



Final Report

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www.gowise.org

Coordinator Summary

It was a great honor to be the Coordinator of the Community Summit in Ellensburg, WA on June 19th–21st, 2013 sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). WISE, DDA and a state wide subcommittee collaborated to develop and plan the first, annual Summit. Our goal was to bring together individuals who were committed to building inclusive communities where everyone can live, work, socialize and belong. Over 800 individuals attended the Summit with over 40 sessions focusing on three themes: Building Communities, Leadership and Innovation and 21st Century Tools and Technology. In addition to the main sessions, the Summit included eight Hot Topic open spaced discussions, a Community Center, Technology Lab and Community Artistic Corner.

The Summit’s primary emphasis was on building inclusion. The attendees spanned WA State and several states across the country, Canada and the United Kingdom with the following registration numbers:

Central Office DDA	19
County Government	33
Educator	37
Employer/Business	24
Employment Agency	223
Family Member	61
Other	74
Region 1 DDA	46
Region 2 DDA	39
Region 3 DDA	46
Residential provider	117
Self Advocate	81
State Government other	15
Grand Total	815

The Community Summit created a space for individuals to get connected, learn, reflect on new ideas and experience Ellensburg, WA if this was their first time to the central community of WA State. In returning to their communities we encouraged individuals to develop new relationships, share what they learned and inspire others to continue to create and participate in building strong inclusive communities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The following report is a summary of events, along with data and feedback from 275 evaluations submitted to WISE.

Monica McDaniel

Community Summit Coordinator- WISE

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Pre-Conferences & APSE Certification Exam

WISE coordinated a total of four pre-conferences prior to the *Community Summit: Let's Get Connected* in Ellensburg, WA on June 19th, 2013. All pre-conferences were offered at no cost to registrants.

Beyond Mandated Reporting—"Health and Safety - Your Responsibility": 40 attendees

This workshop was for organizations that support individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in residential community settings. The workshop assembled the residential trainers who have been piloting this same workshop and those who want to receive training on how to use the curriculum and facilitate workshops with staff members in their own settings.

Developing a Vision for your Family Member: 28 attended

Lance Morehouse, King County Parent Coalition Coordinator, Kelly Church, Snohomish County Parent/Family Coalition Coordinator, and Diana Stadden, The Arc of Washington who are all parents of sons/daughters with intellectual and developmental disabilities, presented this workshop. There are currently 14 active parent coalitions in Washington State serving 19 counties. The Parent Coalition Coordinators have contact with thousands of families across the state and strive to identify the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families and work toward solutions to meet those needs. This workshop touched on the real and emotional issues that families experience throughout their lifetime.

Seizing Our Destiny: The Future of Self-Advocacy in WA State: 48 attended

Members of People First of Washington, Self-Advocates in Leadership, and Self-Advocates of Washington hosted a pre-conference event looking at the future of self-advocacy in the state of Washington. The session included a discussion of the values of the civil rights movement and the true measures to determine success.

Technology Advancements for People with Developmental Disabilities: 65 attended

This session focused on the utilization of technology as a support for people with developmental disabilities. There were presentations from vendors including, Sengistix, as well as local vendor of software, devices, and applications that have been developed to better assist individuals with developmental disabilities. Attendees also had the opportunity to try a variety of equipment and ask questions of the presenters.

Employment Preconference: 185 attended

In 2010, the State of Washington committed to the bold goal of doubling the number of people with developmental disabilities working by 2015. This pre-conference included a review of the progress on the employment of WA state citizens with developmental disabilities, with the goal of further impacting employment opportunities and outcomes. Each participating county invited a team of local leaders that could significantly impact the number of people working and the numbers of hour's people are working.



Lee Valenta, David Mank, Cary Griffin and Cesilee Coulson presented at the Employment Preconference

APSE Certification Exam

WISE & APSE partnered to offer the first national employment certification exam for employment support professionals attracting 66 individuals from the states of Washington and Oregon. Sixty test takers were from Washington State and six were from Oregon. Interest in the exam was so strong that WISE delivered a third exam session to accommodate all potential exam takers.

Community Summit Links



[Community Summit Webpage](#) or
[Community Summit Booklet](#)



The Summit Tech Room:

The Summit Tech Room was a place to gather, learn, and experience assistive and information technology. We had over 70 attendees visit the Lab. Visitors were provided a range of resources and sampled hands on equipment from national and international vendors.

Community Center:

The Community Center was a place to connect and learn about various community organizations. Several statewide exhibitors provided information and resources. *Community Connectors* were available to assist individuals in identifying resources in their local communities using IPADS. Attendees could also participate in an accessible voting booth.

The following feedback was provided by conference attendees from segments of the conference evaluation form.

Activity Responses:

Tech Room Evaluations								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	2	10	31	43	41	124	3.87	251

Community Center Evaluations								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	2	6	39	37	38	134	3.84	256

Community Block Party and BBQ:								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	5	20	51	45	51	90	3.68	262

