

Accessible Communities Advisory Committee Meeting

April 1, 2025 – Meeting Minutes

Attendees: **In Person:**

Rashelle Douglas – City of Longview

Carolyn Fundingsland – Auditors Office

MaryAlice Wallis – City Of Longview

Doreen Daggett – River Cities Transit

Louise Brown – Cowlitz Community Network

Hayley Johnson - Cowlitz County Auditor's Office, Elections

Kaitly Specht - Cowlitz County Auditor's Office, Elections

Makenna Kuljis - Cowlitz County Auditor's Office, Elections

JoAnne Everhart – ASL Interpreter

Via Zoom:

Tanya English – Peace NW Presenter

Theresa Van Pelt – Peace NW & Co-Presenter

Mary DeGraaf – Longview Public Schools

Nicci / Amanda – Wahkiakum County Elections

Jim Tucker – Kelso Developmental Disabilities Administration

Sue Saxton – Cowlitz County Developmental Disabilities Programs

Jacob Cole – Longview Public Library

James N

Megan Wirtz – Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

Hayley Johnson – Introductions

Tanya English and Theresa Van Pelt – Presenter for PEACE NW

PEACE NW serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, and others in [Clark](#), [Skamania](#), [Klickitat](#) and [Spokane](#) counties. Their mission is to support people in achieving greater independence and inclusion within their communities.

They offer guidance in areas such as education, housing, and employment, working closely with schools, government agencies, nonprofits, and community members to ensure access to the resources they need.

Through their services, they advocate for a more inclusive society where people of all abilities can live fulfilling lives.

<https://www.peacenw.org/>

PPT – Attached at the end of the minutes.

Kaity Specht – Elections Information

Filing week is coming up and will be held the first week in May. From May 5th- May 9th from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. candidates can file either in person at the Elections Office or online.

On July 18th the ballots for the Primary will be mailed and the Accessible Voting Unit will be available to use in the Elections Office. The date of the Primary will be on August 5th.

On October 17th the ballots for the General will be mailed and the Accessible Voting Unit will be available to use in the Elections Office. The date of the General Election will be on November 4th.

Doreen Daggett – River Cities Transit

It is free for children aged 12 – 18 to get a Youth Pass to ride River Cities Transit. Under the age of 12, must be accompanied by a guardian.

There is work going toward getting braille signs put up at the transit stops still.

Education efforts to teach youths how to ride the bus, and encourage public transit use to reduce emissions.

Rashelle Douglas – City of Longview

There is a summit happening in Seattle May 6 – 7, 9 am – 3 pm. It is a free 2-day summit on inclusive disaster preparedness. Flyer can be found at the end of the minutes.

Also discussed further on the emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities. Flyer can be found at the end of the minutes.

Louise Brown – Cowlitz Community Network

Putting on an event April 5th 11 am – 3 pm to celebrate children, families, and the community at Youth and Family Link. Goodie bags are available and have 18 items inside. Flyer is available at the end of the minutes. Find a flyer about this event at the end of the meeting minutes.

Jim Tucker – Kelso Developmental Disabilities Administration

Added on 4 more people to their team in 2024 and are expanding their team. Still a solid focus on assisting individuals with disabilities.

Jacob Cole – Longview Public Library

Their mobile library is going on through April where they will be visiting several schools in Cowlitz County.

There is also a local author festival May 17th from 10 am – 4 pm. 60 local adult, YA, and children's authors will have book sales and signings. Find a flyer about this at the end of the meeting minutes.

Mary DeGraaf – Longview Public Schools

Move to get more graduating seniors involved in community efforts and support. Looking to get in contact with more members in our community to make that happen.

Megan Wirtz – Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

They can help individuals find public transportation in Lewis, Pacific, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. They can call at (360) 577-3041, email mwirtz@cwkog.org or use our Trip Planner on our website: <https://mobility.cwkog.org/> The Provider Directory holds information for over 50 different transportation services and providers serving Southwest Washington. They can train staff on public transportation as well.

