

Family Advisory Council Selection Notice

DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration is excited to announce the final selection of the members of the DDA Family Advisory Council. This council embodies our dedication of including individuals with lived experiences in guiding our efforts.

The Family Advisory Council's mission is to ensure that DDA's programs, policies and procedures reflect the experiences, wisdom and advocacy of family members and eligible clients. Council members will offer suggestions to enhance the quality and effectiveness of DDA programs. Additionally, DDA staff will actively seek input from the council to ensure robust, transparent and accessible communication with eligible individuals and their families.

We received over 430 applications and conducted thorough vetting processes, including a panel with representatives from various entities such as DSHS Secretary Jilma Meneses' office; Developmental Disabilities County services; DSHS' Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; the Washington State Department of Health; the Developmental Disabilities Ombuds Office; the Developmental Disabilities Council; DSHS' Office of Equity; Diversity Access and Inclusion along with several family members who had not submitted an application. The panel performed a comprehensive blind review to select the final members.

Congratulations to the 15 new members of the Family Advisory Council! They represent a rich diversity, including cultural, language, and racial backgrounds, a wide range of developmental disabilities, varying levels of support needs and diverse geographic locations within Washington state communities.

Region 1 members: Deb Ritter, Patti Jouper, Sam Blazina, Valerie Beckstead.

Region 2 members: Mia Franklin, Hodan Mohamed, Sophia Isabell Sabino, Tarra Hollins, Yelena House.

Region 3 members: Curt Warner, Kimberly Adams, Kristin Hayden, Lydia Waigi, Sophia Brownie-Jarvis.

Let's extend our heartfelt congratulations and thank you to the newly selected council members! A sincere appreciation goes out to everyone for the overwhelming response and thoughtful applications. While the current positions are filled, we anticipate more opportunities and look forward to the possibility of partnering with many of you in the future.

Please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Program Manager, Michelle Sturdevant-Case at michelle.sturdevant-case@dshs.wa.gov or 360.480.0718 with any questions.