

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
In-Person/Zoom Meeting Minutes for
5/18/22**

PLEASE NOTE: I have included links to documents. You will have to make a copy of them when you begin to open them so you can view them. If you have any issues, please let me know.

Welcome

Call to order at 5:30.

We do not have a quorum, no voting will take place, but reports will be delivered.

Attendance

Present: Timothy Barrett, Angie Peters, Connie Taylor-Randall, Larry Hector, Cindy Wolski, Nikki Sharp, Joleen Fergeson (guest), Joe Harris (guest)

Excused Absence: Anikó Kuschatka, Betsy Hadden, Jeanne Walter, Joshua Helper

Unexcused Absence: Kati Tureman, Aracelli Castro, Joseph Huether

Minutes

Minutes could not be approved due to a lack of quorum of voting members.

Guest Presentation - none

Sub-Committee Reports

Membership Committee: Connie - Joe Harris was introduced by Betsy Hadden as a potential candidate for the Walla Walla/Columbia County ACAC. He attended the May 18, 2022, meeting as a guest and was introduced. Connie provided him with information about the committee, application form, and bylaws. Links were sent to him on 5/19/2022 for his perusal.

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To date, we still have 11 members which consist of 9 for Walla Walla County and two for Columbia County. We need to continue to recruit more members. We can have up to 20 with no more than four from Columbia County.

Marginalized groups that need to be considered for appointment are: Veterans, Race (Latino/Black/Asian/Etc), Gender, Mental Health, Developmentally Disabled, Age

Community Outreach Committee: Kati - Connie and Kati have been invited to attend the Community Outreach Luncheon for Walla Walla Public Schools hosted by Dr. Wade Smith on June 7 from 12-1:15 pm. This meeting will provide an opportunity to receive updates related to student accomplishments, the district's bond achievements, the upcoming strategic outreach process, and what to look forward to next school year.

Grant Proposal Committee: Connie - Connie met with the state about the two recent grant applications. She discussed the need for rural vs urban ACACs and the struggles we have in obtaining funding for projects. The state indicated that only \$60,000 was available for grants this year which is lower due to the effects of the pandemic. Connie received word that the rack card grant was approved for \$1,147.72; however, the mobile office was denied. With that said, the committee chair, Megan Mason-Todd, and vice-chair Clarence Eskridge had some possibilities for resources that we might use to obtain funding or supplies and materials for a mobile office. They will be contacting us when they have the information. It was recommended that we reapply for the bicycle grant during the next round of grants.

Communications/Media Committee: Larry and Connie (Need chair) - Larry spoke with Mayor Scribner again about getting on the city council agenda. He will follow up before the next meeting.

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Transportation Update: Timothy Barrett - In project news, the Park Street project is nearly complete with just some striping and landscaping left. The Alder-Poplar project is in the demolition phase making library access less direct than before. If anyone would like to visit the library during the road construction there is a regularly updated detour map available on the city's website. The 1st Avenue Plaza project went out for bids and expects to award the contract at their next meeting. Construction on that will take place this fall and winter. The same thing goes for the Senior Center parking lot and Heritage Square Park ARPA projects. On the horizon is the Chestnut Street project that will reconstruct the road from 2nd to Howard next year. Design work is going on right now, and some intersections like the skewed one at Catherine may see some changes to improve safety and visibility. The city is also exploring a potential reconstruction of Chase Avenue near Providence hospital.

In MPO news, the transit plan consultant will be hosting a drop-by event at the Milton-Freewater bus stop from 10 to 11 AM tomorrow. They will also be hosting an open house on our upcoming transit plan tomorrow at the YMCA from 2:30 - 4:30 PM in their multipurpose room. If anyone would like to meet with the consultant at a different time Thursday or possibly Friday morning please let Tim know, he will try to make arrangements. In addition to all of that, there will be a virtual meeting next Tuesday at noon with a live presentation followed by a Q&A session. And finally, as a reminder, the MPO will be collecting responses to the transit user survey until June 2nd. Information on all of this has already made its way to your inboxes yesterday afternoon (and Cyndy Knight sent the same info out today), but please feel free to reach out to Tim anytime for more information.

Goals

- 1) **Employment** - Improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities
- 2) **Housing** - Increase affordable housing for individuals in the disability community, providing more choices in where they can live

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- 3) **Accessibility** - Increase accessibility in Walla Walla Valley, making it more desirable for residents and tourism
- 4) **Care Options** - Increase care options for parents/guardians of children and adults with disabilities to provide respite alternatives, care options, and enrichment opportunities.

Goal Progress

1) **Employment Update** - Cindy - A couple of seasonal job placements: One at Klicker's and one at the Humane Society. Beginning to contact our 2024 high school graduates about participating in the Job Foundation program (school to work). Cindy will follow up with City of Walla Walla re: season summer jobs for people with disabilities as discussed with City Manager Nabel Shawa.