Sue Saxton – Cowlitz County Developmental Disabilities Programs

April 25 9 am – 3 pm Together We Can conference happening at the Cowlitz County Expo Center. It is a free conference that features presenters for individuals experiencing developmental disabilities, families and support professionals, complimentary lunch, a resource fair and an opportunity to connect with others and learn about community resources. Find a flyer about this event at the end of the meeting minutes.

<https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/FormCenter/HealthHuman-Services-17/Together-We-Can-2025-Award-of-Excellence-422>

Together we can 2025 Award of Excellence Nomination Form. All nominees will be notified to attend the conference and award ceremony. Nominations open.

Hayley Johnson – Closing Statement

ACAC plan for 2025 will be sent out prior to the September 2025 meeting.



Registration
Open

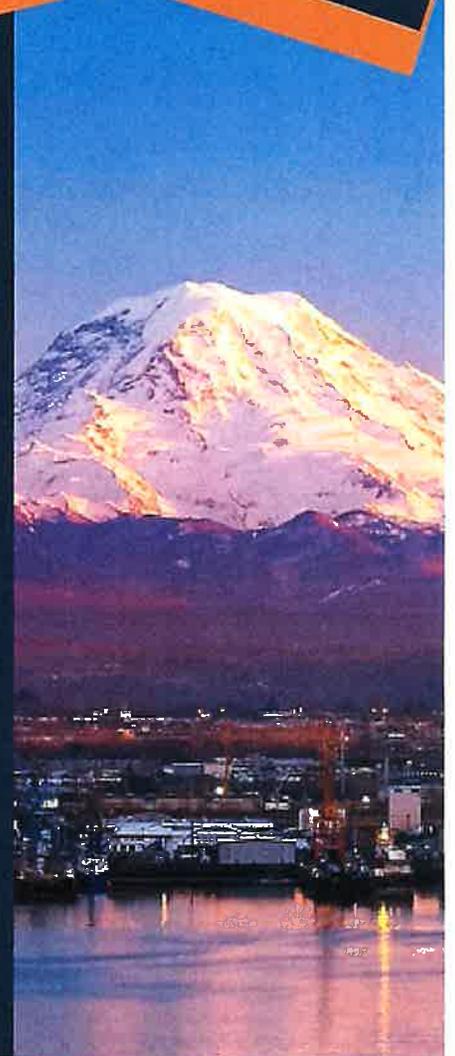
ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS SUMMIT

May 6 - 7, 2025

9am - 3pm

South Seattle College

Join us for this free two-day summit on inclusive disaster preparedness—learn, connect, and register now!



Register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8wuz7d>

To request an accommodation please use the registration link.

Contact us:

PCDEMTTraining@piercecountywa.gov



Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities

For the millions of Americans who have physical, medical, sensory or cognitive disabilities, emergencies such as fires, floods and acts of terrorism can present a real challenge.

Disaster Tips for People with Visual or Hearing Disabilities

- ✓ If you use a cane, special glasses or hearing aids be sure to keep extras in at least two locations and one in your emergency supply kit.
- ✓ Service animals may become confused, frightened or disoriented during and after a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed.
- ✓ Be prepared to use alternative ways to navigate your environment.
- ✓ Temporary shelters must accept service animals, however they are not required to accept companion or therapy animals. Be sure to have documentation that your dog is a *service* or *guide dog*.
- ✓ Store extra hearing aid batteries in your emergency supply kit.
- ✓ Determine how you will communicate with emergency personnel if there is no interpreter available. Store pens and paper for this purpose.
- ✓ If possible, obtain a battery operated television that has a decoder chip for access to signed or captioned emergency reports.



You are in the best position to know your abilities and needs before, during and after a disaster.

