

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER:

WE WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU

What has been your experience seeking services locally? Input from self-advocates, parents, caregivers and community members is critical to our mission.

Please come to a board meeting (online or in person) to share your story, questions, or concerns. Each month we also welcome guest speakers who share resources and upcoming events--educational, social and recreational--in the area. If you can't make a meeting, reach out by phone, email, our website or Facebook.

KSDDAB COMMUNITY





Welcome County Commissioners Brian Nichols and Ron Ihrig





This spring, County Commissioners Brian Nichols (left), representing Skamania County, and Ron Ihrig (right), representing Klickitat County, will join KSDDAB. Serving on boards such as ours allows the Commissioners to learn if and how county goals are being met, how services are distributed, and to craft policies to reflect current and future needs using recommendations from those on the front lines. In turn, we benefit from their participation and insight. Working together is crucial, as county commmissioners are responsible for policies, budgeting, planning and setting long-term goals for our communities.

There are more seats at the table! Join KSDDAB

"Serving on a county board or committee continues our strong American heritage of citizen participation in govenance that is the cornerstone of our democracy... to help enhance diversity, ensure quality services, and enable [us] to be representative of the public we serve." -Klickitat County

Board members must reside or work in Skamania or Klickitat County. No special expertise required -- just a desire to find ways to ensure that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families can easily and locally access resources, services, and support.





Visitors are always welcome to attend Board meetings! Meetings are held every other month (February, April, June, August, October, December) on the first Wednesday, from 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm. Participate using Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2152417075 or come join us in person. Meetings alternate between Skamania and Klickitat County locations. Contact <u>Heather Trollier</u> for an agenda and more information.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

MEDICAID MATTERS

According to The Arc of Washington State, over 131,000 Washingtonians with disabilities rely on Medicaid for health insurance, home and community-based programs, early intervention, long-term supports and services, employment programs and more.

Medicaid Matters is an effort by The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, The Arc, and Self Advocates in Leadership to involve and inform you regarding possible changes to federal funding for Medicaid services. Resources include a webpage, videos, and ways to take action.

If you are interested in sharing your story, use Medicaid Matters Story Form here. To contact your congressional senator and representative, visit My Congressional <u>District</u>. For help, email <u>info@ddc.wa.gov</u>.

To stay up to date, sign up for Washington State DDC GovDelivery, Informing Families E-Newsletter, The Arc of Washington State News to Know Email or find the Informing Families Facebook page.



HAPPENINGS

March was **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. The 2025 theme "<u>We're here all year</u>" emphasizes that the successes and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities should be supported, promoted and celebrated every day —not just in March.

- Tuesdays, 3:00-4:30: Bowling \$1/game (2 games max) continues at <u>Orchard Lanes</u> in Hood River.
- Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30: Peace NW <u>Virtual Office Hours</u>. Help and support, no appointment necessary. Meeting Passcode PEACENW
- Wednesdays, ongoing, 5:00-6:00: Dungeons & Dragons. Teens and adults of all ability levels. Meets online. Register here.
- Thursdays, ongoing to June 26, 6:00-8:00: Building Independence. <u>Meets online</u>.
- April 11, 2:00-2:45: Navigating Changes at Social Security webinar presented by NW Access Fund. Closed captioning and ASL. Register here.
- Mobile DSHS: White Salmon, April 16, 10:00-2:00: City Lot, (NE Hood & Church) and Lyle, April 17, 11-2:00, City Market.
- June 4: <u>Annual DSHS Community Summit</u>. All virtual this year. Registration opens in April! No registration fee.
- June 13-16: SmileMobile in White Salmon. Children and pregnant people without insurance or with AppleHealth are eligible for dental visits at no cost. Call 888-286-9105 to book an appointment.

CLICK HERE FOR OUR CALENDAR WITH MORE EVENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS

Klickitat-Skamania Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Our mission: To support Skamania County Community Health in providing high quality, comprehensive and effective developmental disability services to Klickitat and Skamania County residents in an efficient and respectful manner.

With the support from both the Klickitat and Skamania Board of Commissioners, the Developmental Disabilities services for both counties were joined to form one department in 2021. The Klickitat-Skamania DD Advisory Board was formed soon thereafter.