

Snohomish
County
Developmental
Disabilities

04/01/2020

Connect With Us

Any of our team can take your call during normal business hours.

Early Intervention

Phone: 425-388-7402

Email: earlyinterventionprogram@snoco.org

Transition or

School to Work

Phone: 425-388-7476

Email: S2W@snoco.org

General Community Questions or Questions on Who to Connect With

Phone: 425-388-7320

Email: ddinfo@snoco.org

Keeping on Track with the DD Team

Out of the Office - Still Steaming Along



A community that is engaged
and working together can be
a powerful force

Check-in with the team

Find out what staff from Developmental Disabilities are doing and how you can connect with us.

Community Resources

Included in this issue is helpful community resources and sites where you can keep up to date on the latest information.



We are grateful that everyone is staying home and taking care of yourself and your families and the community as a whole. In an effort to help with some of the uncertainty, we have put together this newsletter to provide you with some valuable resources and keep you up to date on efforts that are being made.

It was disappointing to cancel our Annual Transition Resource Fair, the Community Summit, DD Advisory Board and a variety of trainings. This unprecedented time has provided us with the opportunity to pause for a moment and also to quickly and creatively work with our state and local partners to assure that services were as minimally impacted as possible.

All of our staff are set up for telecommuting and we are utilizing our email, phone, Skype for business and Zoom to do our day to day work. Our phones ring into our computers so from the outside it will look like business as usual. It has also caused us to pause and re-evaluate and think differently on how we will need to provide services differently during this time.

We have amazing, passionate and creative staff and community partners who are rising to the occasion to assure that we continue to provide quality support to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Tamra Bradford

Program Manager

425-388-7208

Tamra.Bradford@snoco.org



Staff Update



Ben Martin

Career Path Services

425-388-7475

Ben.Martin@snoco.org

Our Employment and Community Inclusion Career Path Services have been working diligently with State DDA to support our providers in tracking all the lost service hours due to COVID-19. DDA and Counties are working on a way to reimburse providers for those lost service hours through professional development, staff training, virtual trainings, and other possible remote activities. We are in contact several times a day with DDA and sending out guidance to our providers. We have been Flexible and Responsive daily to

answering our providers questions by email and phone to give them the support they need. Regular maintenance of our billing system is being done to create service authorizations so providers can bill what work they have done on their regular billing schedule. We have been meeting regularly with stakeholders using Zoom, Skype, Cisco Chrome Video, GoTo Meeting and WebEx to maintain strong relationships and communication!



Melinda Bocci

Benefits Planner

425-388-7259

Melinda.Bocci@snoco.org

Social Security and Benefits Planning

There have been many phone calls and zoom meetings with families and individuals, going over Social Security and state benefits. This includes Health Care for Workers with Disabilities (HWD), applying for SSA disability benefits, reporting wages, etc. Please check out SSA's website regarding COVID-19 at <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>. Please note that all SSA offices are closed to the public. To find your local office and the local

office phone number, please go to <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp> and type in your zip code. In addition to the 800#, your local office phone number is listed in the paragraph below the contact information.

We have received many questions from employment agencies and DDA Case Managers about how unemployment will affect state and federal benefits. I have connected with other benefits planners and

contacts in Olympia to learn how the state is working around these types of issues. There is a strong need for trainings, and I will be setting up online trainings for State and Federal Benefits 101 and SSA 2.0. Upcoming dates can be found on our website www.snoco.org/dd

Person Centered Planning (PCP) Services

I attended the Statewide Person Centered Planning Symposium earlier this month. Planning referrals are still coming in. We are exploring how we can use teleconferencing in the planning process. I am in the process of amending our current PCP contract to reflect a 5th step in our planning process. This will be a questionnaire the planners will fill in after connecting with individuals who had a completed plan for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. The goal is to collect information and data to reflect the benefits of planning and show how planning services lead to community employment or other community connections.

Transition Network

We do not have a Transition Network meeting in April due to schools' spring break schedules. For May 13th, we will have our annual DDA Intake and Eligibility workshop with the DDA Intake and Eligibility team.

We are in the process of organizing this to be a webinar rather than in person. Stay tuned for details! Please save the date for May 13th from 7am to 9am. Once scheduled, information will be found at www.snoco.org/dd.

Value Based Payment

Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have teamed together to create a pilot project over the next four years called Value Based Payments. (Snohomish County will be calling it Job Foundations.) This pilot project will focus on students in their second to last year of transition services to help bridge the gap between the school system and the adult world.

The purpose of this pilot project is to 1. engage students earlier in targeted employment planning and connection; 2. increase partnership with school staff to complete student's Job Foundation document that includes actionable next steps for employment; and 3. increase the number of students completing transition programs with a job or secondary education connection. Please go to DSHS's website, <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/DDA/dda/documents/DDA%20Value%20Based%20Payment%20Summary.pdf>, for additional information.



Megan Edmonds

Information/Education

425-388-7320

Megan.Edmonds@snoco.org

Connecting to the community

Although many of the staff at our contracted agencies are at home they can continue to be reached via email and phone. I have included their updated hours and contact info on the resource page of this newsletter. I continue to connect with the community on ongoing resources and information so please reach out to ddinfo@snoco.org if you have questions.

Transition Fair

As many of you know the March 2020 fair was cancelled in the spirit of slowing down the virus. We are continuing to work on creative ways to get the information out to families. The agencies that have attended in the past are now hyperlinked on the county [website](#).



Community Summit 2020

Consistent with state and national guidance and restrictions on gatherings of this size, DSHS DDA has made the difficult, but necessary, decision to cancel the Community Summit scheduled for June 9 to 11, 2020 in Wenatchee, Washington. If you have already registered for the Community Summit, any registration fees you have paid will be fully refunded to you. If you have any questions, please contact Community Summit project coordinator. Monica Zumach at (253) 307-7475, or Monica@gowise.org.

