



Connect with Us

Any of our team can take your call during normal business hours.

Early Intervention

Phone: 425-388-7402

Email: earlyinterventionprogram@snoco.org

Transition or School to Work

Phone: 425-388-7476

Email: S2W@snoco.org

General Community Questions or Questions on Who to Connect With

Phone: 425-388-7320

Email: ddinfo@snoco.org

Keeping on Track with the DD Team

Out of the Office – In it for the long run



I can do things you cannot, You can do
things I cannot; Together we can do
great things

Check-in with the team

Find out what staff from Developmental Disabilities are doing and how you can connect with us.

Inspiration

See “If We Were in Charge of the World” Poem from the I.C.A.N women’s group at The Arc.

Community Resources and Stories

Helpful community resources and inspirational stories

If We Were in Charge of the World

by ICAN Women's Group

If we were in charge of the world
we'd cancel the stay-at-home order,
Homelessness,
Bars, and also potato salad.

If we were in charge of the world
There'd be kindness,
Sharing, and
Getting along.

If we were in charge of the world
You wouldn't have eating disorders.
You wouldn't have bullying.
You wouldn't have illegal drugs.
Or nightmares.
You wouldn't even have the coronavirus.

If we were in charge of the world
An avocado would be a vegetable.
All people with disabilities would have a device
To help them communicate however is best for them.
And a person who sometimes forgot to take care of themselves,
And sometimes forgot to return food to the refrigerator,
Would still be allowed to be
In charge of the world.



As we continue our work during this unprecedented time, each day brings new information, new challenges, new partnerships and opportunities to collaborate.

I am continually grateful to see collaboration, flexibility and understanding as we do our best to come up with solutions and cautiously and quickly move forward to address the challenges that we face.

At the same time, we are always learning new information, we have become very adaptable as we continue to provide the quality services.

This newsletter will include updates on our work, helpful resources and some inspiration. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance.

Stay Safe and Healthy



Tamra Bradford

Program Manager

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Tamra.Bradford@snoco.org

Staff Update



Ben Martin

Career Path Services

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Our Employment and Community Inclusion Career Path Services have been working diligently with State DDA to support our providers in tracking all the lost service hours due to COVID-19. DDA and Counties are working on a way to reimburse providers for those lost service hours through professional development, staff training, virtual trainings, and other possible remote activities. We are in contact several times a day with DDA and sending out guidance to our providers. We have been Flexible and Responsive daily to

answering our providers questions by email and phone to give them the support they need. Regular maintenance of our billing system is being done to create service authorizations so providers can bill what work they have done on their regular billing schedule. We have been meeting regularly with stakeholders using Zoom, Skype, Cisco Chrome Video, GoTo Meeting and WebEx to maintain strong relationships and communication.



Melinda Bocci

Benefits Planner

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Social Security and Benefits Planning

There is the continuation of emails, phone calls and meetings with individuals, family, DDA Case Managers and employment agencies, going over SSA and state benefits. Questions continue related to how unemployment will affect state and federal benefits, as well as the eligibility for the economic impact payment. For up-to-date information, please check www.ssa.gov/coronavirus. If interested, “subscribe” to updates from Social Security

about the latest information as it changes regarding the coronavirus, which can change daily. Wise has also created a thorough list of information and resources around Benefits and Information for Individuals and Families, at <http://gowise.org/wabenefitsinfo/covid-19/>.

Three workshops have been created and scheduled, covering SSA and State Benefits 101, SSA 2.0 and the new workshops, SSI Calculation Workshop. More details and information on how to register can be found

in the information section at the end of this newsletter or on the [county website](#).

Person Centered Planning (PCP) Services

The amendment for the planning contract to include the 5th step is moving forward and will start on April 20th. This will be a questionnaire the planners will fill in after connecting with individuals who had a completed plan for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the goal is to collect information and data in order to show if planning services lead to community employment or other community connections. The 5th meeting does not require a face to face meeting, so we are taking advantage of this time to reach out to families. We are continuing to receive some referrals for planning and working with planners to meet the needs of families requesting services.

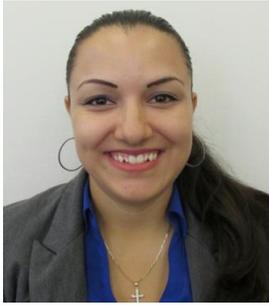
Transition Network

Our next Transition Network meeting will be on May 13th from 9am to 11am, for our annual DDA Intake and Eligibility workshop with the DDA Intake and Eligibility team. This will be a zoom meeting. Registration can be found [here](#).

Value Based Payments/Job Foundations

The employment agencies continue to respond with their interest in this pilot project that combines the collaboration of DDA, DVR, OSPI and counties across the state in working with students in their second to last year of school, working towards employment by June of their third year. For additional information, please go to DDA's County Best Practices website at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/county-best-practices>, scroll down to "Value Based Payment Project."





