ability to skillfully perform functional and meaningful activities and receive assistance as needed and desired.

**Health and Safety**
Being safe, secure and healthy; living, working and playing in areas common to other citizens and having the necessary assistance available to protect health and safety while promoting inclusion in the community.
The Community Plan is the result of a community planning process that sought to assess the existing support system and challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

The plan is updated and reviewed annually by the Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Citizens’ Advisory Board and members of the community to confirm underlying principles and define our vision of how individuals with developmental disabilities are an integral part of our families, neighborhoods and communities.

The Public Policy Guideline is updated annually and reflects key issues and concerns, current policies, and community consensus. This document is a key component of the Community Plan and is included at the end of this book.

The following theme areas and goals were developed during a series of community discussions that brought together key informants in each of the specific planning areas. The Community Plan is a template for the County and community at-large in the development of strategic activities that seek to close service gaps and create more inclusive, welcoming communities in Snohomish County.

Many people with disabilities receive limited support from publicly funded community services. It is essential to build communities and supports to make our communities inclusive and accessible for everyone. By working toward the following goals, we can make our community a better place to live, work and play.

The Community Plan is complimented by additional Snohomish County resource books that outline strategies, efforts, and resources in place to address the following theme areas.

**Community Plan Priority Areas**

- Community Connections
- Economic Status and Employment
- Education
- Family and Children
- Health Care
- Housing
- Transportation
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access and opportunities to fully participate in their communities.

Provide support and training to self-advocates, families, and community members to increase their knowledge base and advocacy skills.

Develop, support, and connect trained leaders to community boards/councils, committees and leadership roles.

Educate the community regarding opportunities in the disability field to increase capacity.

Support individuals to develop and achieve their personal goals.
  • Provide planning services and support to individuals to work, volunteer and participate in their community.

Provide inclusive, accessible, and supported opportunities in the community.
  • Support individuals and families to access inclusive community activities.
  • Develop and provide up to date accurate resource materials to assist individuals in accessing their community.
  • Provide disability awareness training in the community.

Collaborate and partner with schools, community agencies and organizations to address unmet needs.
  • Develop partnerships and trainings to promote and increase inclusive opportunities.
  • Utilize best practices to assist individuals and families in looking at all resources and planning for the future.
  • Increase awareness of technological resources and supports that can assist individuals in accessing resources virtually.

Support individuals to develop and sustain healthy relationships
  • Provide educational opportunities and efforts to promote healthy relationships

Highlights
  • Contract with three Family Support Centers for the Building Inclusive Communities contract
  • Develop and support trained leaders on local and statewide boards, committees, and groups
  • Sponsored Empowered to Rise at the Community Summit. Jose Rosario spoke on his story and the intersection of race, sexuality, disability, and mental health
ECONOMIC STATUS AND EMPLOYMENT

Individuals with developmental disabilities will have meaningful employment in their community.

Individuals will have the personal power and opportunities to make choices.

All individuals interested in working in their community will receive individualized and adequate support.

- Provide planning support to assist individuals to develop and reach their individualized career path goals.
- Utilize Benefits Planning to ensure individuals understand how working affects state and federal benefits and to ensure benefits are not a barrier to employment.
- Assist individuals in exploring and utilizing work incentives, Medicaid programs or other avenues to allow individuals to be informed in order to make decisions related to employment goals.

Reduce the number of people who are unemployed.

- Provide information and training to self-advocates, families, vocational staff and schools; including training opportunities to increase individualized support to individuals with disabilities.
- Educate policy makers about employment services and the needs of individuals receiving support.
- Provide further community education as to the benefits of supported employment for everyone.
- Provide individualized technical assistance and technology to assist individuals in reaching their career path goal.

Community businesses will actively support employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

- Educate the community about the benefits of employing individuals with developmental disabilities and partner with businesses to create new opportunities for jobs.

Students leaving school will be working and actively involved in their community.

- Work collaboratively with local school districts, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB), employers and the community to promote employment of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Provide information and support to youth and their families as student’s transition from school.

