



Quarterly Statewide Transition Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, Virtual Meeting

3:00pm-5:00pm

Members Present:	Karli Schwimmer Aimee Dunlap Jill McCormick Michelle O'Neill Chris Notaras	Ky Ly JayDee Hoskins Trevor Payne Rose Almanza Stacy Lovell
Members Absent:	Cindy Hernandez Juarez Chelsie Brann Evon LaGrou Lizzie Johnston	Jodi Truman Mallory Fleshman Jenna Ziegler Susan Armstrong
Advisory Associates:	Mary Crago – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Nick Harris – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Cami Falcon – Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Ben Martin – Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) Matthew Hines – Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)	
Council Partners:	Meg Iyer – Center for Change in Transition Services (CCTS) Aaron Dickson – Community Employment Alliance (CEA) Richard Wilson – Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Cathy Murahashi – The Arc of Washington State Daniel Bravo – Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Jaimie Laitinen – Wise Emily Rogers – Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) Shelby Satko – Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) Jolie Ramsey – Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) Elizabeth Gordon – Governors Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)	
DVR Staff:	Amber Lehman Larissa Wulfekuhle Melinda Bocci	Mistie Larch Sam Blazina Dana Phelps
Guests:	DeAnna Winterrose Sky Chafee Rose Spidell	Tara Zink Jen Chong Jewell Sundus Ali

1. Introduction:

Intro from Dana Phelps on behalf of Pablo Villarreal:

- Welcome to the Council and update on legislation to extend services to students aged 22.

2. Introductions from Council Members:

Each Council members present gave their introductions as to why they decided to apply to be on the council and a brief description of themselves.

3. Introductions from Advisory Associates and Council Partners:

A. Advisory Associates present gave a brief update to how their agency supports transition efforts in Washington state.

Ben Martin (Community Inclusion and Transition Program Manager for Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS)): DDCS provides employment and community inclusion services. Works with all 39 counties, and other agencies like Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and DVR.

Mary Crago (Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 1 at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)): DVR supports transition such as School-to-Work, group based and individual based Pre-ETS services.

Nick Harris (back up to Mary for DVR): Regional Transition Consultant for Region 2 in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan counties and helps provide Pre-ETS for students and works with the school districts.

Matthew Hines (Pre-Employment Transition Services Program Manager for the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)): DSB supports students with disabilities with finding different interests and careers of interest for students.

Cami Falcon (Cowlitz Employment Support Services Program Manager, Cowlitz Indian Tribe): Serving Cowlitz and Clark counties and tribal members who have disabilities and serves college tribal members.

Emily Rogers (the Public Policy Director and back up to Brandi Monts of the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)): The DDC has hands on experience with transition students and efforts to support them.

Shelby Satko (Executive Director of the Washington State Rehab Council (WSRC)): The WSRC collaborates with DVR to develop, review, and analyze Policies, Programs & Services and advises on Quality & Performance in meeting the division's mission.

Aaron Dickson (Executive Director of Community Employment Alliance (CEA)): CEA and its members are legislative advocates for the state and Washington, DC. In addition, they bring together providers across the state to share best practices and learn from each other.

Meg Iyer (Center for Change in Transition Services (CCTS)): CCTS works on a grant funded by OSPI, teaches best practices about transition.

Richard Wilson (King County): Association of County Human Services, works with King County's School-to-Work program administering employment services.

Daniel Bravo (Yakima County): Association of County Human Services, in Yakima County. His role is specifically going out to schools and connects with students.

Jaimie Laitinen (Wise, Washington Initiative for Supported Employment): Wise is involved in King County School-to-Work and Job Foundation Community of Practice and building other county's programs.

Elizabeth Gordon (Executive Director of the Governors' Committee on Disability Issues and Employment): a 25-member commission primarily led by people with disabilities to be the voice of state government to the governor.

Cathy Murahashi (The Arc of Washington State): The Arc promotes and protects individuals with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) focusing on advocacy. The Arc of Washington has 7 chapters across Washington, and they are the sponsor for Parent2Parent.

B. Council Partners present gave a brief update to how their agency supports transition efforts in Washington State.

4. Subcommittee Updates:

A. Regional Networks update:

- Provided meeting occurrence schedule: fourth Wednesday of every month except months that fall on the quarterly transition council meeting from 3:30-5:30pm
- Spoke about their two goals they have set: 1) Identify gaps in which counties are missing in each region that don't have established or meeting Interagency Transition Networks (ITNs), they are trying to figure out the barriers and what causes those gaps. From there they want to dive into what the gaps in communities are including who is at the meetings and who is not at meetings, who would benefit or support from collaboration and resources. 2) to develop a framework or template for regions to use to establish and start an ITN. They have started a spreadsheet that has a list of all currently known ITNs and reaching out to those with ITNs to find out what they are doing and how they do it, who's involved in those conversations, what's working or not working in those regions across the state.

B. Support Underrepresented Groups update:

- Provided next meeting notice is July 10, 2025, from 12-2pm

- Their main goal is to research on how successful transition services are based by area and who is participating. They are focusing on numbers and data to better support underrepresented groups.

C. Referral System update:

- Working on strategies to improve referrals for students potentially eligible for DDOS (formally known as DDA) and DVR services, focusing on how to continue outreach strategies and data use for meaningful connections and aligning with the 5790 Utilization Workgroup. They have talked about a referral toolkit, offering additional languages, researching existing resources through materials others have built to help create a universal toolkit for transition staff to use across the state, discussed professional development for educators, training psychologists on connecting students and collaborating with OSPI and finding creative outreach to get families involved. Exploring ways to offer food or childcare assistance within funding rules to potentially eliminate barriers for people not being able to attend due to those barriers, wanting to pilot a survey out to students, families, on needs and barriers.

D. Equitable Access subcommittee update:

- Provided next meeting notice July 18, 2025, from 3-5pm
- Key points were talking about a smart goal, how smaller counties have different resources than larger counties and potential to get those smaller counties to talk with larger counties on what they are doing and how they work with students in transition, roles of subcommittee lead, and potential co-leads.

5. After hearing about the work of the subcommittees, we opened for discussions from our council partners and advisory associates.

Multiple council partners and advisory associates offered their support for multiple subcommittees. Exchanges of contact information were shared.

- Aaron Dickson offered support to connect with two subcommittees Regional Networks and Referral Systems based on his expertise and interest.
- Shelby Satko offering to be a resource to Referral Systems subcommittee and the work they are focused on.
- There was a question for Aaron: How would you assist students that have no idea what they want to do, what they like, don't like etc.
 - Aaron: exposure to different tasks, different environments, try working with the public, away from public, with animals, kids, just trying lots of different aspects to see what that individual enjoys.
- Brandi Monts expressed interest in connecting with the Referral Systems subcommittee and the work they are focused on.

- Shelby mentioned the other councils supporting each other and coming together so efforts aren't duplicated.

6. Public Question and Comment:

Jen Chong Jewel: Transition Resource Coordinator for Snohomish County provided insight of back in 1989 Snohomish County started a transition council and has been in contract for School-to-Work since 2014. Topics of the data agreement between agencies, shared agencies continue to meet quarterly. Jen talked about senate bill 5253 to address coordination of services by 10/30/26, historical information Snohomish County started a transition council back in 1989. She shared that she serves on other councils SEAC for OSPI, WSRC, and State Board of Education. She pointed out that Senate Bill 5253 mentions agencies working together by October 30, 2026 to address coordination of service. [5253-s.sl.pdf](#)

Brandi Monts: Brandi mentioned the data agreement between agencies continue to meet quarterly.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm