



Clallam County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

Minutes for April 14, 2026 · 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Clallam County Courthouse

Board of Commissioners Meeting Room 160

223 E 4th Street · Port Angeles, WA 98362

1. Call to Order

Laura Johns called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Members Present: Tony Andrus, Terry Barrett, Glen Chipman, Skye Eastman, Pamela Hicks, Laura Johns, Christine Motokane and Bobbie Stoneman

Members Absent: Pamela Bumgardner

Audience: Shelby Bell, Becky Clarkson, Maddie, Aaron Dickson, Emily Fowler, Rae Haselbach, Lucinda Heidel, Pat Johnston, Randi Jones, Samuel McLellan, Monica Meyer, Linda Middleton, Evan Opedal, Karen Pierce, Alicia Reyes, Chelsea Rider, Carina Robinson, Michelle Simmons, Raandi Simpson, Nicole Sklors, Michael Sturgill, Sarah Winters and Misty Ziegler

County Staff: Jennifer Charles, Don Crawford, Mike French, Kelley Lawrence, Kevin LoPiccolo, Jenny Oppelt, Chelsea Reynolds and Aspen Smith

3. Request for Modifications / Approval of Agenda

ACTION TAKEN: Skye motioned; Bobbie seconded. Motion passed to approve the agenda.

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2026 (See Attached)

ACTION TAKEN: Tony motioned; Skye seconded. Motion passed to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026, without any changes.

5. Public Comment for Agenda Items

a. *Please limit comments to 3 minutes (10 Minutes Total)*

b. *Please limit comments to Items on Today's Agenda*

6. DDAC Member Reports & Presentations

a. DDAC Member Pam Hicks – Video Presentation

Pam Hicks presented a Friends Together video presentation.

<https://pamhicks.us/disable.html>

b. Other Member Reports & Presentations

No information to report

7. Announcements

- a. Clallam County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community Resource Guide: Chelsea Reynolds, Clallam County Administrative Specialist; Please send Resource Guide submissions to Chelsea Reynolds:
chelsea.reynolds@clallamcountywa.gov
[Clallam County Community Resource Guide](#)
- b. Jessica Renner, Self-Advocate and Karen Pierce and Nina Judson, Pierce Jones and Associates sharing discovery of \$1,000,000 Grant (Letter to Sequim City Council from Jessica Renner and Nina Judson Attached)
- c. UPDATE: Sexual Health Trainings – Scheduling of these trainings is being moved to the Fall 2026 due to venue availability
- d. UPDATE: Guardianship Trainings – Scheduling for these trainings will be in the Spring 2027
- e. Upcoming High School Resource Fairs hosted by Parent to Parent; Contact Shelby Bell for more information · Port Angeles High School on Wednesday, April 29th from 4:00–7:00 p.m. in Student Center · Clallam Bay School on Thursday, May 7th from 2:00–5:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria · Pending Scheduling: Sequim School District, Quillayute Valley School District and the Tribal School
- f. The 2026 Community Summit is a One-Day Virtual Conference on June 3rd bringing together Self-Advocates, Families, Friends, Partners and Allies to collaborate in building more inclusive communities. More information and registration coming soon!
- g. “How Washington Funds Supported Employment and Community Inclusion”:
<https://vimeo.com/1080407148?share=copy>

8. Action Items

- a. Voting for DDAC Membership Applicants
The DDAC interview panel—comprised of members Laura Gillis Johns, Pam Hicks, and Skye Eastman—conducted interviews on February 18th and March 25th. The panel recommends that applicants Denise Lapio, Patrice Johnston, and Rae Haselbach be approved for membership. If the DDAC votes to approve these applicants, the committee will forward the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.
ACTION TAKEN: 7 yeas, 0 nays; Motion passed to forward Denise Lapio, Patrice Johnston and Rae Haselbach to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

- 9. **DDAC Guest Speaker:** Aaron Dickson, Executive Director of Community Employment Alliance (CEA) (2026 Advocacy Workshop Flyer Attached)
Aaron discussed with the Committee that the CEA is a coalition that represents the supported employment and community inclusion providers across the state

of Washington. Primarily focused on supporting members with sharing resources, networking and learning opportunities, as well as participating in legislative advocacy in Olympia and with Congress in Washington, D.C. Aaron discussed some of the proposals submitted to the State Legislature during the legislative session for 2026 and the upcoming events happening with CEA.