2) **Housing Report Update** - Tim - attended the WWC Council on Housing meeting in the last week of April. That meeting is always towards the end of the month so this information might be a little dated. The Washington State Department of Commerce has had their housing unit assistance programs funding increase by 3,608% since the 2015-2017 biennium. The overwhelming majority of that increase is in this year and next year as a result of bills from this year's legislative session. In fact, there are too many new housing support programs to mention - just know that there is a lot of money out there right now and in the near future to help people.

There is a new rural technical assistance grant opportunity from the Department of Commerce and GS Consulting where communities can submit applications to develop projects and concepts, architecture plans, code compliance, homeless housing, affordable housing, and more. Tim Meliah from the Walla Walla Catholic Charities gave a presentation on the Walla Walla Anchor Community Initiative, whose goal is to reach functional zero for youth and young adults, where the inflow of homeless is equal to or less than the outflow of placement in stable housing.

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Dan Clark and Rob Applegate gave a presentation on the STAR Project which works to reduce recidivism through housing and other programs. The historical trend has been that a released prisoner gets \$40 and a bus ticket, so they have been working hard to add a layer of support to that transition process.

The Common Roots Community Land Trust had the articles of incorporation accepted by the Washington Secretary of State, so they will now be applying for a federal tax exemption as they continue to do strategic planning and fundraising.

3) Accessibility Report Update - Larry, Anikó, and Betsy - Connie indicated that Anikó is interested in meeting with her and Larry to review and clarify some of the potential checklists that she has been working on and make recommendations on what needs to be completed in the future. Connie will schedule a meeting with her and Larry in June.

4) Care Options - (needs chair) - Connie shared the following information from Cyndy Knight, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network. She wanted to be sure to direct us to the training that was done last fall for Childcare Providers in our area. WWVDN contracted with the Haring Center at the University of Washington which ran two virtual trainings. They also provided all the area childcare centers with a bag full of items (virtual timers, chewies, foam for pens/pencils - exec. function, headphones, etc.) that may help the children in their care. It looks like DCYF just put out an application for a Grant that would help childcare centers with funding to do ADA adaptations that I have shared with the YMCA, and the Bio-Dome Childcare Center here locally. WWVDN recorded the training and they are available on their website. Here is the link to the YouTube video, and if it doesn't work it is on the website - Resources/Video's/Inclusion Benefits Everyone:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKM4JkUH5N8>

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Cindy Wolski provided information from DCYF Child Care Complex Needs Fund Grant Opportunity.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS WHO SERVE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEHAVIORAL NEEDS, DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, DISABILITIES, OR OTHER UNIQUE NEEDS. PLEASE SHARE AS APPROPRIATE.

[HTTPS://WWW.DCYF.WA.GOV/SERVICES/EARLY-LEARNING-PROVIDERS/CHILD-CARE-GRANTS/COMPLEX-NEEDS-FUND-GRANT](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/child-care-grants/complex-needs-fund-grant)

Now Open!

The application is now open until June 21, 2022.

Child Care Complex Needs Fund

The [Fair Start for Kids Act](#), passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2021, directs DCYF to create a Child Care Complex Needs Fund for child care.

The fund is intended to promote inclusive, least restrictive environments and support providers serving children with developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs.

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants include open-licensed or certified child care providers who have served children receiving state subsidy through the Social Service Payment System (SSPS) in at least one month between Sept.1, 2021, and Feb. 28, 2022, and have claimed payment by March 31, 2022.

Eligible applicants must currently have children enrolled in their care who have behavioral needs, developmental delays, disabilities, or other unique needs.

[DCYF Child Care Complex Needs Fund Manual](#)

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Get more information about eligibility criteria and prioritization:

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

If you are an **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) contractor**, email dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov to learn more.

DCYF may expand eligibility for future application periods.

How much can a provider apply for?

Providers may request funds between \$5,000 and \$100,000. In the application, providers fill out a spending plan explaining how the funds will be used.

An eligible provider may receive Complex Needs Funds once each state fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

Once the application period has ended, grants will be scored and prioritized using the Complex Needs Fund Scoring Guide.

Based on data from the first round of applications, DCYF may adjust award levels and prioritization for future application periods.

Grant funds may be used for:	Grant funds may not be used for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staffing● Therapeutic services● Facility improvements to comply with ADA accessibility requirements or behavioral needs● Supportive and adaptive materials and equipment● Providing teacher training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Capital expenses, such as major construction or renovation projects● Support to sites other than the licensed or certified site to which the funds were granted

How does a provider apply?

Providers will log into the [WA Compass Provider Portal](#), navigate to the *Grant Information* tab, select *Current Grants*, and select the DCYF Complex Needs Fund application. The provider will answer a series of questions and then submit the application.

The application submission window will open in late Spring and close in June 2022. DCYF will notify providers and update this page when the application submission window opens.