Disaster Tips for People with Special Medical Needs

- ✓ Always have at least a three day supply of all of your medications and any medical supplies you might use.
- ✓ Store your medications in one location in their original containers.
- ✓ Make a list of all of your medications: name of medication, dose, frequency and the name of your doctor.
- ✓ If you have medical equipment that requires electricity, consider purchasing a back up power source such as battery or generator.
- ✓ If you use oxygen, have an emergency supply.
- ✓ Make sure your oxygen tanks are securely braced and will not fall over.
- ✓ If you use IV and feeding tube equipment, make sure you have an infusion pump with battery back-up.
- ✓ In the event that you must evacuate your home, have an emergency bag ready that contains medication and supplies and copies of vital medical papers such as insurance cards and power of attorney.



Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities

Disaster Tips for People with Mobility Disabilities

- ✓ Store a small emergency kit in a pack attached to a walker, wheelchair or scooter.
- ✓ Store needed mobility aids (canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs) close to you in a convenient location. Keep extras if possible.
- ✓ Keep a pair of heavy gloves in your supply kit in case you have to wheel over broken glass or debris.



- ✓ If you use a motorized wheelchair or scooter, consider having an extra battery available.
- ✓ Check with your vendor to see if you would be able to charge batteries by either connecting jumper cables to a vehicle battery or by connecting batteries to a specific type of converter that plugs into a vehicle's cigarette lighter in the event of a prolonged power outage.
- ✓ If your chair does not have puncture-proof tires, keep a patch kit or a can of "seal-in" air product to repair flat tires.
- ✓ Make sure furniture is secured so that it doesn't block your normal pathway in case of an earthquake.

Disaster Tips for People with Cognitive Disabilities

- ✓ Practice what to do during and after specific disasters that occur in your area.
- ✓ Practice evacuating from places where you spend time until you feel comfortable that you will know what to do during and after an emergency.
- ✓ Keep a written emergency plan with you and in several locations. Make sure it is easy to read and understand.
- ✓ After a disaster, information often comes at you quickly. Think through ways to do things you will need to do after a disaster. Keep a list of tasks, a calendar with room for notes or a small tape recorder to help you remember things.
- ✓ Think about what a rescuer might need to know about you and be prepared to say it briefly, or keep a written copy with you. For example:
 - I may have difficulty understanding what you are telling me, please speak slowly and use simple language.
 - Please write down information for me.
 - I have a panic disorder. If I panic, give me one (name, description of medication) located in my (purse, wallet, bag, pocket).
- ✓ Give copies of your written emergency plan to your personal support network.

Can we call you?

Community Alerts



Want to receive emergency notifications?
Register your VOIP or cellphone today!

Scan QR code below to go directly to the **hyper-reach** site.
the power of 3-in-1 communication



Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, Dept. of Emergency Management, 312 SW First Ave, Kelso, WA 98626

For more information about Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management:

- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/cowlitzcountydem
 - Visit www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DEM
 - Call (360) 577-3130 or email dem@cowlitzwa.gov



BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO SUCCEED



What is Conscious Discipline?

Conscious Discipline is a research-based program that helps adults stay calm enough to see misbehavior and upset as a signal to teach instead of punish. It then provides effective strategies for teaching social-emotional and life skills to children.



We provide **FREE** book clubs and trainings on Conscious Discipline

SIGN UP FOR Free Resources @ consciousdiscipline.com/free-resources/
Access over 200 free resources including printables, song lyrics, and activities



SUBSCRIBE



to our newsletter @ CowlitzCommunityNetwork.com to receive program updates and learn about community resources

CowlitzNtwk@CowlitzCommunityNetwork.com Call or text ~~Rochelle~~ *Loana* 360-644-2971

The Cowlitz County Early Learning Coalition presents the
7th Annual

Celebration of Children

April 5th 11:00am – 3:00pm

Join us to "Explore Our Neighborhood" and
celebrate children, families, and our community!

At Youth and Family Link

907 Douglas St., Longview WA



Condado de Cowlitz Coalición para la
Primera Infancia presenta la séptima

Celebración de los Niños

5 de Abril 11:00am – 3:00pm

¡Únase con nosotros para "Explorar Nuestro Vecindario"
y celebre a los niños, las familias y nuestra comunidad!

En Youth and Family Link

907 Douglas St., Longview WA



A Free Family Event!