Highlights

- Coalition for Careers in supported employment continues to build awareness of Supported Employment career opportunities
- Provided training and professional development to support employment providers during COVID in partnership with DDA
- Worked with DDA to support employment providers in offering remote employment services
- Person Centered Planning is now offered to Community Inclusion clients
- Monthly Super Group meetings to ensure community partners have a basic understanding of state and federal benefits, in turn helping individuals understand barriers to employment
- Monthly Job Foundation meetings to support providers and schools working on reports
- 24 Job Foundation reports submitted. Snohomish County was 1 of 16 counties participating
EDUCATION

Students with developmental disabilities will participate in integrated and supportive environments to learn life skills and community-based work skills they can use throughout their lives.

Provide inclusive early learning opportunities.
- Provide supports to families for smooth transition from early intervention to local school districts and other early learning resources.

Promote self-advocacy and self-determination.
- Collaborate with community partners and schools to increase self-advocacy skills and self-determination skills.

Increase coordination, collaboration and networking opportunities between schools, family and community.
- Increase opportunities for parents to develop and benefit from support networks.
- Increase opportunities for students of all ages, their families to learn about community resources, planning tools and events.
- Work collaboratively with community partners to increase opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in post-secondary education and the trades.
- Develop leaders in each school district to be aware of community resources.
- Increase awareness of career opportunities that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Provide seamless transitions throughout the school years maximizing each student’s potential.
- Assist individuals’ transition from school to their community and employment through transition coordination efforts, including meeting with students and families, the annual Transition Fair and monthly Transition Network meetings.
- Increase planning and discovery efforts to assist individuals in developing their career goals.
- Increase awareness of the variety of careers that individuals with developmental disabilities are working in and the supports that are available.

Highlights
- Actively working to have school Liaisons in each school district
- Front Door opportunities held online
- Transition Club in schools throughout the County
- Monthly Transition Network
- Monthly Transition Focus Group meetings to collaborate on best practices in transition services
- Creation of resources and handouts to help students and their families
- Outreach and orientation with new teachers
FAMILY AND CHILDREN
Families will have access to information and support.

Provide inclusive, accessible and supported opportunities in the community.
- Provide supports for families to enhance the child’s development in everyday learning opportunities.
- Collaborate with community organizations to promote inclusion and access to inclusive opportunities in the community.
- Collaborate with community partners for accessible and inclusive childcare options.

Provide up-to-date and accurate information.
- Provide support to families to develop positive networks and receive information and support through trainings, community meetings, support groups, community activities and information fairs.
- Collaborate with other community agencies to provide information and resources in multiple languages.

Support individuals to develop and achieve their personal goals.
- Provide an opportunity for individuals to utilize planning tools and services.

Approach all efforts through an equity lens.
- Provide culturally relevant and appropriate services
- Increase diversity on boards and committees.

Highlights
- Self-advocates and families serve on 25 different boards and committees
- 2,009 individuals received 1:1 support to connect to resources through The Arc
- Family support groups offered in Spanish, English and Hebrew
- Partnered with 7 family support centers throughout the County to offer flex funds for COVID relief
- Webpage was updated to provide further information and connection for the community
HEALTH CARE

Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to good health care.

• Collaborate, coordinate with community partners invested in providing affordable and accessible health services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
• Provide awareness to community partners of health care issues that impact and affect people with disabilities

Provide information on health resources and preventive health care.

• Provide accessible and accurate resource materials and trainings.
• Provide outreach and disability awareness to first responders and health care professionals.
• Provide outreach to medical professions regarding Early Intervention Services and share resources available for Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Provide information to families on assistive technology, adaptive equipment, mental health and Medicaid services.

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have the support needed to actively participate on health care related boards and commissions.

Highlights
• Early Intervention Services community outreach efforts made during COVID:
  o County wide effort to inform primary referral sources and community organizations that ESIT services are still provided virtually. This effort has helped to increase referrals to Snohomish County ESIT Early Intervention Services in 2021 which saw increases in referrals compared to the numbers from 2020.
• The Arc and Support Center 1 on 1 connections
• Flex Fund assistance for medical bills through COVID relief
• Family Support Centers provided inclusive community events including vaccine education, Suicide prevention.
HOUSING

Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to affordable, accessible and safe housing.

Families will be aware of housing resources and supports to successfully live in the community.

