

Newly formed Walla Walla County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)

The Accessible Community Advisory Committees (ACAC) Act was promoted by the Legislature to help communities be more welcoming and inclusive for persons with disabilities and to promote and provide equal access to the opportunities available to others. Their participation enriches communities, enhances the strength of the diversity of a community and contributes toward the economic vitality of a community. Walla Walla County has recently established an Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) and envisions it will be actively involved in:

- Advising policy makers on the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency plans.
- Advising the county and other local governments within the county on access to programs, services, and activities, new construction or renovation projects, sidewalks and other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement.
- Developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, involvement and access for persons with disabilities within the community.

Our BOCC appointed ACAC members are:

Susan Baker	Araceli Castro	Joshua Hepler End
Emma Kubrock	Aniko Samu Kuschatka	Trina Parish
Connie Taylor-Randall, Chair	Jessica Tourtellotte	Kati Tureman
Amy White	Dwayne Williams	

WW County Representatives: Amelia Odeen (County Elections) and Cindy Wolski (Community Health)



Certificate of Achievement Award for forming a Walla Walla County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee presented by Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE) members Connie Taylor-Randall (far left) and Marilyn Crandall (far right) to Commissioner Tompkins, Cindy Wolski, DD Program Coordinator, Commissioner Johnson.



ACAC Kickoff (L-R):
Kati Tureman, Jessica Tourtellotte, Patricia Bauccio (GCDE), Emma Kubrock, Connie Taylor-Randall, Melinda Johnson (GCDE), Amelia Odeen



Washington State Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE) chooses Walla Walla as one of two 2019 Community Reach Out Projects!

The Community Outreach Sub-committee of the GCDE conducts outreach, information and advocacy events in communities throughout the state. The committee gathers information and then makes recommendations to elected officials, local service providers and leaders in the disability community.

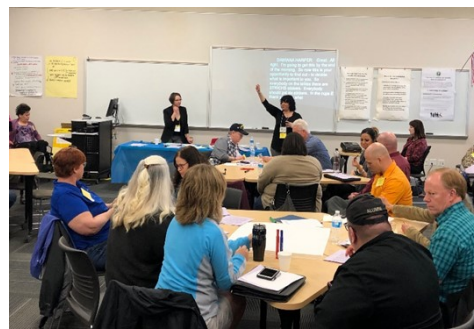
A [Town Hall Forum](#) was held in the evening of April 11th, 2019 at SonBridge Community Center.



On the morning of April 12th, a [Leadership Breakfast](#) was held at the SEATech Skills Center at WWCC. The top four topics were discussed by community leaders:

1. Given the need for training opportunities and employment options, how might the Walla Walla Valley community partner with agencies, businesses and organizations to improve outcomes for people with disabilities?
2. As City and County officials address diverse housing options and zoning changes, how can the disability community have more choices in where they reside?
3. How can we make the Walla Walla Valley community more accessible and desirable for residents and tourists with disabilities?
4. How can the Walla Walla Valley community assist parents/guardians of children and adults with disabilities to provide respite alternatives, care options and enrichment opportunities?

Collaborative partnerships, creative ideas and action steps were developed!



We are appreciative of the Governors Committee on Disability Issues and Employment for choosing Walla Walla to be a 2019 Community Outreach Project! Eight members of the GCDE came to Walla Walla to organize, facilitate and document the concerns and accomplishments of Walla Walla around accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities. The newly formed Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) will continue to keep these topics a focus for our community.