10. Community Partner/Request for Proposal/RFP Presentation: Monica Meyer, Monica Meyer Consulting, Inc.: “Bridging Services Gaps in Clallam County – A Pilot for Other Counties”

Monica Meyer provided a presentation to discuss “Bridging Services Gaps in Clallam County”. The purpose of the project is to: improve continuity of supports, reduce repeated discovery and assessments, preserve person-centered knowledge and improve employment and community inclusion outcomes. Monica discussed the project overview, discussion followed.

11. Project SAFER Updates

- a.** Mark Your Calendars!! Our Project SAFER Event at the County Fair will be Thursday, August 20, 2026 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. All individuals, their Families and Supports who experience an intellectual and developmental disability are invited to attend the Fair on this day. Registration for FREE TICKETS will Open in June. (Project SAFER – Save the Date Attached)
- b.** Project SAFER REMINDER: Our Project SAFER Form is now LIVE and available for completion to all who are interested in participating either online or in person at our Clallam County Health and Human Services ~ Public Health Department located at 111 E 3rd Street (1st Floor) · Port Angeles, WA 98362. Project SAFER created an informational form for individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities that could be immediately accessed during an encounter with a First Responder. This form will provide valuable information in approaching someone that experiences an intellectual and developmental disability. Individuals may share as little or as much information as they wish to share on the form. It will be securely housed at the Sheriff’s Department and be dispatched to all First Responders during an encounter. Available at: www.clallamcountywa.gov/ProjectSAFER
- c.** Clallam County Home Show: Project SAFER partnered with the Clallam County Sheriff’s Department to distribute information about Project SAFER
- d.** Project SAFER is developing an animated instructional video for Enrollment in Project SAFER
- e.** Project SAFER Facebook page: Please follow!!
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561667243721

12. County Reports / Updates – Kelley Lawrence

a. Outcome Report: February 2026 (See Attached)

Update: We will be distributing the Outcome Report to everyone for each meeting; consequently, we will now orally present the full report at a DDAC meeting three times each year in February, June and October

- Individual Supported Employment (“ISE”)
- Community Inclusion (“CI”)
- County Transition Program

b. Clallam County Transition Council Update: Next Meeting is Thursday, April 16th from 3:30–4:30 p.m. (Virtual)

c. Transition Services Community Listening Session: To share your perspectives and ideas to improve Transition Services for Students as they move from school to adult life on Wednesday, April 22nd from 6:00–7:30 p.m. (See Attached)

d. Contract Amendment with QVSD was created to add two additional students to their current contract

13. State Agency Reports

a. Developmental Disability Community Services (DDCS) – Carina Robinson, DDCS/Region 3/Administrator

Carina discussed the Resource Fair and the Community Summit.

b. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) – Lucinda Heidel M.Ed., BCBA, LBA; Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor

No information to report

14. State and Federal Updates – Carina Robinson (DSHS Secretary Ramirez

Shares Budget Message Attached)

No information to report

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Public Comment for Agenda Items

a. Please limit comments to 3 minutes (10 Minutes Total)

b. Please limit comments to Items on Today’s Agenda

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2026 · 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee Members: Laura Johns, Jonathan (Tony) Andrus, Teresa Barrett, Pamela Bumgardner, Glen Chipman, Skye Eastman, Pamela Hicks, Christine Motokane and Bobbie Stoneman



Clallam County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

Minutes for February 10, 2026 · 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Clallam County Courthouse

Board of Commissioners Meeting Room 160

223 E 4th Street · Port Angeles, WA 98362

1. Call to Order

Laura Johns called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Members Present: Tony Andrus, Pamela Bumgardner, Glen Chipman, Skye Eastman, Pamela Hicks, Laura Johns and Christine Motokane

Members Excused: Terry Barrett and Bobbie Stoneman

Audience: Megan Addison, Shelby Bell, Randi Jones, Erin Kirkland, Jason McNickle, Jennifer Nehr, Monica Meyer, Karen Pierce, Jessica Renner, Alicia Reyes, Chelsea Rider, Carina Robinson, Lambros Rogers, Michelle Simmons, Raandi Simpson, Nicole Sklors, Sarah Winters and Misty Ziegler

County Staff: Jennifer Charles, Don Crawford, Kelley Lawrence, Kevin LoPiccolo, Mike French, Chelsea Reynolds and Aspen Smith

3. Request for Modifications/Approval of Agenda

ACTION TAKEN: Tony motioned; Pamela H. seconded. Motion passed to approve the agenda.