- Provide up-to-date, accurate and reliable information regarding housing options and resources.
- Assist individuals and families to look at all resources including families, friends, private and public options as well as community alternatives.

Individuals will have access to affordable, accessible and safe housing.

- Collaboratively coordinate with agencies invested in providing affordable and accessible housing.
- Support individuals with disabilities and their family members to participate as advocates on housing boards, task forces and consortiums.
- Advocate for affordable, inclusive housing which is close to public transportation, medical services, community activities, resources and employment options.

Highlights

- Data: Track Annual Housing/Shelter calls
  - Crisis (immediate needs)
  - Non-crisis (question or inquiry)
- Arc Housing Coordinator
- Contracted with a new agency to provide Housing Education throughout the county
TRANSPORTATION

Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to a coordinated transportation system.

Increase awareness of transportation options and services.
- Update resource materials to share the most up to date transportation options.

Improve coordination within existing community resources.
- Participate in Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (SNOTRAC) meetings to advocate for accessible and coordinated transportation.
- Collaborate and coordinate with other agencies invested in providing access to transportation options and explore alternatives.

Increase transportation options in rural areas.
- Advocate for accessible and affordable transportation in rural areas which includes utilizing existing community resources.

Increase collaboration between transportation agencies.
- Support current and new public transportation options that make reasonable access to the community possible.

Have representation by individuals with disabilities and family members on transportation committees.

Highlights
- Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (SNOTRAC)
  - SNOTRAC Newsletter
  - SNOTRAC and community partners offered information and education on accessing vaccination and testing sites via public transit.
- Developmental Disability representation on committees
- Family Support Center offered mobility mentoring
OVERVIEW OF SERVICE

Snohomish County
Developmental Disabilities
Overview of Services

Support to Families
- Building Inclusive Communities
  Family Support Centers
- Leadership and Education*
- Advocacy and Education
- Connecting Families
  * Parent to Parent
  * Sibling Support

Support to Individuals
- Birth-to-Three Early Intervention
- Leadership & Education
  * Self-Advocacy

Building Communities
- Career Path Services
- Person Centered Planning
- Transition Coordinator
- Social Security Benefits Planning

Information & Referral
- Snohomish County Transition Network
- Coalition for Inclusive Communities
- Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board
- Charting the Life Course
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Front Door Partnerships
- Housing Education

Family Interagency Coordinating Council

01.19.2022
EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Develop individualized service plans for children ages birth to three who have developmental delays and diagnosed conditions. Provide support to families to enhance each child’s development.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Each family will have access to a Family Resources Coordinator.
- Families will be connected to community resources and receive the support necessary to be a teacher, advocate and decision-maker for their child.
- Families will receive services based on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Federal, state and education dollars are coordinated to provide services for children and families.
- Services will be provided in natural learning environments, including the family home, neighborhood or community setting in which typical same aged children without disabilities participate.
- Families will receive assistance in transitioning to school and community resources at age three.

For referrals or questions call:

425-388-7402 or 800-927-9308

EarlyInterventionProgram@snoco.org
BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES
SNOHOMISH COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS
Support individuals to access and fully participate in their communities.

Targeted Outcomes:

The contracted Family Support Centers are located throughout Snohomish County. Each Center is unique and reflects the community in which they are located.

Each Center is focused on meeting the following outcomes:

- Promote welcoming, inclusive and accessible communities for individuals with developmental disabilities in the Family Support Centers and local communities.
- Provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to contribute to their communities.
- Develop peer support and social networks for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Assist individuals to connect to their communities and utilize inclusive, generic community resources.

Community Partners

Community Resource Center of Stanwood and Camano
360-629-5257
http://www.crc-sc.org/

Sky Valley Community Resource Center
360 793-2400
https://www.voaww.org/locations

North Counties Family Services
360-436-0334
http://www.ncfs.family/

County Liaison
Megan Edmonds
425-388-7320
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Provide education and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to become informed and effective community advocates.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Provide support and training to self-advocates, families and community members to increase their knowledge base and develop leadership skills.
- Support individuals and family members to participate on community boards, advocacy groups, trainings and in leadership roles.
- Provide leadership or advocacy presentations.
- Collaborate, educate and raise awareness of the capacities and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and promote the development of welcoming and inclusive communities.
- Promote student’s participation in integrated and supportive environments to learn life skills and community-based work skills.
- Promote affordable, accessible and safe housing and an accessible and coordinated transportation system.