Maria Skowron De La Paz

Program Assistant & Outreach

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Our Early Intervention providers have been busy connecting with families and continuing to provide their early intervention services and supports to families during this challenging time.

All family resources coordination and direct therapy services are now being provided through phone and/or video conferencing. All agencies but one were able to obtain a HIPPA compliant teleconferencing platform in order to provide those services and supports.

We at Snohomish County were able to help that one agency with their scheduling. We are using our HIPPA compliant Zoom accounts and have been busy scheduling appointments. At the current time, we have been able to schedule 250 appointments beginning from the week of March 23rd.

Staff are adapting to meet the needs of our community. Teams have been meeting together to help problem solve solutions to challenges that are arising in our community and bring assistance to families in need.



Deb Gall

Transition Resource Coordinator

425-388-7476

Deb.Gall@snoco.org

I continue connecting with families to answer their questions, share resources, and help them navigate the transition maze. We recently had a meeting with DVR, DDA and our contracted employment providers regarding S2W protocol moving forward and provide an opportunity to connect and share best practices. Our providers are being creative and doing their best to provide services remotely to assist each individual in reaching their goals. We have a few individuals who are essential workers and are choosing to work during this time.

Families have received information about School to Work for next year and will be sending out a letter soon regarding the new Jobs Foundations Pilot to identify those interested in participating.

The Kick Off Planning committee continues meeting monthly to discuss our annual Transition Kick Off with alternative platform ideas in case we have to meet virtually.



Megan Edmonds

Information/Education

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I continue to connect with our community agencies on ongoing efforts as we adapt and learn with the times. In the information section you can continue to find the contact information for your local family support center as well as The Arc.

I received a lovely message from one of our centers sharing that a student who, was part of their organization, volunteered with his Mom to pick up food from the, teen run, food bank. They then deliver it to his school mates who are still in need but couldn't get to the food bank themselves.

I am encouraged by the stories of compassion, success and navigating these troubled times.

To that end, Deb and I have shared two stories on page 80 to celebrate success. One is a recent story from a participant who got a job. The other is a story of an individual that reflected what employment means to her that was a story we featured in the display case in March at the county.

Coalition for Inclusive Communities (CI)

We have a scheduled CIC meeting on April 23rd from 10:30-12. This a great time to connect on what agencies are doing, and how we can support and partner on ongoing or upcoming needs. We will also have information shared by Imagine Children's on their new program, as well as

information from the Governor's Committee on Disability. If you have anything you would like to speak on (or know someone who does) that is beyond your normal community update, please let me know and I can add it to the agenda.

Register in advance for this meeting [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Charting the LifeCourse

You may have heard of the Charting the LifeCourse (CTLC) before at your school, at the transition fair or one of our many Front Door events.

CTLC is a series of frameworks that allow you to do some intentional planning, ask thoughtful questions and look at what the "best life" is where you live, work and play in your community.

CTLC has tools for many stages in life. Whether you are in transition, figuring out employment, or even looking at the relationships that make up your life.

I wanted to share one the tools that I think is important and useful especially in planning right now. (document found on the next page).

That tool is the Star Chart. This allows you to look at what areas of life you may have resources and connections and what area's you may need some support with.

I have shared a star that was used to talk through "Having a Good Life with Social Distancing" that Informing Families put out.