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Tony motioned; Pamela B. seconded. Motion passed to approve the minutes from December 9, 2025, without any changes.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Pamela H. provided public comment.

Pamela B. provided public comment.

6. Announcements

a. Upcoming DDAC Guest: Aaron Dickson, Executive Director of Community Employment Alliance (CEA), will discuss what CEA does and major topics and discussions going on in the advocacy world right now at our next DDAC meeting on Tuesday · April 14, 2026

b. Advocacy Day was January 21, 2026 in Olympia – Attendees Christine Motokane, Helen Motokane and Jessica Renner (Jessica will join later in the meeting to share her experience) (See Attachment)

- c. Proclamation will be read on Tuesday · February 17, 2026 at the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners meeting Recognizing March 2026 as Developmental Disability Awareness Month (See Attachment)
- d. January 2026 QVSD Life Skills Monthly Update (See Attachment)
- e. UPDATE: Sexual Health Trainings – Developing content structure and scheduling for Spring Classes
- f. UPDATE: DDAC Agenda invitations (for non-DDAC members) will now include the same packet of information provided to DDAC members (Meeting minutes, Outcome Report and any other items relevant to the meeting agenda)
- g. DDAC Membership Applications: Received “3” applications for membership. Kelley sent email to DDAC asking for volunteers to serve on the “DDAC Membership Interview Committee”. Pam Hicks, Laura Gillis Johns and Bobbie Stoneman (provided Bobbie’s schedule permits) volunteered to serve on the committee. Scheduling of interviews is currently underway.

7. Action Items

- a. Approval of the 2026–2027 DDAC Meeting Calendar (See Attachment)
(Updating Presentation Schedule: Employment/Community Inclusion Providers will now present once a year which allows inviting Guest Speakers to present to DDAC; Presentations from RFP recipients continue and we will hear twice from the two new recipients/programs)
ACTION TAKEN: Pamela H. motioned; Pamela B. seconded. Motion passed to approve the 2026–2027 DDAC Meeting Calendar.
- b. DDAC Leadership: Election of Chairperson and Vice–Chairperson
ACTION TAKEN: Pamela H. motioned to have Laura Johns as Chairperson and Tony Andrus as Vice–Chairperson; Skye seconded. Motion passed to approve Laura John as Chairperson and Tony Andrus as Vice–Chairperson.

8. DDAC Guest Speaker: Jason McNickle, General Manager, Clallam Transit System

Jason provided a presentation on the Clallam Transit System and all the services that are provided to the community. Discussion followed.

9. Community Partner Presentation

Don Crawford, Director, Clallam County Parks, Fair & Facilities; RFP: Clallam County Fair Accommodative Initiative

Don introduced Erin Kirkland who is volunteering to run the Clallam County Fair Accommodative Initiative. Erin provided a presentation on the sensory–friendly spaces and bags that will be created and used for the Clallam County Fair in

August 2026 for individuals who experience an intellectual or developmental disability. These bags and spaces are in collaboration with Kulture City.

10. Project SAFER / Updates

- a. Project SAFER REMINDER: Our Project SAFER Form is now LIVE and available for completion to all who are interested in participating either online or in person at our Health and Human Services ~ Public Health Department located at 111 E 3rd Street on the First Floor. Project SAFER created an informational form for individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities that could be immediately accessed during an encounter with a First Responder. This form will provide valuable information in approaching someone that experiences an intellectual and developmental disability. Individuals may share as little or as much information as they wish to share on the form. It will be securely housed at the Sheriff's Department and be dispatched to all First Responders during an encounter. Available at: www.clallamcountywa.gov/ProjectSAFER
- b. Current Enrollment: 14!!!
- c. Project SAFER Facebook page: Please follow
- d. Next Steps:
 1. Developing plans to market the Project SAFER Form to our community: DDCS, School Districts and Tribal Schools, Providers, Community at large and more
 2. Developing 2026 Project SAFER Priorities

11. County Reports/Updates – Kelley Lawrence

- a. Outcome Report: December 2025 (See Attachment)
Update: Since we will be distributing the Outcome Report to everyone for each meeting we will now orally present the report at a DDAC meeting three times each year: February, June and October
 - *Individual Supported Employment ("ISE")*
 - *Community Inclusion ("CI")*
 - *County Transition Program*
- b. *Clallam County Transition Council* Update: Next Meeting is Tuesday · February 17, 2026 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Virtual)