Community Partner
The Arc of Snohomish County
425-258-2459
www.arcsno.org

County Liaison
Megan Edmonds
425-388-7320
ADVOCACY EDUCATION

Provide information and education about legislative policies at the local, state, and federal level

Targeted Outcomes:

- Collaborate with the Statewide Parent Family Coalition.
- Host one legislative forum bi-annually.
- In the off-year host legislative coffees in all 7 districts throughout Snohomish County.
- Provide information and education to policy makers, and stakeholders in all 7 legislative districts during legislative session.
- Publish, distribute and post a quarterly (4 times per year) Arc of Snohomish County newsletter.
- Advocacy efforts will promote equitable and sustainable systems throughout Snohomish County.

Community Partner
The Arc of Snohomish County
425-258-2459
www.arcsno.org

County Liaison
Megan Edmonds
425-388-7320
CONNECTING FAMILIES
Assess the needs of families and provides outreach, support and information to families who have a child with a developmental disability.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Document and address the unmet needs of families.
- Assist families in finding and developing supports.
- Develop and update resource materials to assist individuals in accessing their community.
- Identify, train and support parents to become Helping Parents, and match new families with an experienced Helping Parent with similar interests.
- Identify and provide intensive training and support to parents to become IEP Parent Partners who will help families understand the IEP process and develop partnerships between educators and families.
- Provide emotional and informational support to families in order to strengthen relationships, develop partnerships and build stronger communities.
- Connect families based on their interests, informational needs, support needs and geographical location.
- Provide outreach and support to siblings, who have a brother/sister with a developmental disability to network, receive information and build relationships.
- Support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to connect to inclusive opportunities in their community.
- Provide educational opportunities, trainings and informational materials.

Community Partner
The Arc of Snohomish County
425-258-2459
www.arcsno.org

County Liaison
Megan Edmonds
425-388-7320
HOUSING EDUCATION

Support individuals with developmental disabilities throughout Snohomish County to have access to affordable, accessible, and safe housing.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Provide information and education on navigating housing opportunities and systems in the community.
- Advocate for affordable, inclusive housing which has access to public transportation, medical services, community activities, resources and employment options.
- Increase inclusion, choice, and equitable access to housing.
- Educational efforts will promote systems integration, community partnerships, communities of learning, equity, and social justice.
- The Agency will provide and promote housing workshops throughout the contract year.
- The Agency will provide opportunities for families and advocates to connect, collaborate and network on the issue of housing.
- The Agency will cultivate relationships and housing partnerships in Snohomish County.

Community Partner
Community Homes
425-233-6930
community-homes.org

County Liaison
Megan Edmonds
425-388-7320
CAREER PATH SERVICES

*Individualized vocational services based on a Career Path Service Plan designed to support a participant to pursue and/or maintain community employment.*

**Targeted Outcomes:**

- Career Path planning and development is the basis for determining services.
- Services are individualized for each participant.
- Services are based on individual choices, preferences and support needs.
- All participants are supported to pursue and/or maintain community employment.
- Increase wages earned and employment benefits received.

**Additional Services (more details on page 18-20):**

- **Independent Planning Services:** Individualized person-centered planning to develop an individual’s personal plan for the future and strategies to implement their career path goal.
- **Social Security Benefits Assistance:** Understand how being employed affects Social Security and state benefits; how to keep those benefits and explore possible work incentives.
- **Transition Resource Coordination:** Assistance to students in high school to make a successful transition from school to adult services and employment.

**Community Partner**

*State Developmental Disabilities Administration*

There are 14 qualified service providers in Snohomish County.

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**County Liaison**

Ben Martin

425-388-7475
SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Assist individuals with developmental disabilities to understand how being employed affects Social Security and state benefits.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Assist individuals and families in navigating and understanding the Social Security system.
- Assist individuals who are employed or interested in working to understand how their state and federal benefits will be impacted.
- Assist individuals in understanding how employment affects Social Security benefits and how work incentives may be used to reach employment goals.
- Assist individuals in developing, maintaining, and utilizing Social Security work incentives to help maintain Medicaid or Medicare benefits and retain more cash benefits.
- Educate individuals, families, and community agencies on the basics of Social Security and Social Security work incentive programs.
- Utilize Social Security benefits to access potential community resources such as Section 8 housing, food assistance, and Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities.

