

# LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE

*Visibility ~ Advocacy ~ Leadership ~ Knowledge*

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### The Arc of Snohomish County

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## Leadership Opportunity

### Family and Community Coalition

Join us, July 11th, 7-8PM. The Arc of Snohomish County is starting quarterly meetings of the Family and Community Coalition. These meetings will be a way for families and community members to brainstorm and discuss advocacy opportunities beyond legislative advocacy.

Advocacy exists far beyond the halls of the legislature, and this group aims to find opportunities in the community where advocates can make a real difference for themselves and their community. Advocacy isn't limited to just work in policy, but work in parks, recreation, libraries, any place where you can put in time and effort to improve the lives of the IDD community.

The goal of this group is to engage as many people as possible in as many ways as possible, and to build a network of parents and families who can work together, support one another, and enact real change in their local communities. Through this group we will band together to discover how we can use our personal connections, interests, and knowledge to discover the changes that we can make in our community.

These grassroots movements will be focused primarily on ways to have positive local change for the IDD community. You can register for the meeting [here](#) or contact [Jake@arcsno.org](mailto:Jake@arcsno.org) for more information. We are looking forward to all of the wonderful contributions from our community and can't wait to see what we can do when we band together.



# ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

## Community Summit

June 13 marked the first in-person Community Summit since the pandemic began in 2020. This in person event was held at the Wenatchee Convention Center over three days, and featured presentations and speakers from all over the state. Individuals from every player in Developmental Disabilities in Washington state were also in attendance, to learn, network, and get to know people whom they haven't been able to meet with in person for over 3 years.



Speakers presented on a variety of topics, ranging from DDA basics, to transition services, to concurrent services. These presentations were given all throughout the three days, and were chock full of useful information for new and established individuals within the DDA world. Presenters were also available throughout the summit to answer questions and provide more in-depth information on their topics.



The summit wasn't only an educational opportunity though, as the bringing together of people from all across the state created an abundance of opportunities to get to know peers and network with each other. News and information from across the state was shared, and will become vital in helping shape local and statewide work moving forward.

Having the summit back in person was a massive undertaking, and while it was held with most COVID restrictions already removed, the planning began during that restricted time, making it a very difficult event to plan and prepare for. Snohomish County's own Mike Gantala, a self advocate from Monroe, was one of the main organizers of the event, and it would not have been able to go off without his, and the entire organizing committee's hard work.

"Our anger was a fury sparked by profound injustices. Wrongs that deserved ire. And with that rage we ripped a hole in the status quo."  
- Judy Huemann

# ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

## Finding YOUR Voice

### GABE STEINER

Gabe Steiner, a recent graduate of Transition Club was recently trained as an Arc leader by staff member Jessie Moore. When discussing his leadership interests and skills, Jessie and Gabe worked together to identify a leadership opportunity to support the LGBTQ+ community. Gabe represented The Arc booth at the Snohomish Pride event on June 3rd. With help from The Arc, Gabe was able to find his voice and work to make positive change in his community.



### KAMRONN MOFFETT

Kamronn Moffett is a mother from Arlington who has a nine year old daughter named Ryleigh, who has Down Syndrome. Kamronn recently shared her story as Ryleigh's mother at The Arc of Snohomish County's Inclusive Recreation Roundtable, where she spoke about inclusive settings. Kamronn used her personal experience to advocate for the importance of inclusive settings in school, athletics, and everywhere in the community. You can watch the entire roundtable [HERE](#).



## How can you find YOUR voice?

With the help of The Arc of Snohomish County, these individuals were able to find the strength and courage to tell their story, speak their truth, and work towards making change. By partnering with The Arc, both were able to access the resources and supports they needed to make their voices heard. By taking advantage of the resources available at The Arc, anyone can find what they need to become an advocate on any level. We will work hard with anyone who wishes to get out there and make a positive change. Reach out and take advantage of the many advocacy opportunities that are available at The Arc so you can find your voice, and make your voice heard!