- c. *Clallam County IDD Resource Guide and County DD Website* (Currently being revised and updated), plus, *DD Facebook page*: Please send Resource Guide submissions to Chelsea Reynolds:
chelsea.reynolds@clallamcountywa.gov
 Chelsea will attend DDAC April Meeting to provide preview of Resource Guide
- d. *Clallam County Provider Meeting* (Meets every other month; County, DDCS, Providers and DVR) was held January 22, 2026 and discussed agency processes and systems
- e. *Round-Up Meeting* (Meets every other month; County, DDCS and DVR) was held December 10, 2025 and discussed clients in DVR with a specific Provider, DDCS and County
- f. *Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting* (Meets every other month; All County Coordinators Statewide and DDCS) was held January 14-15, 2026 discussing County implementation of services
- g. *Regional DDCS/County Meeting* (Meets quarterly) was held December 18, 2025 discussing any specific regional information and implementation of services
- h. *Community Inclusion Collaboration Meeting* (Meets monthly; ACHS sub-committee) was held January 23, 2026 to discuss updates and information regarding the Community Inclusion program
- i. Meeting with QVSD Classroom Teacher, Guadalupe Silva, to discuss Transition Program and Project SAFER
- j. Completed County Audits of FY22 with our Clallam County Providers
- k. Preparing for State Audit with DDCS

12. State Agency Reports

- a. Developmental Disability Community Services (DDCS) NEW NAME (formerly Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) – Carina Robinson, DDCS/Region 3/A
 Carina updated the Committee about the monthly visits DDCS does to the West End at the Forks and Clallam Bay Library.
- b. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) – Lucinda Heidel M.Ed., BCBA, LBA; Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor
 No update provided.

13. State and Federal Updates – Carina Robinson

14. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items provided.

15. Public Comment

Don Crawford made public comment about the Fair Seasonal positions.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2026 · 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee Members: Laura Gillis Johns, Jonathan (Tony) Andrus, Teresa Barrett, Pamela Bumgardner, Glen Chipman, Skye Eastman, Pamela Hicks, Christine Motokane and Bobbie Stoneman

Self-Advocates, Christine Motokane and Jessica Renner had a great meeting with the legislative assistants of Mike Chapman, Steven Tharinger and Adam Bernbaum at Advocacy Day in Olympia!





PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, intellectual and developmental disabilities are a natural part of the human experience and affects close to 5 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Clallam County residents and their families are successfully living their lives with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, every person has valuable strengths, capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their community; and

WHEREAS, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities share with all citizens the desire to achieve personal success through education, meaningful work, and family and community ties; and

WHEREAS, Clallam County residents with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together and grow together and together enrich the fabric of our communities; and

WHEREAS, we respect, value and salute the daily accomplishments of all our citizens with or without intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, no disabilities need keep individuals from realizing their full potential nor diminish their right to enjoy and participate within their community; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Clallam County recognize that their community can grow closer through education, awareness and understanding by recognizing individual abilities, commonalities and differences.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED the Board of Clallam County Commissioners hereby recognize March 2026 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

and recognize that together we accomplish more and everyone benefits. We also call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, business and schools in Clallam County to recognize the ability of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to make significant contributions to their communities and to take time to become acquainted with citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities and what they have to offer, and to unite the voices of all citizens, with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities into a strong and inclusive Clallam County.

Signed this 17th day of February 2026

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mike French, Chair

Randy Johnson

Mark Ozias

January Life Skills Monthly Update

January was a busy and engaging month in our Life Skills classroom, with a strong focus on community awareness and transportation. We successfully completed our lesson on community awareness. As part of this unit, students learned about our community of Forks, WA, including important places and the individuals who serve and support our town. Students discussed how different community roles—such as law enforcement, local businesses, and service providers—contribute to public safety and daily life.



We were pleased to welcome Chief Mike Rowley as a guest speaker. Chief Rowley met with students to explain his role in the community, how he supports community members, and how law enforcement helps keep Forks safe. Students were attentive, engaged, and asked thoughtful questions throughout the visit. The experience concluded with a small treat and participation in a Community Helpers Kahoot, reinforcing key concepts in a fun and interactive way. Page 1

After completing our community unit, we began a new lesson on transportation and how to get around Forks. This is an important transition skill aligned with OSPI transition and travel training expectations for students preparing for increased independence after high school. As part of this lesson, we welcomed John Stewart, Mobility Coordinator for the Clallam Transit System, who spoke with students about Clallam Connect, Pingo, and local transit routes. His presentation directly supported what students are currently learning in class and helped make public transportation feel more accessible and realistic.