[Complex Needs Fund Application Preview and Question Guide](#)

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Preview the application questions:

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

[DCYF Child Care Complex Needs Fund Manual](#)

Get more information about accessing the application:

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

[DCYF Complex Needs Fund Application Step-by-Step Guide](#)

Get more information about the application steps:

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

Where to Find Assistance

Technical and Language Assistance

If you need technical assistance, including assistance in your language, guidance on preparing for and accessing the application, or have questions on spending and saving receipts, you can contact either the Imagine Institute or Voices of Tomorrow.

- [Imagine Institute](#)

Phone: 206-492-5249

Email: CCSG@imaginewa.org

- [Voices of Tomorrow](#) (supporting East African child care providers)

Phone: 206-278-8290

Email: childcaresupport@tomorrowvoices.org

Application Questions

If you have questions about a grant application, the timeline of a grant, or other questions specific to these grants, email dcyf.childcaregrants@dcyf.wa.gov.

Application Preview and Question Guide

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

[Complex Needs Fund Manual](#)

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

[Application Step-by-Step Guide](#)

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[Application Scoring Guide](#)

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[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)
Informational Presentation (YouTube)

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

Walla Walla County Department of Health Report - Nikki Sharp - this will be Nikki's last meeting with the group. Peggy Needham will be taking on parts of Nikki's role after she leaves, so she may attend here. We will reach out to invite her to meetings. Peggy did complete a walkthrough of the suicide prevention walk event area to ensure that event will be accessible to everyone who wants to engage. The Suicide Prevention Walk will take place on 5/25/22, between 4:30 and 7:00 at the 1st avenue Plaza.

Nikki did work with the county communications staff to increase the accessibility of the social media content and the website for county health. There are a lot of transitions happening in the county staff. There is a [community law enforcement grant opportunity](#) for our community to pursue to foster community engagement through neighborhood organizing, law enforcement-community partnerships, youth mobilization, and business engagement. The department shall administer the project. The project must include 12 to 15 grant awards in those counties that have demonstrated their commitment to programs that promote community engagement in public safety including the following counties: Spokane, Pierce, King, Okanogan, Yakima, Cowlitz, Clark, Chelan-Douglas, Walla Walla, Benton-Franklin, Grant, and Snohomish.

Walla Walla County Department DD Report - Cindy - has resigned as the Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator for Walla Walla and Columbia Counties. She will start a new job on June 3, 2022, as a Family Resources Coordinator for ESD123 Early Intervention Services. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the DD Program Coordinator job – please send them her way!

We are very sad to see Cindy go, she's been instrumental in standing up for this committee, and has done wonderful work while she's been here. We hope to see an application to join the committee once she moves to her new employer. Her

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successor at the county will of course become an ex officio member when they are hired.

Announcements and Further Discussion Items

- 1) Annual Report - Connie indicated that the Annual Report is complete unless she receives any other feedback from committee members by June 1. She will be presenting to the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners on June 13th. Time and place TBD. [Annual Report 2022](#)
- 2) Connie reminded members to complete forms for state reimbursement for accommodation costs if needed and let the Leadership Team know if they need assistance.
- 3) Connie reviewed the request for a letter from our organization to support grants needed for the City of Walla Walla Parks and Recreation Department. [Accessible WW Grant Letter Parks and Rec](#)

Moving Forward - What are our next steps?

- a) Membership Recruitment and Application for Members Whose Terms Have Expired
- b) Employment
 - i) Inclusion Stickers
- c) Housing - Need new ad hoc chair -
- d) City of Walla Walla Next Steps
 - i) WWACAC member to serve on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Issue - current opening, receiving applications
 - ii) Develop a checklist for Downtown Alfresco Accessibility for Policy Development - Betsy and Anikó
 - iii) Develop pamphlet and materials on Accessibility for Building Permit Office - Betsy and Anikó
 - iv) Partner with Developmental Disabilities in Inclusion Stickers and Informational Pamphlets for Walla Walla Businesses - Connie announced that Cindy Wolski and Tim Barrett had provided feedback on the rack cards and she would be updating them accordingly. Tim provided the following proposed changes to the rack cards: Tim's [Rack Card Proposed Changes](#) Cindy provided the following information on Accommodation in the Workplace Resource

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for Employers that you might find helpful. [Accommodation in the Workplace Resources for Employers](#)

- v) Possible Grants and Revenue Options
- vi) Downtown Accessibility Study of Parking Options and Sidewalks Walkways with Alfresco Outside Dining - Larry

Public Comment - none

For the Good of the Order - Connie thanked Angie Peters for serving as secretary and doing such a great job on minutes, agendas, and hosting the zoom and in-person meetings for our group at the Valley Transit Conference Room.

Next Meeting Date - June 15, 2022. [Meeting Dates - 2022](#)
In-person at [Valley Transit](#), hybrid Zoom option available.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by 6:12 pm.

NOTE:

If you have not yet done so, **please** fill out the survey and send it to Connie so we can ascertain if the meeting time needs to change.