Contact your DDA Case Resource Manager (DDA 425-339-4833) or your Job Coach for a referral

Snohomish County Benefits Planner
Melinda Bocci
425-388-7259
INDEPENDENT PLANNING SERVICES

Provide individualized person-centered planning that supports participants with developmental disabilities to develop a personal plan for the future.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Provide planning services and support to individuals who want to work and contribute to their community.
- Focus on individual strengths and develop strategies to connect individuals with resources and supports in their community.
- Build personal networks and circles of support.
- Assist individuals to become respected, contributing members of their community.
- Recruit, train and provide professional oversight to facilitators of individual person-centered planning services.
- Promote inclusion and community collaboration through facilitation and graphic recording.

Contact your DDA Case Manager (DDA 425-339-4833) or your Job Coach for a Referral

County Liaison
Melinda Bocci
425-388-7259
HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION COORDINATION

Provide support to adults with developmental disabilities in their transition from school to adult services and employment.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Provide support to individuals who are 18-21 years-of-age and connected to the state Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).
- Assist individuals and their families to plan for their future and connect to personal and community resources specific to their individual needs.
- Provide support with navigating the adult service system and provide an overview of services available.
- Assist individuals with their employment goals through transition coordination and School to Work efforts.
- Provide information and support during transition / Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings.
- Coordinate employment services with Snohomish County, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) as funding is available.
- Provide networking opportunities and information to schools through the Snohomish County Transition Network and provide educational opportunities and informational materials to school personnel.
- Staff support for Transition through Front Door, welcome events, teacher in-service days, annual Transition Kick Off event and monthly Focus Group.
- Provide presentations to families, students, and school personnel about planning after high school.

County Transition Coordinator
Deb Gall
425-388-7476
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

For details on upcoming meetings and events visit our website at:
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/dd

Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board
The DD Advisory Board meeting (open to the public) provides an opportunity for community members to receive up-to-date information that impacts individuals with developmental disabilities from state and local perspectives. The volunteer board is made up of self-advocates, families, professionals and community members and meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except July and December).

Contact: Tamra Bradford 425-388-7208, tamra.bradford@co.snohomish.wa.us

Snohomish County Transition Network
The Transition Network is a collaborative group of educators and community, state and county agencies that focus on assisting students age 18 to 21 to transition from school to working and contributing to their community. Meetings occur the first Wednesday of the month during the school year.

Contact: Melinda Bocci 425-388-7259, melinda.bocci@co.snohomish.wa.us

Family and Interagency Coordinating Council (Family ICC)
A quarterly meeting of families, schools and agencies to coordinate supports and services for children ages birth to six years-of-age.

Contact: Angie Ahn-Lee 425-388-7114, angie.ahn-lee@co.snohomish.wa.us

Coalition for Inclusive Communities
Meets quarterly to build on and develop inclusive recreation and leisure opportunities and increase disability awareness in Snohomish County.

Contact: Megan Edmonds 425-388-7320, megan.edmonds@co.snohomish.wa.us

Charting the LifeCourse
The Charting the LifeCourse (CTLC) framework was developed by Sheli Reynolds, PHD, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, to help individuals with disabilities and families at any age or stage of life to think about what they need to know to create a vision for a good life. CTLC members work to expand the philosophy and planning tools throughout Snohomish County.

Contact: Megan Edmonds 425-388-7320, megan.edmonds@co.snohomish.wa.us
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Front Door
Navigating services can be overwhelming, often families are unsure of what services are available or even what to request. To alleviate confusion, Front Door events bring students, parents, school staff and agencies together to receive vital information around key topics such as: Transition, Social Security, Employment, Life Planning and Community Resources.

Contact: Megan Edmonds 425-388-7320, megan.edmonds@co.snohomish.wa.us

Community Summit
This annual conference occurs in June and brings national, state and local presenters to share current information and best practices on building inclusive communities, strategies for employment and other topics. This event draws over 900 individuals state-wide including people with disabilities, their families, teachers, agencies, service providers and community members.