Moving forward—literally—students will begin completing eligibility applications for Clallam Connect services. Clallam Connect offers specialized, door-to-door transportation for clients with disabilities (no age requirement needed). Once eligibility is confirmed, John Stewart will schedule 1:1 travel training sessions with each student and physically take them on a ride to practice real-world transportation skills.



Students have also been actively working with their job coaches and participating in job shadowing experiences throughout the community. These opportunities allow students to explore employment settings, build workplace skills, and gain confidence. Enjoy the included photos of "Bella" at the Twilight Store, where she practiced job-related responsibilities in a community business setting.



In addition, we have begun cooking instruction, a true and essential life skill. This month, students made chicken fajitas, following their visual recipes from the Ready, Set, Cook curriculum. Students practiced following multi-step visual directions, kitchen safety, teamwork, and independence.



All students are demonstrating continued growth toward their individualized goals. We are especially proud to celebrate two students who recently earned the Golden Crayon Certificate for goal mastery—please see the included photo to help us recognize their hard work and accomplishments.



Moving Forward (February and beyond):

- We will continue transportation lessons and progress toward pedestrian safety, with the goal of conducting community-based travel training.
- Students will participate in continued job coaching and job shadowing opportunities
- Cooking lessons will continue with an emphasis on independence and safety
- Fridays will increasingly focus on community-based instruction and real-world skill practice

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help students build independence, confidence, and meaningful life skills. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

FHS Life Skills Teacher/Case Manager,
Guadalupe Silva

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC)
2026 Meeting Dates
(Occurs the 2nd Tuesday of every other month)

Date	Time	Place
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 Clallam Transit: Jason McNickle Clallam County Parks, Fair & Facilities Department: CP/Clallam County Fair Accommodative Initiative	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Room and Remote Options (Zoom, Live Stream or By Phone)
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 Community Employment Alliance (CEA): Aaron Dickson Monica Meyer Consulting: CP/Bridging Service Gap in Clallam County – A Pilot for Other Counties	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Room and Remote Options (Zoom, Live Stream or By Phone)
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 Pierce Jones: CP/Emergency Preparedness Morningside: SOE	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Room and Remote Options (Zoom, Live Stream or By Phone)
Tuesday, August 11, 2026 Concerned Citizens: CP/Bridging Birth to Three Pierce Jones: SOE/CI	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Room and Remote Options (Zoom, Live Stream or By Phone)
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Clallam County Parks, Fair & Facilities Department: CP/Clallam County Fair Accommodative Initiative Concerned Citizens: SOE/CI	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Room and Remote Options (Zoom, Live Stream or By Phone)
Tuesday, December 8, 2026 Monica Meyer Consulting: CP/Bridging Service Gap in Clallam County – A Pilot for Other Counties First Step Family Support Center: CP/Supported Parenting Program	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Board of County Commissioners Room and Remote Options (Zoom, Live Stream or By Phone)

CI = Community Inclusion
 CP = Community Provider
 SOE = Spotlight on Employment

Clallam County • Developmental Disabilities • December 2025 Outcome Report •

Community Inclusion (CI): State Contract; Billed @ \$66.00 per hour

Community Inclusion: 89 Participants

Authorized Hours: 1,311

Hours Billed: 942.75

Individualized Supported Employment (ISE): State Contract; Billed @ \$108.00 per hour

Individuals Employment: 108 Participants

Authorized Hours: 1,336

Hours Billed: 1,126.75

Working: 63

Have Jobs: 66

Gross Wages: \$48,380.53

YTD Gross Wages (July 2025 – December 2025): \$279,149.55

YTD Gross Wages (July 2024 – June 2025): \$538,377.21

Clients Concurrently Receiving Community Inclusion (CI) and Individualized Supported Employment (ISE)

51 Participants

County Transition Program: Millage Fund; County/School District Contract/Split Costs; Billed @ \$80.00 per hour

Students: 17 Participants

Letter to Sequim City Council from Jessica Renner, Self-Advocate and Nina Judson, Pierce Jones and Associates, Community Inclusion Facilitator

Hello, my name is Jessica Renner I am a self advocate and the administrator of Self advocates in leadership SAIL. I receive CI services with Pierce Jones and associates. Over the last several months I've been researching ADA access with my CI coach Nina. After submitting the following letter to Sequim City Council. We recently discover on the City of Sequim website the council approved a grant worth one million dollars to improve 46 curb cuts and sidewalks throughout Sequim starting on March 30, 2026.