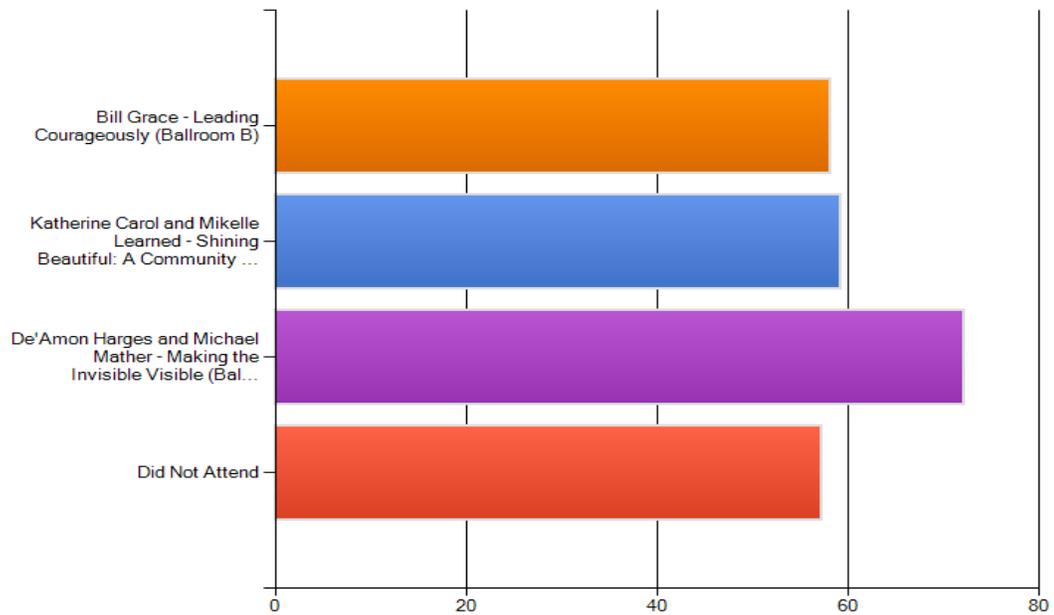
Thursday Night Dance Social (and Flash mob):								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	0	1	16	39	84	121	4.47	261

Keynote and Headliner Responses:

The following was feedback provided by evaluations submitted:

Keynote Speaker: Kathy Buckley								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	6	1	14	53	176	20	4.57	270

Thursday AM Headliners - Enter Session/Presenter or Room # (8:15-9:45am)



* Graph indicates number of evaluations received per session.

Thursday A.M. Headliners:

Room Count: All Ballrooms were at capacity so we estimate close to 800 individuals attended

Thursday AM Headliners:								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	8	12	33	63	95	42	4.07	253

Block A, B, C and Closing Responses:

Block A Attendance	Room Count
Bill Grace - Value-Based Decisions (Ballroom B)	250+
Cary Griffin - Leveraging Assets (Ballroom C)	250+
Connie O'Brien - Connecting People to Communities (Ballroom D)	250+
Tom Kohler - Connecting with Leaders (Theater)	300
Dave Black - Art of Negotiation (Room 135)	69
Stuart Torgerson - Fostering Inclusive Communities (Room 137A)	68
Diana Stadden - Legislative Advocacy (Room 137B)	52
Jennifer White - Work Autonomy App (Room 140)	50
Linda Secord & Peggi Erickson - Health and Wellness (Black Hall 151)	26
Darla Helt - Families Developing Community (Black Hall 152)	60

Block A Sessions (Thursday 10:00 – 11:30am)								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	7	12	44	89	105	6	4.06	263

Block B Attendance	Room Count
Bruce Anderson – Hope at Work Part 1 (Ballroom B)	200+
Jason Swain – Next Generational Learning (Ballroom C)	56
Marsha Threlkeld – Technology Panel (Ballroom D)	200+
David Pitonyak – Questions (Theater)	150+
Pam Blanton & Cathie Griffiths – Innovative Housing Programs (Room 135)	35
Linda Hedenblad – Ethics and Technology (Room 137 A)	75
Teri Johnson – Lean Organization (Room 137B)	58
Emily Rogers – Building Leadership in Our Communities (Room 140)	36
Michael Mather & De’Amon Harges (Black Hall 151)	42
David Lord and Shirley Bondon – More Than Just Guardianship (Black Hall 152)	70

Block B Sessions (Thursday 1:45 to 3:15pm)								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	1	13	27	65	149	7	4.36	262

Block C Attendance	Room Count
Bruce Anderson- Hope at Work Part 2 (Ballroom B)	27
James Emmett- Social Coaching (Ballroom C)	181
John O'Brien - The Hero's Journey (Ballroom D)	87
David Pitonyak - Movement Differences (Theater)	196
Walt Ronish - Partnership in Community (Room 135)	30+
Dr. David Mank - Everyday Leadership and Community (Room 137A)	43
Donna Patrick & Mona Fuerstenau (Room 137B)	37
Scott Palm- A Client Perspective (Room140)	29
Michael De'Amon & Mike Mathers Roving Listeners (Black Hall 151)	31
Sandy Henry – Techn. & Supporting Individuals with Disabilities (Black Hall Room 152)	52

Block C Sessions (Thursday 3:30-5:00pm)								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	3	7	29	65	125	26	4.32	255

Friday Closing:

Closing Keynote - Waddie Welcome (Tom Kohler)								
	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Rate your experience	0	5	27	60	96	69	4.31	257

What did you find to be the best/most valuable part of the conference? Why?

Response Count

217

Attendees Found the Best/Most Valuable As:

