

April 2024 

Klickitat Skamania Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Resource Round-Up

We are currently seeking new Board members. [Ask for a Board Application today!](#) 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 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, on Zoom. Contact [Heather Trollier](#) for an agenda and the link.

RESOURCES!

[Wrights Law Special Education Advocacy](#) provides the latest in special education law updates and resources for learning how to advocate for your children.

A Supplemental Security Income (SSI) presentation was hosted by the Arc of Snohomish/Parent to Parent on March 11, 2024. [Watch the video](#) entitled “Navigating SSI Applications” by Allison Barber.

[Mission Possible Employment Services](#) provides assistance when:

- your SSI benefits are impacted by an unexpected gift or overpayment.
- you are on SSI and would like to start working.
- you have experienced difficulties retaining employment.

“Mission Possible provides expert Social Security advocacy for persons with mental or physical disabilities. We assist individuals in acquiring government benefits that are available to them. We also enroll many clients into the Ticket to Work program offered through Social Security. This program is specifically designed for those who are willing and able to return to work after being declared disabled. Mission Possible does not discriminate based on disabilities, race, ethnic origin,

religious preference, gender or political affiliation. We are firmly committed to helping disabled individuals attain adequate medical coverage and financial security.”

GUARDIANSHIP and SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING

Fairly recent changes in Washington State law re-structured “Guardianship” to include a range of opportunities including “Supported Decision Making.” Understanding the options allows you to make an informed decision for, and with, your loved one, at any age.

[Click here](#) for the “New Washington Adult Guardianship Law (effective January 1, 2022). General Information Sheet.” This contains basic information on changes within the law and provides definitions.

[Click here](#) for Informing Families’ one pager on Supported Decision Making.

[Click here](#) for an Article from *Spectrum Life Magazine* interviewing estate planning attorney Eva Lucchini, including thoughts on how Supported Decision Making can be an excellent option for many people in the Developmental Disabilities community.

Once you have a basic idea of the different options, have a conversation amongst your family to determine the best path for your loved one to follow. You may want to consult a professional. Here are two resources:

[The Law Office of Eva Lucchini](#) provides specific legal counsel for individuals with DD and their families. Ms. Lucchini will help evaluate your and your family’s needs to find what is right for you.

Maryanne Linden will also work with clients from Klickitat and Skamania counties. Her specialty is looking into guardianships to determine the best route for each circumstance, full guardianship and conservatorship to Power of Attorney and Supported Decision Making options. Ms. Linden advises that what is most important is for there to be a circle of friends and family to create the least restrictive independence. She can be reached at maryannelindenlaw@gmail.com.

★ No matter what decision is best for your situation, remember that legal adulthood begins AT age 18. The best advice is PLAN AHEAD if you can.

A warm welcome to the new Parent-to-Parent (P2P) coordinator for our counties: **Filiberto Ontiveros!** We look forward to future programming and will keep you posted. His contact information is:

Email: FilibertoO@peacenw.org
Office: 360-823-2247 Cell: 360-607-0492
Website: www.peacenw.org

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- A [mobile DHS “office”](#) (in place of our now-closed DHS office) will be in the White Salmon Worksource parking lot ([107 W Jewett Blvd](#)) once a month.
- April 25 11:00 am- 2:00 pm
May 23 11:00 am-2:00 pm
June 27 11:00 am-2:00 pm
July 25 11:00 am-2:00 pm
- Registration for online/virtual access is still open for the DSHS **“EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE: TOGETHER WE THRIVE!” [Community Summit 2024](#)**, May 7-9.
- [WISE](#) provides on-demand training and informational materials on a wide range of subjects including Diversity and Inclusion, Advocacy, Employment and more. The first week is a free trial, so why not check it out?! [2024 WISE Learning Center](#)
- Two important state boards are accepting applications for membership. Volunteer to be a voice for our rural communities and for individuals and families across the state!
- [Achieving a Better Life Experience \(ABLE\) Governing Board](#): several openings
 - [Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund Governing Board](#): 1 Family Member needed

We recommend www.informingfamilies.org as your **go-to source** for all things I/DD in Washington State

ABOUT US

Klickitat-Skamania DD Advisory Board 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.

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, on Zoom. Contact Heather Trollier for an agenda and the link.

Again, we are seeking new Board members. [Ask](#) for a Board Application today!

Heather Trollier
Developmental Disability Coordinator
Skamania County Community Health
509.427.3970
trollier@co.skamania.wa.us