Here is the full letter that Nina and I submitted to the Sequim City Council.

Hello, my name is Nina and I am writing this with my friend Jessica. Recently we have been researching ADA improvements in Sequim. The last ADA improvement plan was done in 2023. Some of the city violations, which are well over 1,000 in number, were 49 miles of non-ADA compliant sidewalks finding 1,475 hazards. 79% of our city bus stops are not compliant, and over 1,256 curb cuts and ramps to name a few.

Accessibility improves quality of life, and safety in community promotes independence. Because of this, we want ongoing advocacy, transparency, and accountability to be an inclusive and accessible community.

We contacted the city engineer Nick Dostie for information regarding if any improvements suggested in the ADA transition plan have been made. He stated in a reply email. "We are currently working on the tracking process and program to record and prioritize ADA improvements called out in our transition plan... "The most effective and efficient way to get the information is to submit a public records request."

We then contacted the ADA coordinator and submitted a public records request regarding the transition plan as information on the Sequim City website is simply a few sentences that define what ADA is. We were contacted back by the ADA coordinator who closed our records request stating that it would be closed due to the fact that we were seeking information and no specific records were asked for.

Mr. Dostie stated that they were working on prioritizing ADA. However our transition plan is 3 years old and our city remains largely inaccessible.

We ask, what was the purpose of hiring Transpo Group to assess the accessibility of our city if we have no way of tracking the improvements they suggest? How are we to budget for these issues if they continue going years without follow up? We would like to request City Council review the 2023 ADA transition plan again and designate someone to track and keep record of compliancy issues that have yet to be addressed, or issues that have received improvements or budgets for future improvements within the next 6 months. As 3 years of waiting for the community we live in to become more inclusive and accessible is far too long.

Thank you,
Nina and Jessica

ADVOCACY WORKSHOP SERIES

Facilitated by and for People with Disabilities

Stipends Provided for Attendees



**Community
Employment
Alliance**

Since 1974

Learn how to speak up for yourself and others! These workshops will help you build skills, gain confidence, and take action on issues that matter to you. Join us to connect with others and practice our advocacy strategies.

6 Virtual Sessions

Weds, 5/12 - 6/23, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Each session will cover a different topic:

- Introduction to Advocacy
- Digital Advocacy
- Local Advocacy
- Advocating with your Employer
- Advocating with your Parent(s) or Primary Caregiver
- Advocating with State Legislators

1 In-Person Session

6/30 - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

At Compass Career Solutions:
1305 Tacoma Ave. S, Suite 201,
Tacoma, WA 98402

Lunch provided

**To RSVP and
request accommodations:**



360-536-0125



Aaron@Community
EmploymentAlliance.org



**EVERY
WEDNESDAY**

**MAY 12
TO
JUNE 30**



Project **SAFER**

Special Assistance For Emergency Response

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday

August 20, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Clallam County
Fairgrounds**

- **FREE Community Event**
- **Supports connections between First Responders and Clallam County residents who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)**
- **Resources, education, etc.**
- **Scan the QR code to learn more**



FREE entrance passes to the Clallam County Fair for both you and your family to attend this informative, engaging event!



DSHS
WASHINGTON STATE
Department of Social
and Health Services



**Clallam County • Developmental Disabilities
• February 2026 Outcome Report •**

Community Inclusion (CI): State Contract; Billed @ \$66.00 per hour

Community Inclusion: 86 Participants
Authorized Hours: 1,257
Hours Billed: 930.5

Individualized Supported Employment (ISE): State Contract; Billed @ \$108.00 per hour

Individuals Employment: 109 Participants
Authorized Hours: 1,390
Hours Billed: 1,056.4
Working: 63
Have Jobs: 66
Gross Wages: \$39,306.19
YTD Gross Wages (July 2025 – February 2026): \$360,059.68
YTD Gross Wages (July 2024 – June 2025): \$538,377.21

Clients Concurrently Receiving Community Inclusion (CI) and Individualized Supported Employment (ISE)

52 Participants

**County Transition Program: Millage Fund; County/School District Contract/Split Costs;
Billed @ \$80.00 per hour**

Students: 18 Participants

Transition Services Community Listening Session

-hosted by the Transition Collaborative-

Please come share your perspectives and ideas to improve transition services for students as they move from school to adult life.

- **When:** Wednesday, April 22nd from 6:00 to 7:30
- **Where:** Zoom meeting online ([registration](#) required)
- **Who:** Students, family members and other advocates
- **What:** The Washington State Legislature passed a bill ([Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5253: E2SSB 5253](#)) telling several state agencies to update the plan for how to best help students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) move from school to adult life.

Those state agencies are called the Transition Collaborative and include:

- Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction,
- Developmental Disabilities Community Services,
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation,
- Department of Services for the Blind,
- Washington State Rehabilitation Council
- Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council.

You can find out more about the Transition Collaborative by visiting the [Transition Collaborative Project](#) website.

Your input at this event will help the Transition Collaborative write a report that is due to the Legislature in October 2026. We are looking for your recommendations to include in this plan. Listening sessions are being held from March through April with collaborators including students, families, advocates, educators, county developmental disabilities programs, employment service providers and tribes.

Everyone must register for this event. Please click on the link to register:

<https://wastatecommerce.zoom.us/meeting/register/OVTIEOUTQ-WbhCe4q2jKow#/registration>

Please note that accommodation and translation requests must be submitted by March 22nd.

Confirmation emails will be sent as the date nears and will include additional information to help prepare to participate in the listening session. If you need help registering or have questions, please call 1-800-634-4473 or email: info@ddc.wa.gov.



Home and Community Living Administration



March 17, 2026

Greetings!

We wanted to share this message from DSHS Secretary Angela Ramirez regarding an updated budget announcement.

I don't have to tell you that the work at DSHS never stops. The programs and people you support continue to need you. The work remains as consequential as ever. Behind so much of this work is, of course, the budget. While some of us might live for budget spreadsheets and some of us do not, I want to share a top-line budget update because it drives so much of the work we are all committed to.

The 2026 Legislative Session concluded last week with the passage of the 2026 Supplemental Operating and Capital budgets. Faced with fiscal constraints and increasing pressure caused by federal cuts and policies, the proposed budgets balance additional revenue options, budget reductions, and budget additions necessary to maintain access to public assistance programs.

Once signed into law by Governor Ferguson, the 2026 Supplemental Operating budget increases the agency's appropriation authority by \$719.5 million total funds, including \$670 million to fund maintenance-level needs, such as increased costs due to forecasted caseload growth and service use, and \$49.6 million for policy-level budget items.

Policy-level funding to support current programs and address new statutory requirements includes:

- **Electronic Health Records (EHR)** - \$2.7 million to implement a new EHR at the Western State Hospital (WSH) campus. An EHR will improve efficiency and coordination of care, strengthen connections between facility and community care, enhance service delivery, and support recruitment and retention of hospital staff.
- **Brockmann Warm Closure** - \$200,000 per fiscal year to support the warm closure of the Brockmann campus while DSHS works with community partners to recommend how best to use the campus.
- **State Hospital Overtime** – \$14.9 million for anticipated overtime staffing costs at WSH and Eastern State Hospital (ESH).

- **ESH Radio System Upgrades** – \$576,000 to upgrade the radio system at the ESH campus to support an immediate hospital need for an Emergency ALL-CALL dispatch function.
- **ADA Compliance** – \$1.4 million to comply with the U.S. Department of Justice settlement agreement to support deaf and hard of hearing residents at BHHA facilities and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by providing equal access to its services and to ensure effective communication for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- **SCC – Power Failure** – \$996,000 in one-time funding for costs related to the 2025 island-wide emergency power outage on McNeil Island.
- **SOLA Forecast** - \$25.4 million and 81.4 FTEs to maintain current operations of 222 state-operated living alternatives (SOLA) beds. This funding was previously provided on a one-time basis but is now ongoing.
- **RHC Transitions to Community** - \$2.2 million to fund three SOLA beds to transition residents from Rainier School to community settings. The 2025-27 biennial budget funded nine SOLA beds for this purpose, and this step adds three beds for a total of 12 additional SOLA beds.
- **Developmental Disabilities Community Services Account** - \$2 million for community support and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Legislature directed DSHS to establish a strategic planning workgroup and submit a comprehensive 10-year strategic plan to increase statewide access to appropriate community-based services and support.
- **Noncitizen Program** - \$17.8 million to phase in nearly 1,200 noncitizen slots to maintain services for lawfully present immigrants who would otherwise lose access to services due to federal H.R. 1 changes to Medicaid eligibility.
- **Adjust Consumer Direct Employer (CDE) Rates** - \$12 million to fund the impact of last year's Business and Operations tax increase on the CDE that took effect after rates had been set.
- **Adult Day Services Rates** - \$908,000 for a 10% increase to adult day rates and to restructure the rates from three geographic regions to two geographic regions.
- **H.R. 1 and Other IT Costs** – \$20 million to increase Automated Client Eligibility System contractor support to expand the capacity to implement system enhancements, including changes made to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with the passage of H.R. 1.
- **H.R. 1: Work Requirements Staffing** – \$14.9 million and 61.2 FTEs for temporary staffing before IT system enhancements can be implemented to monitor and track work participation for the increased number of adults subject to SNAP work requirements as passed in H.R.1.
- **H.R. 1: Work Requirement IT Project** – \$8.4 million for IT enhancements necessary to create a work requirement verification hub in conjunction with the Health Care Authority.
- **H.R. 1: Job Training Services** – \$4.2 million and 0.7 FTE to expand the Basic Food Employment and Training program to serve more participants statewide and accommodate the increased number of adults subject to SNAP work requirements as passed in H.R.1.

