



Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council  
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## DDC January 2026 Monthly Updates

January 8, 2026

Hello everyone, happy new year! I hope you are all feeling strong and ready for 2026. Below are a handful of updates and reminders as we head into January.

We are looking forward to our first completely online **January Council Meeting** next Thursday from 9:00 to 4:00. Co-chairs, vice chairs and staff are working to make sure this meeting is a positive and productive experience. Please reach out if you need support or have questions. The meeting packet and additional info is all on our website here: [WADDC | Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council](http://WADDC | Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council)

The **In Person Advocacy Day on January 21<sup>st</sup> in Olympia** is set! Everyone is meeting at the Interfaith Works Church: 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501 around 9:00 that morning. The DDC is providing light snacks and beverages, as well as the opportunity to record video footage that will help us inform the community and build on our History and Visioning project. There will be the traditional informational presentation hosted by the Arc of WA from 10:00 to 11:30 at the Church and then folks will walk over to the Capital for a rally at noon. Some of you have scheduled appointments later that afternoon with your legislators too. It's going to be a great day!

Watch for our monthly newsletter to learn about all of the work the Arc of Washington does with us in the Advocacy Partnership Program (including the Advocacy Day program mentioned above). We want to point out several **informational advocacy sessions** they are holding as the legislature gets to work. They held an info session last night that I know some of you attended. They will be posting the recordings for all of those sessions here: [2026 Advocacy Days – The Arc Washington](http://2026 Advocacy Days – The Arc Washington). The information they share is great for understanding what is happening during legislative session, as well as how to act.

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.



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Our **Dispute Resolution Training** project that is part of our Expansion 2025 program is under way and we want you to save the date! There will be four options to attend an introductory conflict mediation training (that's four hours in length). Two of those opportunities will be in person (location to be determined): 4/8/26, 4/30/26 and the other two will be online: 3/26/26 and 4/23/26. We are also able to offer a more in depth, 40-hour mediation training for up to 20 people. The tentative dates for that opportunity are spread across the last half of June. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details, and note that those dates are all tentative at this point because we are still working on a contract with Thurston County Dispute Resolution Center.

Alright, please reach out with questions or concerns. We are excited to see you all soon!

### **Brandi Monts**

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Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

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