



Fall 2019

Informing Families ...Today and Tomorrow

A project of the Washington State DD Council



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Meet Jeremy Norden-Paul

Executive Director of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

It's not every day that Jeremy Norden-Paul poses with a giant frog, but after just a few minutes into his interview with Ivanova Smith on the shores of Budd Inlet, it's clear that he's willing to *leap* into his new role as DDC's Executive Director with good natured enthusiasm.

Originally from Arizona, where he taught special education, Jeremy landed back in Washington State for a second time in his career after a three-year stint as Tennessee's state director of employment and day services.

Reflecting on how those experiences inform his approach to supporting people with I/DD, he says, "My job was to help people be independent and to figure out what they needed to be successful. And then help them advocate for that."



He's committed to exploring how systems change and collaboration can continue to make positive gains for everyone.

"A lot of my goals are around understanding the systems that we work within, building relationships, understanding our strengths and also understanding what the gaps are, or the opportunities that we want to improve."

During his initial months in his new role, he's been busy getting to know parent and self advocate leaders, as well as all the agencies and organizations that touch people's lives.

"It's really important for us to think about developmental disabilities, not as a single issue, but really as something that cuts across all different sectors.

"Whether we're talking about the education world, the service world, or politics, the environment or economic development, it's an issue that affects everyone in some way or another."

Learn More

Watch Jeremy's full interview with Ivanova at informingfamilies.org/jnp, and read his article about the value of employment for everyone on page 3 of this fall issue.



Next Steps to DDA Services

Demystifying the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Eligibility Process

Applying for services from DDA is a multi-stage process. Use the following steps to help you plan and prepare for what comes next.



APPLYING FOR DDA ELIGIBILITY

Anyone seeking DDA services for the first time must apply for *DDA eligibility*. If your family member is on the No Paid Services caseload, they have already been determined DDA eligible.



REQUESTING SERVICES

It's up to you to request services. Call the number provided in your notice of DDA eligibility, or complete an online Information & Service Request form at dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request.



ASSESSING FUNCTIONAL ELIGIBILITY

A DDA Case Manager will contact you to conduct a CARE assessment to identify the individual's support needs. This assessment determines if the person is functionally eligible.



ASSESSING FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

An application for Medicaid/Apple Health must be made in order to determine financial eligibility. If your family member does not receive SSI or have a Disability Determination from the Social Security Administration, the DDA Case Manager will send forms for you to complete and return.

Concerned your income is too high? Learn the facts......>

For individuals who are already Medicaid eligible, DSHS will send forms in order to determine financial assets or resources.



SERVICE PLANNING

Individuals determined functionally and financially eligible will meet with their DDA Case Manager to develop an Individual Support Plan/Person Centered Service Plan and begin receiving services.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many people don't request services because they think their family member won't meet financial eligibility due to family resources.

FACT

For adults age 18 and older, only the person's own resources and assets are considered. The majority of adults who meet DDA eligibility also meet financial eligibility.

FACT

For children under age 18 who are eligible for a DDA waiver program, family resources and assets are not counted. Only the child's assets and resources are considered.



Services that Increase ACCESS and INDEPENDENCE

DDA offers a variety of services to help individuals gain greater independence and accessibility at home and in the community. They include:

Community Guide/Community Engagement

Person-centered flexible support to increase community connections and opportunities. Get help to participate in local activities and events, take a class, find an apartment, locate resources, and more. Available through Individual & Family Services (IFS), Basic Plus and Core waiver programs.

Assistive Technology

Devices and apps to operate appliances, open doors, detect falls, call for help, dispense medication, monitor health, schedule rides and medical appointments, check bus schedules, set alarms, communicate, and more. (con't on back page)

Working Together to Achieve Employment for ALL

by Jeremy Norden-Paul



I vividly remember my first day as a job developer in Seattle.

My mentor and I walked through the Queen Anne neighborhood and discussed the art of job development—learning people's strengths and interests, identifying business connections, making successful "pitches", doing thoughtful follow-up, and creating win-win employment opportunities.

At the time, it felt like a regular first day, filled with the excitement that comes with a new job; but looking back, I can see that it was the beginning of a new chapter of my life, one that gave me the experience, perspective, and passion to dedicate my life to this work.

It also gave me a deeper understanding of civil rights for people with disabilities, a movement embodied by National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Throughout October each year, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce and aims to educate the public about the value of inclusive workplaces.

It offers us the chance to reflect on the importance of employment in our lives and to make sure we are doing our part to make sure all people—including people with developmental disabilities—have the opportunity to

consider employment.

For some people, this means thinking about employment for the first time and having the support and resources to explore new work environments.

For others, it means discovering their personal genius by identifying the skills and strengths they could contribute to an employer. And for those who are ready to get to work, it means having the support to find employment opportunities in the community.

This is truly an exciting time for people who are thinking about taking the next step in their employment journey.

There are many excellent resources—including employment providers and other community

programs—dedicated to helping people get to work.

There are also several technologies that are designed to help people work with greater independence. For example, someone can use a GPS-enabled smartphone app to take public transportation to work, keep track of their job duties with photo and video lists, and communicate remotely with their job coach. The great thing is that many of these technologies are cheaper and more accessible than ever before.

At the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), our mission is to help people with developmental disabilities lead meaningful, integrated, and productive lives.

Regardless of where someone is in their employment journey, we are committed to supporting individuals and their families in making informed decisions about how they want to live their lives.

Since returning to Washington State—this time as the Executive Director of the DDC—I have met many wonderful people, and I look forward to meeting many more.

Thank you for giving me such a warm welcome back. I am very excited about all of the things we can accomplish together!

Employment Funding for High School Transition Grads

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has funding for high school graduates who:

- Were born between September 1, 1997 and August 31, 1999;
- Want to work;
- Are functionally and financially eligible for Community First Choice personal care services.

Anyone who meets these criteria and requests the service can begin receiving long-term employment services through DDA after graduating from high school and turning 21.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT provides support to help gain and maintain a job. Services are developed based on the person's interests and abilities and promote career advancement. Learn more at: dshs.wa.gov/dda.



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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration
P.O. Box 45310
Olympia, WA 98504-5310

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US POSTAGE PAID
WAS STATE DEPT
OF ENTERPRISE SRVCS
98501

(DDA services con't)

Waiver Programs also cover evaluations, training and technical assistance. Available through Community First Choice (CFC), as well as IFS and Children's Intensive In Home Behavior Support waiver programs.

Environmental Adaptations

Ramps, grab bars, lifts, accessible showers and other changes to the home that provide easier access for your family member. Available in all waivers.

Peer Mentoring

Peer to peer support and guidance. The individual's parent can also receive mentoring by another parent to benefit the individual. Available through the IFS waiver.

Supported Employment

Supports to help gain and maintain a job. The services are developed based on the individual's interests and abilities and promote career advancement. Available through Basic Plus, Core, and Community Protection waivers.

LEARN MORE

Check out our website for more information about DDA services: informingfamilies.org/dda-services.

Contact DDA directly for information specific to your family member's support needs:

dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request.



**MOMS ON
RESPITE**

RESPITE
adjective
brief
little
momentary
verb
enjoy
have
bring
noun
care

**Greater Independence for
Your Family Member.
A Break for You.**

In this new video, three moms from Eastern, Central and Western Washington talk about:

- ⚙ what respite looks like
- ⚙ where to get it
- ⚙ how to enlist people you trust to become contracted respite providers

informingfamilies.org/moms-on-respite