- "Diana Stadden presentation. Good stories from lives of people. She gave good information and a nice story from each person's life."
- I liked that most things were centrally located at the event, so once people found their way to the main area they felt comfortable.
- Sorry I don't have a lot of perspective since a lot of my time was spent on the APSE exam.
- Networking with people, taking a new idea and discussing it with others.
- Sessions should be signed up for so you don't have to leave a session early to get into another.
- James Emmett/ networking. Great tools! Wonderful people!
- Workshops - able to attend specific workshops with a purpose and networking opportunities.
- Everyone! Excellent. I wish it was longer. Thank you.
- The headliner and session B (see above). The nuts and bolts/stories from David - invaluable. The journey results form visible, invisible.
- 7 questions; the "how" questions are the empowering questions! The research and approach and story weave together like a tapestry. He is very affirming. Bill Grace and David would be an interesting combo.
- Some of the sessions and day one keynote speakers. Sessions like social coaching, shining beautiful.
- Meeting and networking with people from around the state.
- The opportunity just to be here.
- The networking with so many wonderful people.
- Observing interactions, motivating, and learning from people.
- Team building - equality and meeting people from all over the world.
- David Pitonyak - he was very informed and funny and I enjoyed his presentation.
- Great info - friendly people.
- Loved Jason Swain!
- The socializing and making new friends.
- A great
- Building leadership in our communities.
- Excellent.
- The best part was the sessions, because I'm leaving with a better understanding.
- The information gave me a new understanding of stigma, justice, and other important issues.
- Ways to connect our daughter to the community.
- David Pitonyak -was amazing.
- Connecting with people and re-energizing with new ideas.
- The flash mob dancing.
- The words that helped me clarify my behavior with my daughter and the words that helped me clarify my own goals.
- David 7 questions - helping to understand difficult behaviors.

- David Pitonyak great!
 - That the conference ever occurred.
 - James Emmett social coaching - great insight for parents - project.
 - Ideas for fostering inclusive communities - excellent.
 - Coming to the conference was the most valuable part. I was energized by the speakers and seeing the huge number of people in this field. I loved meeting colleagues, family members, and presenters.
 - Working with people's strengths - value based. Driver services.
 - James Emmett. It was very informative and pertained to my field.
 - Networking. Meeting new resources.
 - Talking to others, different perspectives.
 - Hope at work - we give so much of ourselves that we need to become revitalized.
 - Thursday AM headliner. There was a lot that I could take home to my agency and to connect with those in my area.
 - I enjoyed hearing from actual persons with disabilities - so inspiring.
 - James Emmett becoming a social coaching for individuals.
 - Re-connecting with partners.
 - Opportunity to meet/network with people from across the state from various DD - related fields.
 - The model of inclusion in all parts of community - (?) community.
 - David P. - the man taught me a new way to look at things.
 - Connecting with others in the field - it's been too long!
 - Enjoyed it all! health and wellness - without a planet - there is no people!
 - Learning about how to find individual gifts and utilize them.
 - Loved the "community approach".
 - Tech.
 - Length of breakouts good - not too long/not too short.
 - Lots of great information and I loved the community and spiritual feel.
 - The range of sessions. It allowed our group to split and attend several different sessions.
 - Hearing from different speakers and meeting new people.
 - Thank you for the hard work to resume! I loved David Pitonyak and Waddie welcome story!
 - N/A
 - Opportunity to meet experienced professions and people with disabilities having a great time.
 - (?)
 - Work sessions attended for information not known, unable to find affordable sources.
 - Very transferable to my community.
 - The most practical, directly applicable part for me was the Lean Organization session, while the most reflective and motivational session was Tom Kohler's community presentation. Also, the time to socialize, meet new people, grow closer with old friends, and time to "talk shop" was the most valuable for me.
 - Great networking opportunities and valuable info and stories.
 - Passing people with, with people without matching gifts.
 - The variety of each session. There was something for everyone.
 - Networking opportunities. The passport was a great idea and motivated me to see more.
 - Choices - great presenters - variety.
 - Inclusion.
 - The keynote!
 - Networking!
 - James Emmett.
 - I loved the concrete info to take back in Social Coaching and Hope at work.
-