Children's Activities

Free Food & Balloon Animals

Information Booths with Activities

"Grab & Go" Activity Bags & Prizes



¡Evento Gratis para las Familias!

Actividades para niños

Comida Gratis y Globos de Animales

Puestos de Información con Actividades

Bolsas de actividades para llevar



Thank you to our generous sponsors and community partners who prepared this event:



Gracias a nuestros generosos patrocinadores y socios comunitarios que prepararon este evento:



LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR



@The Longview Public Library

COLUMBIA RIVER AUTHOR FESTIVAL

Saturday | May 17th

10 AM - 4 PM

The Longview Public Library is excited for the return of our annual event showcasing the talent of local authors!

Support local storytelling with over 60 local adult, YA, and children's authors at this open house-style event. Authors will be available for book sales and signings.

All ages welcome!

Entry and parking is FREE and registration is not required.

2025 Together we CAN CONFERENCE

APRIL 25, 2025 - 9AM-3PM

COWLITZ COUNTY EXPO CENTER, 1900 7TH AVE, LONGVIEW

This FREE conference features presenters throughout the day for individuals experiencing developmental disabilities, families and support professionals, a complimentary lunch, a resource fair and an opportunity to connect with others and learn about community resources.

Only 350 spots
available!

Register Now at
Eventbrite



Go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and type in
Together We Can to register

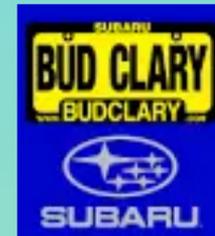


For more information about the event contact
Wendy at wkeegan@lifeworkswa.org



Keynote Speaker
Ivanova Smith
Disability Advocate

**Thank You To our
Incredible Sponsors**



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PEACE NW

WHAT WE DO

PEACE NW stands with individuals with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities and their families throughout the lifespan, providing free support, resources, and guidance through different stages and needs.

We empower individuals by connecting them with the right systems, connecting them to community support and resources, and highlighting the collective efforts that create a more inclusive and supportive environment. PEACE NW believes the answer is yes and the question is how.



CLARK COUNTY PARENT COALITION

- Advocacy
- Legislative Action
- Candidates Forum on Disabilities
- Advocacy Days in Olympia
- Partnerships and Collaboration with other Organizations
- Advisory Committees
- Outreach

- Cafe con PEACE NW
- Filling the Gaps in Transition stages
- Trainings for Parents, Individuals and Professionals (Monthly trainings, Lunch and Learn series)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Resource Navigation
- Systems Navigation



Hattie Stigum

Program Manager
hatties@peacenw.org



Tanya English

Clark County Parent
Coalition Coordinator
Marketing Manager
tanyae@peacenw.org

PARENT 2 PARENT

Clark, Skamania, Klickitat

- Support for parents of children with special needs.
- Information and referrals to community resources.
- Trained Helping Parents whose parenting experience match others as closely as possible.
- Training for parents who would like to become Volunteer Helping Parents.
- Social and recreational events.
- Current information on community resources.
- Public awareness and outreach to the community regarding individuals with special needs and/or disabilities.



Theresa Van Pelt

P2P Program Manager
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Filiberto Ontiveros Jr.