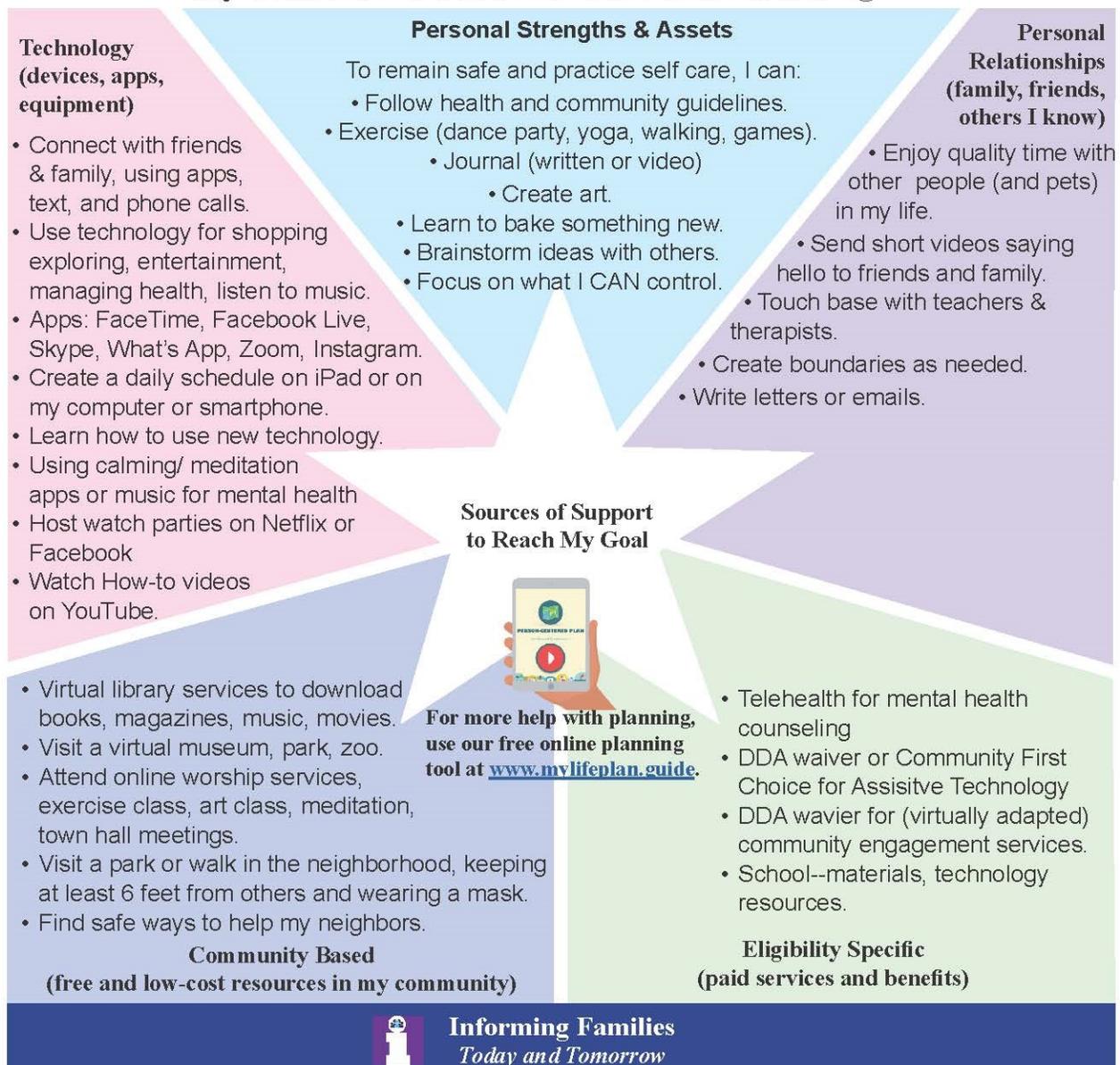
CHARTING the life course



Integrated Services and Supports

People need supports to lead good lives. Using support from lots of different sources helps to create a full, inclusive life that's not limited to, or defined by, paid services. Use this form to help identify sources of support and personal strengths to reach a specific goal or larger vision.

My Goal: Have a Good Life with Social Distancing



You can find a blank star (available in Spanish) as well as other resources on [the Informing Families](http://the Informing Families website) website

Encouraging Stories

From our Community



Andrew is a 21-year-old transition student who started off as a Project SEARCH intern at Providence Medical Center. Through this program, Andrew had the opportunity to work in a hospital setting prepping/packaging food and working in the oncology department where he assisted staff by organizing medication, checking patient rooms, cleaning/sanitizing, doing file work and even answering phone calls.

All these valuable experiences allowed him to gain the job skills he needed to get his **first paid job at Safeway as a courtesy clerk!**



I am a busy girl. I make my own money!"

For Sydney, employment provides the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to her community and to participate fully in the adult experience.

Since she began working at Experience Momentum six years ago, she has increased her hours from two, one-hour shifts per week to working three or more hours per day, four days a week.

She is very proud of being able to pay for her own manicures and hair styling appointments. And the confidence she's gained through her job spills over into every aspect of her busy life. And, as she says,

"I am a professional. Working is awesomesauce!"

Special thanks to PROVAIL and Work Opportunities for sharing these stories.

Community Resource and Information

Community Resource List

[FamHelp webpage](#) - Presents facility information and visitor status updates to friends and family with loved ones that are long-term care residents.

[The Arc of Washington](#) has created a specific page for resources relating to Covid-19 and developmental disabilities

[Governor's Committee on Disability](#) acts as a resource for the public in addressing disability-related issues. This includes, but is not limited to, emergency management information with regards to the current COVID-19 epidemic affecting our state and country

Input needed for Snoco Parks

As we look past this current crisis, we are thinking long term about how to best serve the people who use Snohomish County park facilities, green spaces, and trails. [Your input](#) is critical in shaping the future of our parks by helping us decide where to focus our efforts and resources. Thank you for taking the survey!

