

**Whatcom County
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board (DDAB)
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center
3333 Squalicum Parkway
September 26, 2011
4:35- 6:00 PM**

Board Members Present:

Fran Armintrout
John Barry
Sarah Catudio

Todd Childs
Keith Hyatt
Carl Weimer

Board Members Excused:

Board Members Absent:

Guests Present:

Tera Contezac, Work Opportunities
Beverly Porter, Arc/Parent Coalition
Jan Driscoll, DDD
Amanda Portillo, DSHS
Kenneth Larson, People First
Sylvia Fragner, WCHD

Staff

Jessica Lee, WCHD Developmental Disabilities
Anne Deacon, WCHD Human Services Manager
Vicki McClure, WCHD Human Services Clerk

1.  Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Keith Hyatt.
Introduction of Board members and guests was conducted.

2.  Minutes Approval



ACTION

Minutes of May 23, 2011 were reviewed. Minutes were approved unanimously as presented. Yea 6, Nay 0, Abstain 0.



ACTION

Minutes of July 25, 2011 were reviewed. Minutes were approved as presented with one abstention. Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstain 1 (John Barry)

3. Items from the Board Chair:

No additions.

4. Unfinished business/Discussion

Board nomination – Pete Charron: Item postponed as applicant may not be available for meetings.

5. New Business/Discussion

Service Information Forms: This discussion item will be tabled until later in the meeting as time permits.

Budget update: DSHS “Big Picture”: Jessica provided a powerpoint presentation, the basis of which can be found on the DSHS website. Jessica will send the link to those interested. The governor has called for a special session of the legislature on November 28, 2011. Washington State anticipates an additional budget shortfall of between \$1.4 -2 billion for the 2011-2013 biennium. The governor has requested all departments present options for 10% cut in state funds.

Cuts to state funding will also result in the additional loss of federal match dollars, resulting in a much greater loss of funds.

DSHS has categorized the proposed 10% reduction strategies into three “tiers.

- Tier #1 Strategic and aligned with our current economic realities.
- Tier #2: Difficult but doable. These cuts includes suspension of DDD family support funds and Adult Day Health
- Tier #3: Necessary to build the 10% reduction. This final tier includes major changes to programs and client eligibility which would result in a significant loss of services for clients. This option could eliminate or reduce services for more than 80,000 people state-wide across all DSHS services.

In addition to DSHS cuts, those cuts proposed through the Health Care Authority will have a dramatic impact on clients served by DSHS, including suspension of pharmacy benefits. (i.e. medications)

The Governor will present a plan in late October, and is expected to release a complete budget in December. A list of DSHS Town Hall meetings for community input, as well as additional information on the budget, can be found at www.dshs.wa.gov/Budget/.

DDD's proposed 10 % Cuts:

Cuts will primarily be achieved by changing eligibility criteria for Medicaid Personal Care (MPC) and the DDD Waiver.

- 48% (3,000) people currently receiving Medicaid Personal Care (MPC) would no longer be eligible.
- 48% (around 5,600) people currently on one of the 4 DDD "waivers" would no longer be eligible for waiver services.

In general, proposed eligibility changes were designed to preserve services for individuals with the highest support needs.

Discussions of a revenue package to prevent such drastic cuts to critical services is beginning to occur amongst legislators and advocates.

Millage Update: Jessica provided a summary of anticipated millage balances for 2012.

- We've reached our goal "reserve" amount of \$160,000 which is equivalent to one month of expenditures. Reserve is designed to protect the County and it's contractors by allowing us to meet our contract obligations in the event of funding losses.
- An additional \$32,884 above the reserve is available for short term and other projects.
- \$130,000 in millage is available annually in the budget for contracting. (Typically funds on-going programs such as parent-to-parent, parent coalition, outreach clinics etc.)
- Indirect Admin Rate for 2011 rate is 12% while 2010's was 8.23%. The rate is applied to all program expenditures, and significantly impacts the DD millage balance available.

A handout, "Draft Priority Strategies" was distributed for discussion. The group discussed each strategy's pros and cons, summarized below.

- Replacing lost funding would only allow us to serve a small number of people for a relatively short period of time.
- Supporting the outcomes of current county services through the state (but not the replacing the services themselves) would continue our current strategy. (information and education, community and provider training, short term projects to improve service outcomes etc.)
- Shifting our priorities to address more basic needs for individuals with developmental disabilities may need to be considered.

Committee Reports: None

7. Public Comment

The Down Syndrome Buddy Walk, a fundraiser walk event, takes place this Saturday at Fairhaven Green. Music and lunch will be available at the event. More information is available on the Arc website. October is Disability Employment Month.

Board members had previously requested information on outcomes for former Northwest Industries and Current Industries workers. Jessica did not have the exact numbers available at the meeting, but estimated that around 32 of those clients are currently in County services. About 60% of those clients have some paid employment.

John will be absent from the next meeting.

9.  Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled DDAB meeting will be Mon., October 24, 2011.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki McClure, Clerk Typist
Edited and approved by

HD staff Direct Phone Line E-mail

Jessica Lee 676-6724, ext. 32014 jilee@co.whatcom.wa.us

Vicki McClure 676-6724, ext. 32243 VMcclure@co.whatcom.wa.us

All meetings occur in accessible locations. For sign language interpreter service, assistive listening devices and communication materials in alternative formats including Braille, large print, and audio tape call 676-6724, 5 working days before the meeting.