Contact: Megan Edmonds 425-388-7320, megan.edmonds@co.snohomish.wa.us

Transition Kick Off Event
The Transition Kick Off is an annual event that brings school educators, administrators, employment service providers, the county, state staff and other contracted agency staff together to celebrate and assess best practices that school and providers use to prepare students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to transition successfully from school to employment and adult life.

Contact: Deb Gall 425-388-7476, deb.gall@co.snohomish.wa.us

Snohomish County Transition Resource Fair (1998 to Present) On hold
The Transition Resource Fair is an opportunity for young adults, their families and teachers to come together to learn about community resources and employment. The fair occurs annually during the month of March with over 60 community agencies in attendance and informational workshops.

Contact: Megan Edmonds 425-388-7320, megan.edmonds@co.snohomish.wa.us
This document details key issues of concern identified by the Citizen Advisory Board in conjunction with community citizen input. This Guideline serves as a tool for the County’s elected officials and others who work in the public policy arena on issues critical to Snohomish County citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

**INVEST IN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

The Board commends the legislature for its continued support and its recognition that stable, informed families and support services are essential to the long-term support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Federal Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) Guidelines for Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) calls for integrated service settings and typical community experiences. This is applicable for individuals’ living situation, their employment, and their “whole life” participation in their community from birth through adulthood.

The Board encourages the legislature to focus on individuals with a developmental disability, supporting them to have full, active lives in their community.

- We need to assure that our outreach efforts and service offerings embrace cultural diversity, relevance, and equality for all families. We need to provide services that are equitable, culturally responsive, and accessible to all throughout Snohomish County.
- Families are often the primary caregiver and need to be supported and have access to resources and supports.
- We need to recognize that any reductions to community services put individuals at risk for more restrictive and expensive services.
- We need to Protect Washington’s Employment First policy and maintain employment funding; ensure all students leaving high school in 2022-2023 who are eligible for DDA services are added to the Basic Plus Waiver to receive employment and other needed supports.

The Board strongly recommends the state legislature develop a comprehensive policy approach that recognizes that individuals are best served when they are supported by their communities and families through investing in:

- Support for individuals to work, live and actively participate and contribute to their community;
- Support to families who provide long term support and care;
- Support to continue to develop inclusive and accessible communities; and
- Support to community agencies to provide a living wage to retain qualified staff
THE BOARD URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING:

Equitable Access to Services for the Unserved and Underserved. We need to provide access to information, increased residential resources, affordable, accessible, and creative housing options, adequate transportation, access to mental health services, inclusive education, technology and individualized supports to meet the needs of the individual and family.

Maintain Employment Services. Employment assists with the stabilization of families, and is a critical component of a full, productive life, especially when paired with other supports that enable individual’s connections and involvement within their community. Protecting the public investment in students is crucial, with continued efforts towards a more strategic coordination of the schools, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Developmental Disability Administration (DDA), and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) services assuring the cost-effectiveness of public funds invested on behalf of graduating students.

Need a Skilled, Stable, Professional and Quality Work Force in the Community. It is critical that the community services workforce including community residential services, employment support and in-home support be compensated with a living wage, as they provide essential supports that allow individuals to become active citizens in their home communities. Without adequate support there is a high staff turnover which jeopardizes the health and safety of individuals residing in the community.
Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities

Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities provides the following services to eligible clients through the annual State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) contract:

- Birth to Three Early Intervention Services
- Career Path Services
- Social Security Benefits Assistance
- Independent Planning Services
- High School Transition Coordination
- Information and Education
- Technical Assistance

In addition to the services above, Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities receives dedicated County millage dollars that are utilized to foster inclusive communities and support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to fully participate in and contribute to their community. Some of these efforts include:

- Building Inclusive Communities/Family Support Centers
- Leadership and Education
- Connecting Families
- Inclusive Recreation and Leisure Opportunities
- Information and Education
SNOHOMISH COUNTY COMMUNITY PROFILE
There are approximately 837,800 Snohomish County residents.


It is estimated 10,054* Snohomish County residents have a developmental disability.