- Waddie welcome story. Inspirational.
 - Connecting with colleges, fresh perspectives of presenters.
 - Flash mob.
 - David Pitonyak. The classes, very good classes. Also - it was great how you sorted classes into three categories.
 - All but too many breakouts to attend - more duplicated - which would have been nice.
 - Networking with others. The enduring spirit, resilience and community coming together.
 - Networking.
 - Bill Grace.
 - Hope and Resilience workshop.
 - Overall great conference. So glad it is back. Hope it stays!
 - Connecting with others and rejuvenating.
 - Technology - it's the future for everyone.
 - I loved getting everyone in the same room again.
 - Sessions and meeting with coworkers.
 - "Developing/maintaining leadership strategies in challenging times (i.e. hope).
 - And newer science lecture."
 - Brainstorming with others and new ideas I learned.
 - Meeting other people with disabilities.
 - Hearing new perspectives to put my own in context.
 - Viewpoint of service organizations.
 - Getting to talk to other CRP's.
 - The excellent line-up/presenters - the "gurus". The format, time scheduling was perfect - a great improvement from previous E-conferences.
 - New information - we were stuck! (Glad for collaboration of services.)
 - Learning a lot to incorporate in work and community.
 - Jason Swain's talk - I want to learn more
 - Email surveys.
 - #1 Do you know how difficult it is to write on high gloss paper - why waste the expense? Save paper and print a business card sized can code and everyone will have the papers.
 - #2 Why have a scan code for a mobile device available when your app/video (for the flash mob dance instruction) when the content owner has not made the video available for mobile devices. And all instructors should have scan codes on their opening slide.
 - My glossy survey was so difficult to write on so here's my thoughts (evaluator's thoughts written on own paper)."
 - All the opportunities to connect with people - thank you.
 - The use of technology like iPads/tablets to help our clients.
 - The presentations where we learned applicable skills. As an employment specialist I want to learn skills and tools to help me make my job easier. Jennifer White's presentation was amazing.
 - Being able to communicate and speak with people, parents, educators, etc that were outside of the employment field, very nice.
 - I thought the sessions were great. The tech room was a wonderful idea.
 - the variety of topics with sessions
 - Open Discussions
 - The variety of presentations, everyone coming together
 - The overall positive energy was outstanding and a breath of fresh air. Not sure how that was produced, but I really, really thought it was cool.
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- I found Kathy Buckley outstanding. She was worth my time and money alone. She gave me a reminder of why I do this difficult but rewarding work.
 - The information I received on the latest technology available to help people be independent and stay in their own home for as long as possible. Linda Hedenblad's presentation.
 - Connecting with people - sharing information and having fun!
 - For me it was important to just be with co-workers in a creative environment, and to be around others interested in similar things.
 - Kathy Buckley. She was very inspirational, funny and moving. Loved her!
 - Walking in to the room where Kathy Buckley was about to speak was the most powerful part of the conference for me. It was amazing to see how many people were there and that each person represented many more at their respective agencies, families, and communities.
 - Great cadre of speakers. Good interaction between speaker and audience. Good learning and sharing environment.
 - Just the opportunity to connect and gather
 - Connecting with others in our field. Sessions that start new conversations/ideas/creativity
 - Little nuggets gleaned along the way.
 - Meeting people/networking. Variety of sessions was excellent. Organization of the conference was excellent, including availability of parking and environmental conditions.
 - Networking, great topics.
 - connecting with others, presentations; getting work done
 - The first two breakout sessions were my favorite. The venue suited the summits needs well.
 - Complaint: At opening night before Kathy came on stage, the joke about the monkey dance was EXTREMELY disrespectful. It was shocking to me that at a conference which is meant to promote equality and acceptance, that a racially driven derogatory joke occurred. Absolutely unacceptable. The rest of the conference was AMAZING though.
 - I felt Kathy Buckley was the best part of the whole experience.
 - I like the interactions with other agencies
 - The diversity of speakers and topics. We brought consumers with us and they all found things they found interesting to see/hear.
 - The how to information. The connections to give/get help. A place where Dawn has a world beyond her home that not only accepts but appreciates her if only for a few days a year. Thank You for that.
 - Connecting with others in my community who also attended
 - Powerful speakers talking about including all citizens and valuing each person's talents and gifts from a variety of perspectives
 - It was great to have the conference resurrected-this was awesome to reconnect again! Given we haven't met in 5 years, it's appropriate to come together as a whole community and understand issues within each community milieu
 - Connecting with people, meeting new people and hearing how others made advances in this arena.
 - I liked the communication/connection with people across the state. I liked the expert information.
 - Kathy Buckley: she touched me especially when she spoke of society labeled her.
 - The preconference helped kick off the frame of mind I needed to be in. I am newly employed in this field for the first time, and it helped shape my focus and understand what is expected of me.
 - There was so much valuable tools to aid others to select. One is very hard for me. I believe that aiding others to move. Forward is the most important message. To carry forward
 - I loved meeting with different employment vendors outside of the county and in a non competitive atmosphere. I also really enjoyed the lectures from David Pitonyak.
 - From Cary Griffin - Community Action Team idea. It sounds like it was a win/win for everyone involved. Interesting what David Pitonyak said that being lonely is same as smoking two packs of cigarettes per day with more occurrence
-

of mental health issues and that being lonely is most common component of inappropriate behaviors being displayed.

