

DDC January 2025 Monthly Updates

January 8, 2025

Happy New Year everyone! We are excited to be together next week for our January Quarterly Council Meeting. Below are several details for our time together. Please note that we recently learned incoming Governor Ferguson plans to give his inauguration speech next Wednesday, January 15th at noon! This is an exciting opportunity since many of us will be attending Advocacy Day across the street from the Capitol Campus! It has also created some additional need for planning and preparation since Olympia will be extremely busy that day and week! Please check out the details below with this in mind:

Wednesday, 1/15/25: Advocacy Day 10:00 to 3:00 @ United Churches in Olympia: 110 11th Ave SE Ste 210, Olympia, WA 98501-2253

- Here is the agenda for that event: [Agenda- Advocacy Day Jan 15 \(003\)](#)
- Parking will be extremely limited on Wednesday due to the incoming Governor's speech at 12:00! Check out parking information here: [Getting Here: Directions & Parking | Washington State Capitol Campus](#) and consider arriving early if you are driving. We are suggesting that people who will be staying at the hotel park in one of the lots near there and walk to Advocacy Day at United Churches since there should be more parking near the hotel. Regardless of where you park, plan to wear good shoes that day if you're walking!
- You'll see in the agenda above that we plan to hold a watch party at Advocacy Day for the incoming Governor's Inaugural Speech at the Church at 12:00.
- Some of you have scheduled meetings with your legislators on the Capitol Campus that afternoon. Please let us know if you need supports for those meetings as soon as possible, and plan to arrive early since there will most likely be additional security and navigation required on Campus that day.
- Lunch will be on your own that day and the restaurants in and around the Capitol will be extremely busy. We suggest packing a sack lunch if you're able to. There is an area at the Church where you can eat.
- All Council staff will be onsite at the Church to assist you with anything that may come up.

Thursday, 1/16/25: Quarterly Council Meeting 9:00 to 4:00 at the Double Tree in downtown Olympia: [415 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington, 98501](#)

Our Mission is to advocate, promote, and implement policies and practices to create pathways to meaningful, integrated, and productive lives for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities over the life course.



Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
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- Our one-day council meeting agenda is very full, so please review the packet: [WA DD Council Meeting Packet](#) and Packet Talk video: [Packet Talk January 2025 on Vimeo](#) to get oriented! You'll see we plan to vote at the end of Thursday on four council policies and an Autism Acceptance Proclamation.
- Our vice chairs are organizing a dinner plan for those who want to join that evening too! See the attached email about those details and please let Linda know by end of day this Friday, 1/10/24 if you are planning to attend.

Friday, 1/17/25: Tour of Rainier School in Buckley from 10:00 to 1:00

- Council staff will have three vans ready to drive council members to Rainier at the hotel at 8:30 on Friday morning. There are also plans to get folks to the airport if they are not going on the tour. Please meet in the hotel lobby to catch a ride by 8:30.
- Here is some background information about Rainier School. I suggest checking out the *Current Services and Programs at Rainier* section starting on page 5 if you are not very familiar with what is currently offered at Rainier School: [23-0373 Rainier School Footprint Report.pdf](#)

Final Notes:

- Please do not come in person if you are feeling sick or think you may be sick. We have had a handful of members and staff catch COVID at our January meetings the last few years. We will have hand sanitizer and masks available as well.
- We put together a general guidance sheet about the January Meeting with several details such as what is reimbursable. That information can be found here starting on page 3 of the Packet: [WA DD Council Meeting Packet](#)
- Our website provider is changing some elements of what we can do on our website and it is affecting the Members Web Page: [Protected page](#). Please use the following password to access that site going forward: **WADDC1212!**

Alright, we are here to make your experience at the council meeting enjoyable and productive. Please reach out with questions or concerns. See you all soon and safe travels for those coming in person!

Brandi Monts

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