*Approximately 1.2% of the general population is estimated to have an intellectual and/or developmental disability. Prevalence rate based on Washington State Auditor’s Office, Performance Audit July 31, 2013.

DDA from the DDA Care System July 2021
There are 5,374 active clients on the DDA caseload
4024 are receiving DDA services
1,350 are on the No Paid Services caseload

Statewide data shows that 71% of these individuals live at home and receive care and support from a parent or relative.
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES
(January 2021 to December 2021)

Snohomish County Human Services Developmental Disabilities

Early Intervention
- There are 10 Early Intervention Providers in Snohomish County
- An average of 1,246 children/families received Early Intervention services each month. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, all Early Intervention services have been provided via tele-intervention platform until further notice by the State agency, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).
- 2,434 children were served throughout 2021.

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<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
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<td>18.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
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<td>5.09%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>13.64%</td>
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Leadership and Education
- Leaders serve on 25 different board and committees in Snohomish County
- 6 family members/self-advocates are on Statewide boards/committees
- 27 unduplicated leadership and advocacy trainings were held in 2021
- 13 leaders are in 8 school districts

Connecting Families
- 2,009 individuals received 1:1 support to connect to resources
- The top unmet needs in 2021 included: IEP and school support, Housing, Parent Connections, Community/Recreation Opportunities, DDA/Eligibility Services
- 745 people attended 58 trainings
- 26 Sibshops were offered for siblings of all ages
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES (CONT’D)

Building Inclusive Communities—three Snohomish County Family Support Centers
- A total of 69 individuals volunteered during 2021
- A total of 1525 hours of volunteering was provided
- A total of 31 leaders participated on local boards or committees in a leadership role

Transition Coordination
- 217 students/families met with the transition coordinator for planning and system navigation

School to Work Outcomes

*To be counted as employed in School to Work the student must obtain a job and be stabilized in the position for 60-90 days.
*Total number of students do not include Northshore students
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES (CONT’D)

Social Security Benefits Assistance Program
- 76 new and returning individuals received benefits planning and assistance
- 247 people attended 16 Social Security trainings

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>285</td>
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<tr>
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<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independent Planning Services
- 31 Person Centered Plans were completed to assist individuals to connect and contribute to their community
- 2 Planning Facilitators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Person Centered Plans Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>31</td>
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</table>
SUMMARY OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES (CONT’D)

Career Path Services/Supported Employment

- An average of 831 people per month were supported in Individual Employment (IE)
- An average of 130 people per month were supported in Community Inclusion (CI).
- An average of 380 people were employed per month
- $3,365,746 Total wages earned by individuals working in the community jobs
- On average 76% of low acuity, 49% of medium acuity and 26% of high acuity clients were employed per month.

### Average Number of Individuals served Monthly in IE and CI

![Graph showing the average number of individuals served monthly in IE and CI from 2016 to 2021.](image)

### Wages Earned 2016-2021

![Graph showing the wages earned from 2016 to 2021.](image)
Thank you for taking an interest in Snohomish County’s mission of fostering inclusive and welcoming communities that will support individuals with developmental disabilities to fully participate and contribute to their community.

We believe that dedicated public funding is an essential piece of the solution to addressing gaps in services and support systems. However, the greatest positive change will come from the personal efforts of individuals, families and supportive community members who have good information, access and opportunities to engage and partner with their neighbors, businesses and other community organizations and members.

As you have read though this plan, you will discover that much of our work and effort is focused on strengthening those facets of the community support system that empower individuals and families to take their own action steps and become change agents in their own neighborhoods and communities.

I hope the Community Plan along with the other companion resource books (available from our office and on our website) are helpful to you in your endeavor to create and participate in welcoming communities in Snohomish County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have feedback, questions or ideas to assist us in increasing access to services, addressing unmet needs identified in our plan and reaching our mission of creating an inclusive community where individuals can fully and actively participate.

Thank you,

Tamra

Tamra Bradford, Program Manager
Developmental Disabilities and Early Support for Infants and Toddler
Snohomish County Human Services
Department 425-388-7208
Tamra.Bradford@co.snohomish.wa.us
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

www.snohomishcountywa.gov/dd