- Very interesting...Liked idea of "hot topics".
 - Attended Bruce Anderson session with looking at "gifts" of people (wisdom/talent/passages) with reflection then on what jobs would be appropriate with gifts...Wish some of the sessions could have been repeated as there were many times I had to choose between a couple I really wanted to attend.
 - Discussion time with other providers. Also, while I did not 'dance,' truly enjoyed participating from the sidelines while many individuals who experience disabilities seemed to be having a great time. Thank you.
 - The networking with others in the field. I think having residential and employment all together was great.
 - Attending Cary Griffin's session was the most valuable. The organization I work for is especially looking into Customized Employment. Cary did an excellent job sharing how to make it possible.
 - The social interaction, reconnecting with old friends and building relationships with new people.
 - Honestly, the best part for me was connecting with people, re-investing in our commitments, and once again feeling the drive and passion to create change.
 - A class about leadership and "lean" and another class on technology.
 - Variety of workshops
 - It is always great to get out and connect with others in the field.
 - I loved listening Tom Kohler. I had not heard him before. I loved the 'story telling' delivery method he used and I loved the perspective of considering 'service delivery' not as a process but rather as 'community building' and 'relationship building'.
 - Beyond mandatory reporting
 - The variety of entities involved--vocational, families, residential
 - Networking and sharing experiences with others. The depth and breadth of experience with the speakers.
 - The key note speaker was motivational and delivered a genuine message with a mix of humor, truth and experience. Loved that she did not feel a need to talk around issues and use terms that are often considered "bad taste" in this field.
 - Networking
 - Great speakers and speaker choices.
 - Hearing other people's concerns and ideas with their customers and to see the people i serve interacting with others without uncertainties.
 - Overall, I felt the conference was well worth my time. In addition to the wide range of training and information available it was a great opportunity to network with others to plan for how you were going to put into practice what you learned.
 - The Block Sessions were amazing. The different approaches and techniques combines with personal and life experiences really brought out the changes need, the changes currently taking place and the role one can take.
 - Sessions, Art of negotiation and the Hope session. With budget concerns and few staff it's important to build strong work teams. As an Administrative Hearing coordinator the Art of Negotiation was great and useful for my work
 - James Emmitt most informative and had information about contacting companies that have government contracts.
 - networking with others, information from the Block sessions was very good
 - "My daughter, Heather and I had such a good time"
 - Connecting with different people, encouraging.
 - "Thanks for making it possible for Heather and I to attend this Summit. It was wonderful."
 - I liked that there was different people from all walks of life coming together to grow.
 - Excellent Pre-Conference Employment Meeting
 - Linda Rolfe needs to have a full session of her own.
 - I enjoyed the sessions, and interacting/networking with other folks around the state.
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- Guardianship training and technology
 - Employment pre-conference.
 - Waddie Welcome's story. It was interesting to see how in an effort to protect venerable adults, the government prevents them from engaging in their community and isolates them from family and friends.
 - networking with others
 - Learning and meeting new people.
 - Community focus
 - I gained an overall understanding and appreciation for the bigness and importance of the mission.
 - Interacting with others.
 - NA
 - Lots of great networking. Also felt that the sessions were actually valuable and relevant, which had not always been the case in the past.
 - Kathy Buckley! Had opportunity to relax and detox from all the intensity of our careers
 - Learning how other areas in the Nation do what we do in Washington is interesting. However, taking what they do and returning to our communities to put what we learn in action is not easy. Seems they can match clients to community members to increase friendship circles without background checks, while here they are required. Shame I do not require a background check when I meet a new friend. Understand clients are vulnerable, but we have placed a large obstacle in their way when trying to integrate in the community.
 - It was wonderful to reconnect with everyone! And what a wonderful opportunity to let some of our newer staff see what kind of fantastic field they are involved in - and to share the history of what happened prior to their time
 - networking and the hope and leadership sections
 - Meet friends, the interesting workshops, and of course the giveaway even-though I did not win
 - Interacting with all the State rather than King County
 - Seven questions panel
 - in between times and sharing with old and new friends
 - Great opportunity to network, and here some good presentations.
 - I thought every piece of it was great! My only regret is that I was too late getting to Jennifer White's session on the Work Autonomy App.
 - I like to hear other peoples experiences and how they handle different situations.
 - Connect with People; Presenters
 - Talking about connecting in the community.
 - I like how inspirational it was.
 - Loved all I attended. Thank you.
 - Spending time socializing with people with developmental disabilities and other care providers
 - Great speakers and a variety of choices. Well organized.
 - Some of the speakers talked about motivation and hope in the work that we all do as state employees or service providers. I think that a lot of the methods to achieve better workplaces and services for clients should be implemented in state government.
 - The workshops were wonderful, but too many. It was disappointing that the morning sessions were completely full with so many attendees unable to enter the rooms. The resources were good, but again, there are so many more in Washington State... PAVE, DDD, DVR, Housing, Outdoors for All, Special Olympics, SSI, Father's Network, Autism Groups/Support, Trips Inc, etc
 - Kathy Buckley was a highlight, there were so many conferences, I wish I could have attended them all. I missed several because they were already full. My staff and I brought back many great ideas that we have already implemented to help our clients.
 - Connecting with others-- professionals, families, clients
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- Enjoyed the focus on "community". Helped focus on creative ways to serve our clients.
 - Lots of new ideas, especially out of Illinois. I would have like to hear more about what is happening in Washington too. It has been a very long time since we've all been together.
 - The varieties of block sessions were good and I usually had to decide on one of two to attend. Being that one was regularly full, it left me with another option. Jason Swain was definitely my favorite speaker of the event. I also liked having the hot topics, however they tended to be distracting with people coming and going and a lot of information in a little bit of time.
 - The variety in the speakers. There was a lot to choose from (almost too much). I did like staying in the closest door which made it easy to get around; I love not driving.
 - Thursday night Kathy Buckley's presentation really hit home for me. Also I enjoyed the fact that this conference wasn't just focused just on employment services but all aspects of life.
 - networking, fresh ideas
 - Networking and housing session
 - Networking- sharing ideas- conversations in sessions
 - It was all worthwhile.
 - Meeting with others and learning what they have done to help persons with a disability.
 - This was great for the new folks (e.g. young staff) who have never heard these wonderful speakers before. For the old timers it was nice to reconnect.
 - Having it be a community conference and not a specialized conference.
 - Education and community relationships
 - Networking. Distressed though at the cost for parents and self-advocates. Money should have gone to that instead of paying expensive speakers from all over. You should have billed it as a provider conference.
 - I felt very honored to have the Summit experience and will encourage others from my office to attend at the next opportunity. Net working; quality of sessions; interactive activities.
 - David Pitonyak really made me think and laugh. He has an amazing way of getting people to think about what it might be like to be a person with an intellectual disability living within the system we created. He does this in the most respectful way to both parties.
 - all presentations were done in a way that encouraged you to go back to your community and make things happen.
 - Kathy Buckley and Teri Johnson. They both made me feel the possibilities of improving some of the problems we face in this field...they made me feel hopeful.
 - The opportunity, once again, to connect with a broad spectrum of parents/professionals/students all united with the same goal of bettering the community lives of all citizens.
 - Everything that I listened to by David Pitonyak was great.
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What type of information or sessions should we offer at next year's conference?	
	Response Count
	186

Comments:

- I'm not sure how to do this, but if we get the same participation from state DDA and DVR workers, I think it would be a good idea to try and split them up more so that they interact with families, service providers, etc.
- It was nice to see some fresh faces among presenters. The conversational lunches were great. Seating for the AM Headliners on Thursday was disappointing. I was there 10 minutes early & there was no seating left. 30-40 people couldn't get into the a.m. sessions.
- Continue to look for new presenters. There were several we hadn't seen before. Also, making sure there is enough seating available for the bigger sessions would be great. There were at least 30-40 people that couldn't get into the 1st Thursday session & were turned away at the doors.
- Less general info and more specific tools to take back! Chairs too close!
- Longer sessions. more room. I couldn't go to Jennifer White's presentation because it was too full!
- How to specifically support the 18-30 year old age groups.
- "Don't make us write comments on high gloss paper (next year!)"
- Excellent conference, glad I came!"
- "Possibly breakout sessions to frame what's happening. What works, what can be better - it could be a work session.
- Can we look at the data? What does it tell us? (rest cuts off.)"
- Some sessions that might focus on coming from RHC to workforce and chairs that area bit more comfortable.
- 1:1 training.
- "Did not appreciate the ""monkey dance"". Found it offensive to my culture.
- I would like more variety in topics and more sessions our client/family can relate to."
- Thought this year's was wonderful, no suggestions.
- More facilitating discussions where people can gather concrete ways to improve programing, client activities, community integration.
- More sessions repeated to choose from. Shorter time frames and smaller settings - too much overcrowding of the popular presenters.
- Each session should be shorter.
- Hot topics weren't as valuable to me as the full sessions.
- More on generation integration.
- More information about jobs. Separate the parents and young adults in the dorms and men and women.
- (?) and of course, understanding the language.
- Eric Murthes Candy (?) for key note speaker.
- I would like to see more sessions like the client's perspective.
- Self-esteem get it/give it away - solution based. There were many I wish I had time to attend - but had to choose.
- Ideas for jobs for our young adults (outside the box).
- Some helpful tips for the next summit.
 - The website could be a little more user friendly. Ie: Big obvious links to a map of the area/university.
 - Possibly some signage on the road marking the way to registration.
- Thank you very much we had a great time and learned a lot.
- Cheers.