Policy-level funding reductions total \$237.8 million. Highlights include:

- **Maple Lane Delay** - A reduction of \$20.2 million as Maple Lane Behavioral Health and Treatment Center will not spend its current appropriation due to delays in the remodel to the Baker and Chelan units.
- **Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health** – A reduction of \$14.9 million due to an expected underspend at the Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health residential treatment facility.
- **Program Underspend** - A one-time reduction of \$10.4 million to capture anticipated underspending in the Individual and Family Services and Employment and Day budget units.
- **SOLA Administration** - An ongoing reduction of \$784,000 in administrative support for SOLAs.
- **CMS Eligibility Staff for DDA and ALTSA** – Funding is reduced by half due to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services extending the requirement to streamline Medicaid enrollment until Oct. 1, 2034. The total reduction is \$1.4 million.
- **Nursing Home Rates** - A reduction of \$19.7 million to phase down rate add-ons previously incorporated into rebased nursing facility rates. In state fiscal year 2027, the direct care and indirect care low-wage equity add-on is reduced by 50%. Beginning in state fiscal year 2029, the low-wage equity add-on is fully reduced, and the inflation add-on and the minimum wage add-on are also removed.
- **Assisted Living Rebase** - A one-time reduction of \$45 million to reflect a one-year delay in the statutorily required rebase of assisted living facility rates scheduled for state fiscal year 2027.
- **AAA Case Management** - A reduction of \$5 million to implement a 3% reduction for Area Agencies on Aging case management services.
- **Administrative Reduction** - An agencywide administrative reduction of \$4 million to reflect savings in reduced overtime, travel, goods and services, and professional service contracts.
- **Administrative Reduction** - \$2.8 million are reduced to implement administrative reductions across Program 110, which includes the Finance, Technology and Analytics Administration and the Office of the Secretary.

Reimagining DSHS – While the Reimagine DSHS request legislation did not pass the Legislature, and the final budget did not include the appropriation needed to submit an updated written cost allocation plan to comply with the Code of Federal Regulations, the budget bill does acknowledge the Legislature’s intent to make budget structure changes in the 2027-29 biennial operating budget. We will evaluate potential options for the 2027-29 biennial budget request and will share that information in the near future.

Capital Budget highlights include:

- **Emergency Generator Replacement** - \$6.1 million to design and install an emergency power system for McNeil Island. Emergency generators allow areas to be lit and safe, along with providing power to operate vital building access controls, security surveillance systems, fire alarm systems, heating and cooling systems, and kitchen operations.

- **Eastern State Hospital Security Assessment** - \$250,000 to conduct an independent security assessment of the ESH campus. The assessment will identify additional security needs, cost estimates and implementation schedules for future capital investments to provide additional security for patients and staff.
- **Western State Hospital Door Replacement Project** - \$1.9 million to install fire-resistance doors in Building 27 and comport with fire code requirements.
- **Minor Works Projects** - \$4.2 million to fund minor work projects across DSHS facilities necessary for code compliance and to maintain life safety.

You can find full details of the final budgets at this link: www.fiscal.wa.gov

This was my first legislative session as DSHS Secretary. It was challenging and it is clear more challenges are ahead. That being said, the final budgets represent a balanced approach that embrace Governor Ferguson's key priorities of affordability, transportation infrastructure, addressing Washington state's tax code, and responding to federal actions and policies like H.R. 1.

I want to extend my continued appreciation for all your hard work, across the board, during the legislative session. It is because of you that we can — and do! — make a difference. For that, I remain honored to call you my colleague. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Ramirez
Secretary
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services