P2P Klickitat/Skamania
filiberto@peacenw.org

INFORMING FAMILIES

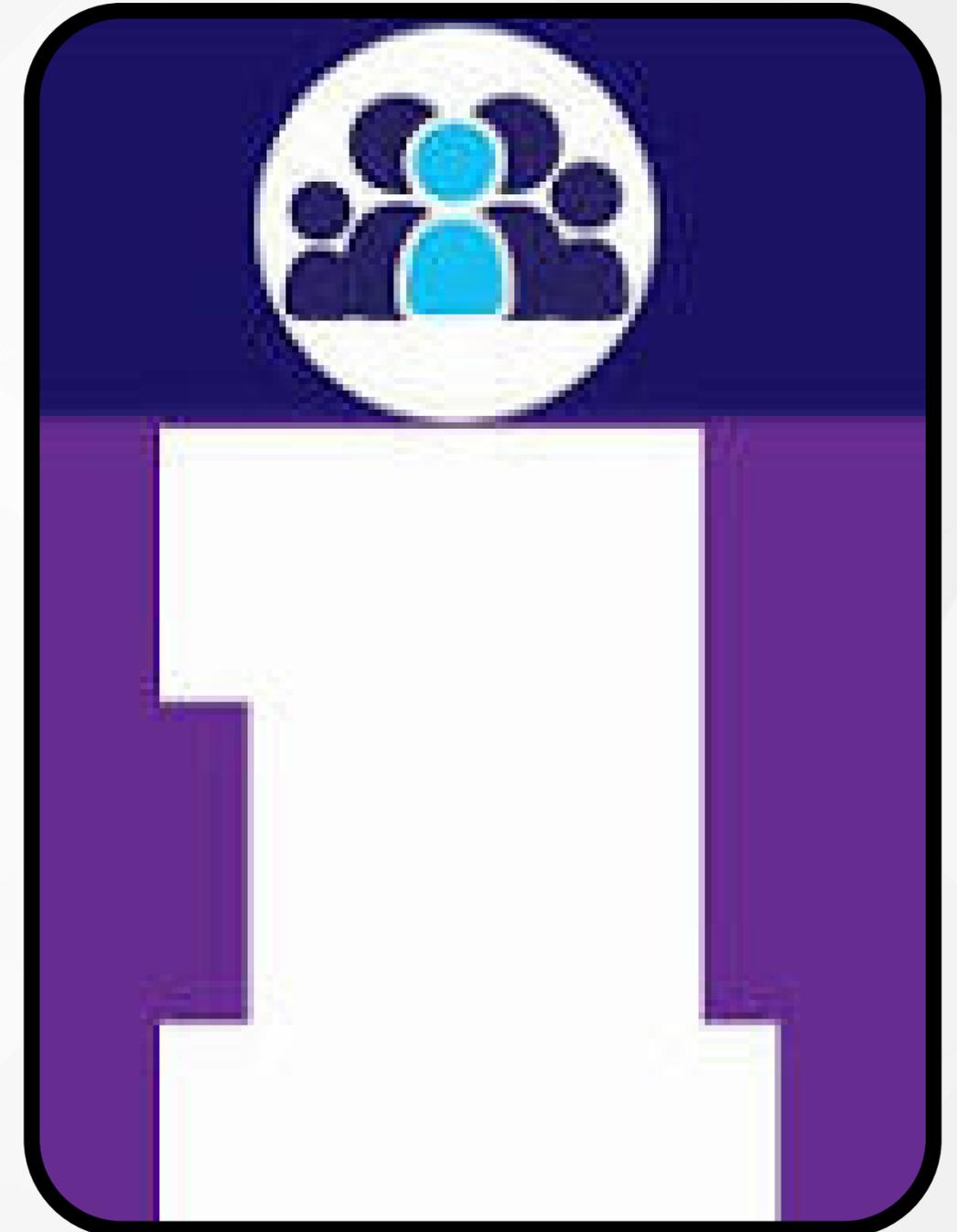
Informing Families is a resource provided by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, in partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Offering trusted news and information to individuals and families that empowers them to be active participants in planning and building a network of support and opportunities.



Frontpage

Today and Tomorrow

 [Informing Families /](#)



INDEPENDENCE AND HOUSING EXPLORATION

- Building Independence
- Dating Series
- Independence Coordination
- Housing Options
- People First of SWWA
- Systems and Resource Navigation



Erin Maher

Independence Coordinator
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Darci Ladwig

Housing Coordinator
darcil@peacenw.org



Independence Coordination - PEACE NW



Share



Watch on  YouTube



Darla Helt

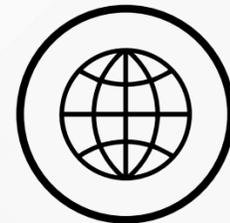
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www.peacenw.org





THANK YOU