- Karaoke.
 - Help for small isolated communities. Also: Please add options of things for people to do who can't understand lectures.
 - Tips, tools, tricks for handling/working with people who can become physical/violent.
 - Video these sessions.
 - (Evaluator wrote on own paper.)
 - Make announcements for people with food allergies to check with designated person for alternative meal choices and where to go for their meals.
 - More/adequate seating for all speakers/venues so that there are enough seats for everyone.
 - For presenters/tech room - give them instruction re: closest doors for loading/unloading all their equipment/supplies/presentation materials.
 - Give people register for Block A/B/C session online in order to have adequate seating for everyone ahead of time.
 - Leave a place on evaluation for to write these comments written above.
 - 85%-90% of speakers had great materials and presentations worth attending.
 - Loved the yellow ""ask me"" t-shirt people! Great idea.
 - THANK YOU! The CWU students who helped with conference.
 - Dining hall food (Holmes) and BBQ food was mediocre to poor! Loved willingness to accommodate food allergies. Would have loved pickle relish and pickles offered, too!"
 - Loved the practical application of it all!
 - I would like more in the social coaching.
 - "Bring in a presenter from Center for Change from Seattle U.
 - Bring in more Life Skills Teams and teachers in public ed. to hear this fantastic info.
 - Loved the conference form with presenter names and contact info.
 - One of the best conferences I've attended."
 - Please offer more for job developers and job coaches! I loved this conference and look forward to more! Thank you for all your hard work. I had an amazing time!
 - New/different speakers - many of those have been seen over and over with same material.
 - "More self-advocacy - reaching my own greatness? Not all legislative - more personal.
 - Names of classes were hard to define for self-advocates."
 - Support groups - small group speakers on informal meeting rooms (structured informal) - facilitation.
 - All was good.
 - Service animals.
 - Perhaps some medical perspectives.
 - More choices for AM sessions - so if one is full - have choices to go to another class - all classes were closed.
 - More of same.
 - Offer clock hours for per-conference sessions, as well. Thank you for offering them for the general conference.
 - Michael Bailey of Portland OR is an excellent disability-rights speaker to consider.
 - Employment programs for people with difficult behaviors.
 - More local presenters - having Indiana represented was great, and we have WA people that have done wonderful things.
 - More than 65% of American are overweight. 75% of US medical Budget (2.8 billion) is caused by lifestyle choices. Reduce disabilities and medical debt with education in this important experience field.
 - More teens, more sessions with people with disabilities.
 - More on autism (teaching strategies, supports, structure, etc.)
 - Make sure your 1-5 has a best/worst listed.
 - More of the same.
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- Appreciate the focus on asst. tech. It will be exciting to see how much further along we will be in a year! Bring David Pitonyak back.
 - N/A
 - More on employment services.
 - Wi-Fi and network.
 - How to include those individuals in community protection program and how to sight system to exit program and still be able to keep eligibility for program. (Due to only program with counseling available).
 - Motivational interviewing and same.
 - I would be interested in hearing from researches about new developments in employment services, a perspective on disability rights at a state level, and collaborative job development ideas.
 - More on same topics. Too good to let it go.
 - Deaf and hard of hearing workshops.
 - Information was good, but Thursday began too early. Shorter sessions maybe??
 - I would have liked to have seen a more prominent theme. (Was the theme stars?) Employment Specialist Themes are fun!
 - Maybe repeat because I immediately went to one session (negotiation) and it was full in minutes. That was my number one wanting to go to and I didn't.
 - I was super bummed with food. Had so many things I said I did NOT eat.
 - Please continue sessions Re: support for providers.
 - Would love even more job development resources.
 - More of the same.
 - None that I can think of.
 - Repeat some of the sessions because some became full.
 - It'd be nice to offer the sessions more than just once.
 - Sensory needs (tips/tricks), boundaries and safety.
 - Breakouts for siblings.
 - Out of the box ideas.
 - A less slick evaluation form - hard to write on.
 - More on leadership development.
 - It would be nice to have shorter sessions. Too long. And would like to have attended more.
 - Same.
 - Social was too crowded and slow.
 - Lunch was confusing."
 - More employment options to choose from.
 - No "private invite" to pre-conference description. Be open and inclusive.
 - Fund development for organizations new and process.
 - Bring back Kathy Buckley!
 - More years of experience.
 - More of the same.
 - Connection high school to agencies; working together.
 - Some targeted more at work.
 - Continue autism and severely challenged. More sessions - if that's possible. I'm able to bring my staff for intensive training and networking.
 - Anything. Opportunities for meeting service reps? DDVR, DSHS, DDD, Housing, education.
 - More info. on different disabilities.
 - Why was there no karaoke? My daughter missed it.
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- Sessions for self-advocates.
 - Experts on the apple accessibility with live demo for the audience.
 - More specific information regarding what types of technology is available and what works / why.
 - Workshops on the DDA eligibility process, DVR process, Medicaid Waiver differences/services, CRP contract understanding for parents and customers, maybe training on how all state agencies can work together.
 - Technology would be great. Loved the tech center. I would like more!! Apps related to working independently.
 - I wish some of the sessions were offered more than once because sessions were too full to attend
 - More ways to partner between residential, employment, IL etc.. Benefits ie SSI and SSDI. More open discussion around collaboration.
 - community building; leadership and networking
 - More leadership development.
 - P.S. - parking could be better for sure and the checking in/ registration was kind of a work in progress to say the least. I waited about 45 minutes to get registered all the while wondering if I would get a ticket out in the parking lot..."
 - Much more specific topic descriptions for the sessions to have a better idea of what each session would be about. Many of the descriptions were very 'buzz word like' and had not connection with the topic discussed. Also to sign up in advance for sessions so rooms could accommodate the space needed and no one would be turned away.
 - Can't think of anything at this time. A good variety was offered this year, although sessions tended to fill up quickly.
 - Thank you for the careful planning and execution of this year's conference - it showed!
 - More about movement differences please!!! And more about ensuring that we do not institutionalize the lives of the people we support, even though they live in the community. How to humanize the medical model that we are being pushed towards. And also, another day would not be too much in my mind.
 - More employment type sessions.
 - More about job development
 - None that I can think of. Excellent conference.
 - More things for entry level staff
 - Behavior Analysis, Sales/Job Development, Job Coaching/Fading/Natural Supports
 - Speakers specializing in specific diagnosis and addressing positive employment issues
 - Best practices nationwide. How does WA State compare to other states...housing, transportation, employment, inclusion, etc?
 - Please provide more space for each session or more sessions.
 - Continued focus on negotiation practices, collaboration...
 - I would like to see a promotion of leadership style as well as more information to help connect to businesses such as Six Sigma, Lean or On-Boarding methods that can help conversations... and maybe promote training in Supported Employment offices for best practice of persons in program to be ready for, maintain or grow in a job."
 - autism, employment innovations, check out
 - It was very hard for me to pick and choose the sessions that I attended. There were so many to choose from for each break out. I would have been more pleased if the conference lasted another day and there were less than 5 sessions to choose from at a time as opposed to 8.
 - I liked all of the classes i attended but i would really like to be able to attend more next year. There so many classes I wanted to take but was unable to due to so many going on at once.
 - I like to hear how to better your agency.
 - I cannot answer since I never heard all the speakers so I am unsure what was included in their sessions.
 - SSI every conference and sorting of the presenters. I had one session I wanted to go to three and one none appealed. I miss the karaoke and access for all stand.
 - Similar types of sessions will be wonderful.
 - "Sustaining leadership, policy/legislative, strategic planning, fund development.
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- LOVED the building hope components this year too. Str"
 - I would recommend fewer sessions with more people attending. Try to have more parents and guardians attend and use WA state speakers and presenters. There is a wealth of experience here.
 - I like to get information that I can create an action plan and implement when I get back home.
 - We had a great turn over, but there was not enough space for all they came out.
 - The decision making and choices i believe are valuable
 - More information on employment
 - Co-occurring disorders...IDD and MH...behaviors/employment challenges/solutions
 - Successful transition projects/programs...i.e. King County School 2 Work project, etc."