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."  
- Helen Keller

## LEGISLATIVE RECAP

The legislative session is over, and with it come a myriad of changes to Washington State law, and a number of changes that impact the Developmental Disability Community.

A number of bills were passed that impact how special education is funded in Washington State. Among these was HB 1436, which not only expanded funding for inclusive education, but raised the special education funding cap from 13.5% to 15%. While the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) pushed for a complete removal of the spending cap, this was still a big step in the right direction for special education funding.

Also passed was HB 1407, a DDA re-evaluation bill that eliminates the age 10 re-evaluation for DDA services. This will allow for services for youth to continue uninterrupted without the possibility of losing services at age 10. This bill is already in effect, and DDA is no longer administering age 10 re-evaluations. DDA is still in the process of changing the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that relates to this new change, and they have already instituted an emergency rule change while they go through the formal process.

While the session has ended, and bills have been passed, now the laws impact the WACs, and that process to change those begins now. The WAC process is a little difficult to track, as there is no central database that updates on possible changes. Instead, tracking of WAC proposals is done per individual agencies. This can be difficult to keep

track of, as each agency has their own process of notification for WAC changes. For more information about this process and how to receive notifications, contact [Jake@arcsno.org](mailto:Jake@arcsno.org) for more information.

All this information, and more, was covered in The Arc of Snohomish County Legislative Recap for 2023, which is available to watch at your leisure [here](#). The Arc of Snohomish County discusses many important bills that passed, and talks about the status of bills that didn't pass this session, and what next legislative session may look like.



"I don't need easy. I just need possible."  
- Bethany Hamilton

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## COMING UP!

### Get Involved!

#### Virtual Leadership Training for Adults with IDD

The Arc of Snohomish County is hosting a leadership-focused training for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) to be effective self advocates. Participants can expect fun interactive games, ways to practice self advocacy, peers to meet and network with, and much more!

Self-Advocacy 101, AUGUST 3RD, 1-3 PM  
Self-Determination 101, AUGUST 17TH, 6-8 PM



Register [HERE](#) for August 3rd, and [HERE](#) for August 17th. For more information, contact [Jessie@arcsno.org](mailto:Jessie@arcsno.org)

#### Legislative Coffees

The Arc of Snohomish County is currently building a 2023 Legislative Coffee Planning Committee to create a shared vision for this fall's Legislative Coffee series.

The Arc will hold 8 total Legislative Coffees this fall, 1 for each legislative district in Snohomish County. Legislative Coffees are typically held on Zoom from 6-7 PM on weeknights. Each Legislative Coffee has at least 1 host speaker, who spends 5-10 minutes sharing their personal story and legislative priorities related to the IDD community. The remainder of the time will be open for participants to meet and greet their legislators and advocate for individuals with IDD. Arc staff are available to help host speakers outline their host stories.

If you are interested in participating or hosting a coffee for your district, please fill out our interest form [here](#), or contact [Rachel@arcsno.org](mailto:Rachel@arcsno.org)

"Continuing effort –  
not strength or  
intelligence – is the  
key to unlocking our  
potential"  
– Winston Churchill



#### 2023 Leadership & Advocacy Workshop

Saturday, August 19th  
10 AM – 2 PM on Zoom

We are all leaders. The Arc of Snohomish County invites you to build leadership skills, identify your disability advocacy goals, and connect with fellow leaders at our biannual Leadership & Advocacy Workshop.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Questions? Contact [Rachel@arcsno.org](mailto:Rachel@arcsno.org)

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Get  
Connected!

Be  
Informed!

Take  
Action!