Charting the Life Course and Coalition for Inclusive Communities

We currently do not have an in-person meetings scheduled. However, we will be scheduling and hosting meetings via zoom for continued county wide efforts.

Deb Gall

Transition Resource Coordinator

425-388-7476

Deb.Gall@snoco.org

Transition Services-School to Work

The work continues despite the COVID-19 situation! I am busy with calls and emails as I follow up with all current 2020 School to Work participants to check-in.

I am also receiving inquiries from parents who received our mailing and are interested in School to Work next year. A mailing was sent out to all 2021 grads followed by an email in March. I have begun outreach with multi-cultural families requiring interpreters to explain our School to Work process. I have been attending IEP and Transition Planning

meetings for students online and am in regular communication with teachers who are eager to get their students signed up for School to Work this upcoming school year. I continue to share information with families through my parent distribution lists.

The Transition Kick Off event is held every year in August. The Planning Committee meets monthly January to July. This is an annual event to celebrate our partnerships in Snohomish County including self-advocates, parent leaders, schools, community,

contracted agencies and state and local government. We are considering hosting an event virtually if we can't meet in person.

I am using our Zoom platform to conduct monthly check-ins with other agency partners such as DVR, DDA and Project Search programs. I hope to start using this more in my meetings with families as opposed to the telephone. As a team we are looking at alternate options for webinars and outreach. Future gatherings such as Front Door events (parent nights) could continue so families are getting current information.



Trisa Harris

Billing, Contracts, & Quality Assurance

425-388-7332

Trisa.Harris@snoco.org

Early Intervention providers have shown creativity and flexibility in order to continue to provide services and supports to families during this challenging time. All family resources coordination and direct therapy services are now being provided through phone and/or video conferencing. Teams are being responsive to the emerging needs of families and working together to problem solve on behalf of families.

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), DDA, School Districts, and our Tri-County Partners are collaborating ongoingly to problem solve larger system needs and to minimize financial impacts to agencies. We are looking for ways to ensure that all families have access to the technology needed to participate in teleintervention and that providers are equipped to deliver services through this new modality.

Community Resource and Information

Important Alerts

Fraudulent COVID-19 test kits

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) released an announcement on Friday warning consumers about unauthorized fraudulent coronavirus tests. If you are aware of fraudulent test kits for COVID-19, please report them to the FDA. Reports may be sent via email to: FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov.

The link to the press release is as follows:
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/pressannouncements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-alerts-consumers-about-unauthorized-fraudulent-covid-19-test-kits>.

New Social Security Benefit Suspension Scam

Social Security will not suspend, discontinue or decrease benefits because their offices are closed due to Covid-19.

Any communication received that says Social Security will do so is a scam, whether you receive it by letter, text, email, or phone call.

The ARC Speaker Series is now Virtual!

Monday, April 13th Special Needs Trusts & Estate Planning

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/209390473>

Monday, April 27th Understanding DDA Eligibility

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/447585266>

Monday, May 11th Guardianship & Alternatives to Guardianship

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/613833544>

Interested in transportation updates and changes?

In response to COVID-19, [RARET](#) will be sending weekly updates which summarize the impacts on our transportation system in Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. [Subscribe](#) here for updates

Community Centers and The Arc

Sky Valley Resource Center-Sultan Family Support Center

Address: Sultan, WA
Phone: 360-793-2400
Hours: Food Bank Closed to public: Porch Delivery available.

* For up to date information check Facebook

<https://www.voaww.org/skyvalley>

Stanwood Community Center

Address: Stanwood, WA
Phone: (360) 629-5257
Please call 360-629-5257 x1 and leave a message with your contact information and your need. Providing Services to Stanwood & Camano resident. You may also email resources@crc-sc.org.

Essential Needs Hours:
Monday/Wednesday 1pm-4pm
Tuesday/Thursday 5pm-7pm
Saturday 10am- 1pm

*For up to date information check Facebook or <http://www.crc-sc.org/>

North County Family Services

Address: Darrington, WA
Phone: 360-436-0308
Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM; Mondays by appointment. We are asking people to come in in groups of three or less. Our licensed childcare center is closed, Kid's Place Early Learning Center. *For up to date information check Facebook or <http://www.ncfs.family/>

The Arc of Snohomish County

Address: Everett WA
Please e-mail info@arcsno.org. Specific staff contact list can be found at <http://arcsno.org/about-us/contact-us>. Please sign up for emails regarding upcoming resources and events <http://arcsno.org/get-involved/2014-06-11-18-11-26>

**The Washington State
Department of Health**

WSDH has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have questions about what is happening in Washington, or how the virus is spread, please call **1-800-525-0127**. Phone lines are currently staffed from **6 a.m. to 10 p.m.**, seven days a week. Please note that this call center cannot access COVID-19 testing results. For testing inquiries or results, please contact your health care provider.

Community Resource lists

[The Arc of Washington](#) has created a specific page for resources relating to Covid-19 and developmental disabilities

[Governor's Committee on Disability](#) acts as a resource for the public in addressing disability-related issues. This includes, but is not limited to, emergency management information with regards to the current COVID-19 epidemic affecting our state and country

**Information regarding Special Education and Services During
Covid-19**

1. OSPI COVID-19 Special Education Guidance and FAQs
2. OEO Resource Page for School-Related and Childcare Related Resources
3. Questions and answers on providing services to children with disabilities during the COVID19 outbreak.



You have reached
the end of the line.
Check back next
week for more
“Keeping On Track
with the DD Team!”