 - Might be kind of 'nice,' if a panel of individuals experiencing disabilities were the speakers in one arena -- it was great to hear from a person on Stuart Torgerson's panel speak, but she was only one person -- what about having an entire panel be comprised of individuals experiencing disabilities and having them share their experiences, what has worked/what doesn't etc.
 - I would have liked to attend some seminars related to emergency preparedness and/or safety.
 - More for self advocates and some more that is nuts and bolts of how to get things done.
 - More strategy sessions around the topic of negotiation and selling.
 - More on employment
 - I enjoy the more specific teachings as opposed to the general - I would like to see specific helps - dealing with difficult behaviors, connecting to the public, getting your message out, more HOW TO type of things.
 - Technology is going to continue to be on the forefront of interest, but a good variety is probably best.
 - One thing I enjoyed in this event was hearing people for the first time. Perhaps having one day be 'new voices, new challenges, new ideas' or something along these lines.
 - More targeted to people we serve
 - Better directions for pre-sessions, Friendlier staff, Shorten the sessions and offer more chance to attend.
 - CARF accreditation representatives
 - co-occurring mental health/dd
 - It would be useful to have a mix of employers/businesses/corporations that could speak about job development from their end - what they would like to see, what we as job developers can do to build positive relationships with them, what things turn them away from supported employment...
 - "More for disabled participants please."
 - I think that it would be helpful in the future, to have a morning check in on Wednesday, then have speakers (the actual conference, not pre-conference) in two sessions from 1-3:30 and 3:45-5 or so. Then a break for dinner and back for the key note at 7:30. Then, maybe starting Thursday morning an hour or so later and having sessions between 9-4. This might allow more time for things like the tech room and community room.
 - Turn over with Service Providers and how that effects the people we serve. Have some employers on site like a job fair to hear what they are looking for in an interview / employee. The bigger we look to people the easier they can hear us. So keep it big and made sure we are heard. Get the news involved.
 - I think the sessions provided were great I just wish we got two days instead of one, that way you could check more than one session.
 - more on job development for people with significant disabilities and ways to gather informationf from people with more significant barriers. Information and trainings on Autism.
 - I am unsure if changing the information would be useful, I would suggest a more time oriented frame where the block sessions might be shorter allowing for attendees to have an opportunity to attend more, there were times it was difficult to chose from one or another, with block sessions being offered only once it makes a decision even tougher
 - "Class geared toward aging parents. We need all the
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- help we can get."
 - Training and working with DD
 - Serving individuals in rural communities
 - I would love to see some of the sessions repeated next year. Within each block of sessions there were several others that I wanted to attend, but of course could not. There were a lot of really good presenters at this conference. I was not real impressed with the lunch time session that I went to, it was the panel with Linda Rolfe and several others on collaboration. It was not what I was expecting.
 - More options for Wednesday and Friday. Also more space for the morning session rather than locking people out due to limited space. Better marked information centers. It would be great to have new speakers from the Northwest rather than so many speakers from out of state. Make the information relevant to our work in this state.
 - Motivational. Inspiring. Leadership qualities.
 - I think you should have a pre-registration to gather expected attendance for popular topics. Many of the more popular speakers rooms were filled and attendees were turned away.
 - similar in context
 - Job developing and CE for those with the most significant disabilities.
 - The Conference is on the right track
 - Include Key Business Leaders that are advocates and support your mission!!
 - I do not know how to do this but try to include ways to get to know those around you... to network with other who you do not know and connect. I met maybe a handful of folks there and it could have been a great "think tank" for ideas and information. I strongly believe one or two sessions should be directly to those with disabilities. Bring in a person like Temple Grandon who, even with her disabilities, was a success. I also think this would be a must at the next conference, a forum with a cross section of folks with disabilities, telling us the way it is. Here we are trying to help people with disabilities but some people do not know what they really want or think.
 - It would be great if sessions could be streamed and/or archived for next year's event. One thing that I ran into is that sessions were full or they overlapped with multiple things that I would have liked to have been in on.
 - More interactive sessions. Was tired from simply listening to lecture after lecture
 - Learning what works in other regions of the nation or world and also how to make it happen in our communities.
 - "Organizational Development/Sustainability
 - The history of building inclusive communities (from the dark ages to the present)"
 - "more hope
 - more leadership
 - maybe medical information about developmental disabilities
 - maybe behavioral issues"
 - More advocacy workshops, Life stories,
 - More In home ideas to have staff and client come up with ways to support their community or volunteer in one community
 - More around effective service delivery. Things to help providers improve services that are relevant to licensing. perhaps here from regulators / RCS and other governing bodies as to what are expectations or DDA
 - David Pitonyak, more technology, Jennifer White, more about hope and maintaining it in our work and humor and fun!
 - I was expecting more topics on employment. Collaborating between the 2 different programs.
 - More of the same; I would love to have systematic instruction training
 - I do have one improvement suggestion. I wanted to go to the Art of negotiating and that room was packed quickly. That needs a bigger room. A lot of people wanted to go to that one and could not get in.
 - Activity planning, putting together a person-centered-schedule, using social media to create social groups and activities,
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- New science behind motivation, pursuing social change through social media, training for caregivers on understanding things such as habilitation and social integration supports vs. medical models of support
 - "SSI, Sibling Issues, Parent Support.
 - How about having people pre-register for the sessions they want so you will have an idea how big the rooms should be for each speaker.
 - It would be awesome if the power points/handouts for all the sessions would be made available to the participants (online-or emailed). Would have loved to go to more sessions, but can't be in two places at one time."
 - I would like to see more conferences on particular diagnosis ex bi-polar, fetal alcoholism, autism, down syndrome and more. Also would like to see more information on how to Job Coach
 - There was a good variety - I just would have liked to have seen more options as the conference was a success and the rooms were full and sometimes too full
 - More local presenters.
 - Nothing comes to mind. Keep up the variety so you can continue to appeal to everyone.
 - I think a session on person-centered language would be nice. There were many times that I overheard people using disrespectful, objectifying, and possessive type language. That bothered me.
 - Information and strategies for job developing in our current economy; true job developing, not job placement.
 - mental health
 - More on developing housing and independent living skills for young adults. I would have appreciate a chance to gather with the other people from Clark Co.
 - Supporting individuals to access and fully participate in their community.
 - I really in joy the conference they did a real good job putting it on.
 - More information on "How to connect" not just the "why's"
 - Focusing on more modern topics inside disability studies - disabled women in American society
 - Practical, tool kit information for providers. Be less esoteric. Be more direct about the values. More for parents and self-advocates than for providers. Make a more direct connection between what happens at a conference and moving people from institutions (the purpose of RCL money)?
 - Similar to this year. I thought it was amazing!
 - more of the same, great conference
 - Fewer that use the word "spiritual" in their descriptions.
 - Small presentations that allow interaction
 - "Good to know you are planning for next year!
 - As an older parent now, I am getting ready to face issues I avoided earlier: planning for this next phase in all the areas that might include."
 - Less problem based and more solution driven. More about types of disabilities and what works best for them.
 - I think that it would be more beneficial for those listening if the blocks were shorter. They were a little too long to stay focused. 30-45 minutes would be much better.
 - Nuts & Bolts- how to help those working with persons with intellectual disabilities understand that the 'Plans" that are written are important and why. How to get them to buy into it.
 - Sessions that provide guidance on policy and best practice. For example, something related to the employment plans, process for selecting residential or employment vendors, how CRMs, residential providers, self advocates can support the process of employment services.
-