## TOOLS & RESOURCES

### Legislative Alerts & Updates

The Arc of Washington State | [arcwa.org/action-center](http://arcwa.org/action-center)

Sign up for legislative action alerts related to developmental disability. Receive the information you need to voice your opinions on bills during the legislative session. Alerts provide you with messages for your legislators that you can use as-is or edit using your own words. Enter your name and address and click! Your message will automatically be sent to all of your legislators. Email or call the toll-free Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Action takes less than five minutes!

### Legislative District and Elected Officials

Washington Legislature | [leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder](http://leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder)

Find your legislative district and elected officials using the link above.

### Legislative Advocates on Developmental Disabilities

The Arc of Washington State | [arcwa.org/advocacy/](http://arcwa.org/advocacy/)

Some of the topics included:

- Tips for meeting with elected officials.
- How to create a short, clear advocacy message.
- The bill process - How a bill becomes a law.
- The state budget process.

### Did you know?

After a bill becomes law, the change in law has to then filter down to the various administrative codes based off of that law. These Washington Administrative Codes, or WACs, go through a process that is very similar to the bill process, but it is conducted by state agencies instead of the legislature. This process is public, and goes through a public hearing and then committee vote, just like a bill. Agencies can enact emergency changes that are temporary while the permanent changes goes through the WAC process.

### FEDERAL BILLS OF INTEREST

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides critical support for millions of people with disabilities to help afford the basics of everyday life, like food and rent. But SSI has many rules that make it hard for people to save money and get out of poverty. SSI has an asset limit that has not been updated since 1989. Assets include cash, money in bank accounts, most retirement accounts, and other financial resources. Right now, people who get SSI can only have \$2,000 in assets. Married couples can only have \$3,000. You can urge your U.S. Senators to support people with disabilities by co-sponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act by clicking on this link [here](#). The Arc of the United States strongly supports this bill.

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## GET INVOLVED!

### I-CAN Women's Self-Advocacy Group

2nd Thursday of each month | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM  
Evergreen Branch Library, Meeting Room A or on Zoom

A group for self-advocates open to all women, ages 18 and up. The group meets in a casual environment that combines leadership and learning with fun experiences. The group shares resources and skills and holds the belief that everyone has something to contribute. Questions? Contact Kylie Walsh at [Kylie@arcsno.org](mailto:Kylie@arcsno.org) or 425-258-2459 x121, or Leigh Spruce at [Leigh@arcsno.org](mailto:Leigh@arcsno.org) or 425-258-2459 x103.

### Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)

2nd Tuesday of each month | 1- 4 PM on Zoom

A group for self-advocates focused on legislative change and open to all. SAIL is a statewide coalition of people with developmental disabilities that strives to shape public policies that affect people with developmental disabilities. Questions? Contact Jennifer Martin at [Jennifer@arcsno.org](mailto:Jennifer@arcsno.org) or 425-258-2459.

### People First of Snohomish County

4th Thursday of each month | 11 AM - 12:30 PM  
Evergreen Branch Library, Meeting Room A or on Zoom

A self-advocacy organization by and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. People First is focused on educating self-advocates and others, advocating for disability rights, and having fun! We believe we are PEOPLE FIRST and disabilities are secondary. Questions? Contact Kylie Walsh at [Kylie@arcsno.org](mailto:Kylie@arcsno.org) or 425-258-2459 x121.

## Summer Events

The Arc of Snohomish County will be out in force this summer. We have many events planned including [Arc in The Park](#) August 5 from 12-3. There is something for everyone and we are looking forward to seeing you all!

View our full calendar of events at:  
<https://www.arcsno.org/calendar>

## School District Parent Connectors

The Arc of Snohomish County is Looking for Parents from Snohomish County School Districts to be some of our first Parent Connectors

### Parent Connectors can offer:

- Peer Parent Support/Liaison
- School Connections
- A Bridge for Resource Sharing
- A Decrease Parent Isolation



Do you have a small amount of time to share your knowledge with another parent?

We need you!

To learn more contact [Nicki@arcsno.org](mailto:Nicki@arcsno.org) | 425.258.2459 x110