The ARC Speaker Series is now Virtual!

Monday, April 27th Understanding DDA Eligibility

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/447585266>

Monday, May 11th Guardianship & Alternatives to Guardianship

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/613833544>

The Arc also offers lots of ways for families to connect through Mothers Network, Fathers Network, Self-advocacy, Art and Self-Expression, and Sibshops.

Community Centers and The Arc

Sky Valley Resource Center-Sultan Family Support Center

Address: Sultan, WA
Phone: 360-793-2400
Hours: Food Bank Closed to public: Porch Delivery available.
* For up to date information check Facebook
<https://www.voaww.org/skyvalley>

Stanwood Community Center

Address: Stanwood, WA
Phone: (360) 629-5257
Please call 360-629-5257 x1 and leave a message with your contact information and your need. Providing Services to Stanwood & Camano resident. You may also email resources@crc-sc.org.
Essential Needs Hours:
Monday/Wednesday 1pm-4pm
Tuesday/Thursday 5pm-7pm
Saturdays 10am- 1pm
*For up to date information check Facebook or <http://www.crc-sc.org/>

North County Family Services

Address: Darrington, WA
Phone: 360-436-0308
Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM; Mondays by appointment. We are asking people to come in in groups of three or less. Our licensed childcare center is closed, Kid's Place Early Learning Center. *For up to date information check Facebook or <http://www.ncfs.family/>

The Arc of Snohomish County

Address: Everett WA
Please e-mail info@arcsno.org. Specific staff contact list can be found at <http://arcsno.org/about-us/contact-us>. Please sign up for emails regarding upcoming resources and events <http://arcsno.org/get-involved/2014-06-11-18-11-26>

Websites to Visit and Keep an Eye On

Good to share websites of trusted sources that are changing as policies change, services change and are adjusted to the needs of individuals.

Social Security Administration: www.ssa.gov

This site is a wealth of information that gets regularly updated. Although there is a lot of important information on this site, the following links pop out as information that could be useful for the individuals we support, based on the questions received from individuals, family members, case managers, employment agencies and other state and county staff:

1. COVID update link <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>
 - a. Filing for unemployment <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/unemployment-insurance>
 - i. Washington Unemployment Insurance Program
 1. <https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/find-unemployment-benefits.aspx?location=WA&keyword=&persist=true&ajax=0>
 - b. US Government Response [to the Coronavirus] <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>
 - c. How do I get my COVI-19 economic impact payment?
 - i. Coronavirus Tax Relief <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>
2. Other General Types of Information to Know
 - a. SSI page (bottom of main page) <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>
 - i. How to apply for benefits
 - ii. And so much more!
 - b. Disability page (big picture on main page) <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>
 - i. How to apply for benefits
 - ii. And so much more!
 - c. Press Releases <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/>
 - d. Reports, Facts and Figures <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsfig.html>

As you can imagine, there is a lot of information at www.ssa.gov. It is a good website to explore and learn about so many resources available to everyone, including links beyond Social Security.

Healthcare Authority: www.hcs.wa.gov

COVID-19 information, <https://www.hca.wa.gov/information-about-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services: www.dshs.wa.gov

COVID-19 information, <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/alert/covid-19-information>. This takes you to a page with information but also breaks it down by department. (See below for DDA's direct link.)

DDA's COVID-19 link is <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/consumers-and-families/dda-coronavirus-information>.

NEW: SSI Calculation Workshop

MONDAY, APRIL 27TH, FROM 9AM TO 10AM

Please join Melinda Bocci, Benefits Planner with Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities. This training will provide an opportunity for service providers to walk through a basic benefits worksheet.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqf-mgrTmiHdlb3_mK9Rfoq6lyLe_tiGJW

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SSA and State Benefits 101 Workshop

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND, FROM 9AM TO 11AM

Please join Melinda Bocci, Benefits Planner with Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities. This training is great for service providers, new staff, or anyone who needs a refresher of the basics.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpcumvrTsjH9FGgc9m2nZAljPS0A_H9dQX

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SSA 2.0 Workshop

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH, FROM 9AM TO 11:30AM

Please join Melinda Bocci, Benefits Planner with Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities, for a continuation of Social Security benefits. This workshop will focus on work incentives. It is recommended you have a basic understanding of SSA information, but not required.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqcuyqrjksEtyG1V7Rih9qxMsdys2n1-IG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Interested in transportation updates and changes?

In response to COVID-19, [RARET](#) will be sending weekly updates which summarize the impacts on our transportation system in Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. [Subscribe](#) here for updates

Bus Service to food banks

Community transit has several bus routes that are a short distance from food banks in Snohomish County. Information on those routes can be found [here](#).



You have reached the end of this leg of the race. Check back in next time for more “Keeping on Track with the DD Team”