



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT

Employment Security Department ■ P.O. Box 9046 ■ MS: 6000 ■ Olympia, Washington ■ 98507-9046

Olympia (360) 902-9511 ■ Fax (360) 586-4600 ■ Spokane (509) 482-3854

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

## Introduction

The Community Outreach Subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE) held two meetings in Walla Walla County; a Town Hall Forum on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and a Leadership Breakfast on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Town Hall Forum was held at the SonBridge Community Center in College Place, Washington. The Leadership Breakfast was held at SEATech Skills Center in Walla Walla.

On behalf of the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment, we want to recognize and thank the following individuals who played a major part in the planning process for this outreach; Walla Walla Commissioner Jim Johnson; Walla Walla Mayor Barbara Clark; Cyndy Knight, Executive Director, Walla Walla Valley Disability Network; Cindy Wolski, Developmental Disabilities Coordinator, Department of Community Health; Meghan DeBolt, Walla Walla Accessible Community Advisory Committee; Jesse Kinney, Finance and Administrative Manager, Valley Transit; Kitty Haney, Executive Assistant, SonBridge Community Center; Libby Thompson, Director of Special Education Walla Walla Public Schools and Bobbie Sue Arias, Coordinator of Disability Services, Walla Walla Community College.



Walla Walla Valley

A special recognition needs to be given to GCDE's own Connie Taylor-Randall for her outstanding support and for sharing her vast connections with essential stakeholders in the community.

The following report is a summary of the issues identified and discussed during the two-day event. Action items recommended by meeting participants, local resources and promising practices are highlighted. A contact list of the meeting attendees is also included.

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

## Walla Walla County Demographics

Walla Walla County is in the southeastern part of Washington State. It is bordered by the Columbia River on the east and is five miles from the Oregon border on the south. Walla Walla County is one of the smaller populated counties; it is rated 26 out of 39 counties. According to the most recent United States Census Data, Walla Walla County has a total population of 64,567. Walla Walla County differs from the state in racial and ethnic diversity in most categories. In 2017, Hispanics and Latinos were 21.3 percent of the population compared with 12.7 percent statewide. The county has a long history for being known as one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the nation, producing such crops as wheat, asparagus, strawberries and the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onions. With over 181 wineries located in the valley, Walla Walla County has become a wine destination. Following the wine boom, vineyards and wineries have become economically important over the last three decades.

Walla Walla is the largest city in the county with a population of 33,840 according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Washington Office of Financial Management.

## Outreach/Scouting

To encourage community attendance and leadership participation, a scouting team comprised of GCDE members and staff visited Walla Walla in late February to confirm accessible meeting and lodging facilities. While in town, the team attended the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network (WWVDN) monthly meeting. The team made personal connections with 15 stakeholders in the disability community including a counselor with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the County Developmental Disabilities Coordinator and the Executive Director of Valley Residential Services. The team also met with Commissioner Jim Johnson, City Manager Nabel Shawa, Kitty Haney, Executive Assistant with the SonBridge Community Center and Libby Thompson, Director of Special Education, Walla Walla Public Schools.

Invitation letters and Town Hall Meeting flyers were sent to over 150 community contacts including elected officials, service providers and other stakeholders in the disability community. Local service providers were asked to share the Town Hall flyer with their customers and to post it in their offices. GCDE Members made follow-up phone calls to key people encouraging their participation in the outreach meetings.



SEATech Skills Center

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

## Local Success Stories and Promising Practices

Walla Walla is supported by a large community network and involved elected leaders who are working together to improve services and build a welcoming environment for persons with disability disabilities. Some of the great work discussed in the outreach meetings include:

- the city's affordable housing initiative,
- a commissioner's plan to revisit bike lanes and wheelchair access, and
- Visit Walla Walla's Executive Director, Ron Williams' goal to make the Walla Walla Valley a destination stop.

Below are some additional shining examples of programs and services people boast about in Walla Walla.

**Valley Transit** provides a broad range of transportation services getting people to work, school and entertainment. Their low fares, evening and Saturday service, and their Job Access bus are just a few examples of Valley Transit's creative solutions meeting the transportation needs in Walla Walla. Valley Transit received several compliments about their services, timeliness and their willingness to listen and improve services. For more information call 509.525.9140 or visit their website at <https://www.valleytransit.com>.

**Walla Walla County Accessible Community Advisory Committee (WWCACAC)** was formed on April 5, 2019. Commissioners Jim Johnson, Todd Kimball and Greg Tompkins took the lead in forming the committee.

Meghan DeBolt and Cindy Wolski helped advertise within the disability community, the opportunity to apply to become an ACAC committee member.

The WWCACAC held its first meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The mission of the Advisory Committee is to improve access for and inclusion of people with disabilities. As an Advisory Committee, it is eligible to receive two types of funding; operating funds and project funding. Operating funds cover costs associated with meeting such as sign language interpreters, real-time captioning services (CART), Spanish translation services, mileage and per diem reimbursements, etc. Project funding covers costs associated with GCDE approved grant proposals. Connie Taylor-Randall was appointed as the chairperson.



County Commissioners Johnson & Tompkins; ACAC Leadership

**Walla Walla Public School STEP Program (Students Transitioning into Employment Possibilities)** is designed for students 18-21 years of age with mild to moderate disabilities. Students develop job skills in community work sites with job coaching supports; identify and

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

participate in community activities and learn transportation options. Students also learn soft skills through classroom and community participation. For more information contact Libby Thompson, Director of Special Education at 509.526.6724 or by email at [lthompson@wwps.org](mailto:lthompson@wwps.org).

**Walla Walla Valley Disability Network (WWVDN)** helps families from the birth of their child with a disability throughout their lifespan. To fully encompass the needs of families, they provide social and recreational opportunities, educational trainings, emotional support, resource referrals, and disability awareness training. For more information visit their website at <https://www.wwvdn.org> or call Cyndy Knight at 509.386.2356.

## Town Hall Meeting Summary

The Town Hall meeting was held at SonBridge Community Center. With over 60 people attending, a diverse cross section of the community was represented, including people with disabilities, family members, service providers and several elected officials. Mayor Barbara Clark opened the meeting with a welcome message and encouraged everyone's participation in the evening's discussion.

Discussion topics were broad with an emphasis on employment, educational services, affordable housing and the built environment such as access to sidewalks, ramps and retailers.

During the meeting, participants were open to possibilities and excited about making new connections. Action items were identified, and commitments were made to continue the discussion to improve programs and services for individuals with disabilities.



SonBridge Community Center

## Accessibility

### Participant Comments

Amy shared that Walla Walla focuses on tourism because that's where the money is. As a consumer, downtown stores and restaurants have narrow entryways, countertops are too high, and aisles are too narrow. She is aware of the laws that require better access but forcing change never works. How can we educate the business/retail community on the importance of making their places of business more accessible?

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

Josh added he has lived in Walla for over 25 years and he is a wheelchair user. He uses Valley Transit services such as the Job Access bus and Dial-a-Ride and thinks their services are awesome. As an avid transit user, he is challenged by the community's inaccessibility. Many areas in the downtown core and the neighborhoods are horrendous. Curb cuts and sidewalks are broken or non-existent. They are not being fixed or considered for repair. Daily, he makes plans on how to get from place to place, making detours to circumnavigate barriers and the lack of accessibility. He knowingly takes personal risks by going onto streets where cars are traveling 30 or 40 miles per hour to get where he needs to go.



Town Hall Meeting Participants

Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), explained there is an inventory of missing ramps, and sidewalks. The MPO looks at every possible funding source whether it be local, state, federal or grant funding to address the shortfall. There is a price tag attached; there is not enough money for maintenance let alone to make improvements to ramps and sidewalks. School children are walking in the streets which is an extreme safety hazard. Sidewalks are the lowest cost option for transportation. Improving sidewalks and ramps would benefit everyone in the community.

The GCDE Scouting team met with Walla Walla's City Manager Nabil Shawa, who explained the City Council is very much aware of the unsafe conditions of the sidewalks. There have been injury claims filed against the city from those who have tripped or fallen. The City of Walla Walla along with several other rural communities petitioned the State Legislature this year asking lawmakers to consider a small (.25%) real estate excise tax (REET 2) for home sellers. The excise tax is seen as a fair way to share the community responsibility of improving sidewalks. Unfortunately, the legislature turned down the request. The City Council is looking at their options and may try again next year. REET 2 is estimated to bring in about \$400,000 annually and would repair city sidewalks over 10 years.

Carla is working with the Walla Walla Postmaster to address the lack of accessibility at the Walla Walla Post Office. Closing the Harvest House Substation, which was accessible and had automatic doors, reduces everyone's choice and convenience. The post office has one accessible parking place which is a long way away from the accessible ramp. At the end of the ramp are large double doors, which are difficult to open. Once inside, you go a few more feet and there is another set of doors to open before you get into the post office.

Steve Jordan with the Developmental Disabilities Administration shared that he was speaking on behalf of a 75 year old woman, who is the sole caretaker of her 44 year old son who uses a wheelchair. Most of the streets in the downtown area are sloped, making it difficult to get a wheelchair out of the trunk of a car. Shopping in any store is challenging; the aisle space is not wide enough to accommodate people who use mobility devices.

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

Jolene, a member of the United Blind of Walla Walla, agreed with the comments regarding wheelchair access and uneven sidewalks. She strongly supports the work the city is doing to install accessible crosswalk signals, but more needs to be done in that area. Another concern for all pedestrians, which has a larger impact on the blind and low vision community, are the roundabouts. Roundabouts are impossible to navigate safely. She has written letters to urge city planners to consider the needs of the visually impaired pedestrians using a roundabout. Signage in government buildings and hospitals is another area of concern. They do not have appropriate signage or braille. The rules about placement, height and location are being ignored. Changing or adding signage is not an expensive fix. Building designers, owners and managers need to be educated on what the Americans with Disabilities Act and Washington State Barrier-Free Codes require.

Commissioner Greg Tompkins thanked everyone for coming and sharing their concerns. He explained the county is spending money on bike lanes and may need to revisit that effort, if people are having access issues getting around town. Tourism pays for many of the county improvements. As an elected official, he needs to ensure developers working in the community are making their projects fully accessible.

Rose Worth mentioned as a person who is getting older, she realizes that businesses need to start remodeling their stores. Builders need to design new homes with accessibility in mind. We need wider aisles in stores and accessible features in houses. There is a large segment of the population that is aging and acquiring disabilities. There is money to be made, but if people can't shop in your store, they will go to stores that work for them.

Another participant added they recently purchased a house that had accessible features like wider doors and hallways. They don't need these features but have family members who do. They also have aging parents who may need a more accessible environment to get around. People and builders need to think beyond today and plan for the future needs of every occupant.

**Individual Advocacy** - Recently a Spokane advocate, Jude Cormier, was featured on KXLY, a local television station, regarding curb cuts in her neighborhood. To see her story, click on the YouTube link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wI7CWzPKJIw>.

Josh invited county commissioners, city government officials and other decision makers who choose how monies get spent on improving sidewalks and curb cuts to follow him for a day. Each person would have a designated travel plan, going from one specific location to another using a wheelchair, crutches or blind folds. Some would use transit; others would wheel or walk along designated streets. Experiencing the challenges up close and personal may bring a better understanding and stronger focus on accessibility challenges.

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

## Accessible Resources

**Checklist for Accessible Sidewalks and Street Crossings - (Full URL: [http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/cms/downloads/Checklist\\_Accessible\\_Sidewalks\\_Crossings.pdf](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/cms/downloads/Checklist_Accessible_Sidewalks_Crossings.pdf) )**

**Northwest ADA Center** provides information, training and guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act. As the ADA Information Center in Region 10, the Northwest ADA Center has aggressively staffed its project with professionals familiar with disability, rehabilitation, rehab engineering, special education, the built environment, accessibility to buildings and electronic accessibility, civil rights law, and business. The regional advisory committee and our state partners are premier leaders in ADA compliance in each of the states served-Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

### **Northwest ADA Center**

**Website:** (Full URL: <https://www.nwadacenter.org>)

Toll-Free: 800-949-4232

Email: [nwadactr@uw.edu](mailto:nwadactr@uw.edu)

## Promising Practices

### **Make an ADA Request**

The Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) ADA Program is responsible for the planning, design, and implementation of infrastructure improvements requested by the public to enable those living with disabilities equivalent access to Seattle pedestrian facilities. These improvements include curb ramps, accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and new technology evaluations.

Accessibility improvement requests can be made by individuals living with disabilities or those who directly care for individuals living with disabilities. The program is not intended to address community concerns other than access for people with disabilities. ADA requests are logged and scheduled for improvements in the order in which they are received. These requests can be submitted through the City of Seattle Customer Service Bureau, by contacting SDOT by phone toll-free at 833.414.5871, by email or standard mail, or by using the SDOT ADA Request webpage. Accessible format request forms are also available and are identified below.

Also available is the Seattle Accessible Route Planner. This map is intended to help people plan routes using City of Seattle curb ramps and sidewalks. For more information about this program contact Michael Shaw, SDOT's ADA Coordinator at 203.615.1974, by email at [michael.shaw@seattle.gov](mailto:michael.shaw@seattle.gov) or visit their website at (Full URL: <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/make-an-ada-request>.)

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

**Shoreline's Sidewalk Advisory Committee (SAC)** Shoreline, Washington conducted a year-long study to create a Sidewalk Prioritization Plan. The process included input from a citizen Sidewalk Advisory Committee (SAC) and multiple opportunities for public input. The committee consists of members from a diverse cross section of Shoreline neighborhoods with a broad range of interests such as financing, aesthetics, ecology, youth, elderly, access and mobility for people with physical disabilities, and from under-represented communities.

A few examples of the SAC's key accomplishments are:

- Conducted site evaluations for areas in need of improvements
- Tested and tuned the prioritization criteria for ADA Transition Plan and new sidewalks
- Analyzed funding options
- Helped to create a video highlighting needed sidewalk repairs, treatment options, and
- Developed draft and final SAC recommendations to the City Manager on the Sidewalk Prioritization Plan and its funding options

For more information about this program contact Nora Daley-Peng, Senior Transportation Planner at 206.801.2483 or by email at [ndaleypeng@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:ndaleypeng@shorelinewa.gov).

## Affordable and Accessible Housing

### Participant Comments

City Councilman Riley Clubb explained the city conducted a 26-week study on affordable housing. The goal was to identify the barriers people face in locating housing options. Councilman Clubb said a lot of the issues are related to zoning, multifamily development, accessory dwelling units, housing preservation and mother-in-law cottage units. Over the last three or four decades, Walla Walla built mostly single-family homes with around 9600 square feet. More diversity in the housing supply will address some of the underlying issues - more duplexes, triplexes as well as smaller housing units. The study did not address accessible housing needs. When renters with moderate incomes cannot find homes within their means, they rent houses at a lower cost, reducing the more affordable market. A full report of the study will be available after June 11, 2019.

Jan has a 36 year old son who lives with her and her husband. They are preparing to retire and would like to move into a smaller home. They enjoy living together but would like to have a small apartment attached, or a mother-in-law apartment with a kitchen, but discovered Walla Walla's zoning codes are too limiting and don't allow for these types of units.



# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

## Housing Resources

**Catholic Charities of Walla Walla** sponsors a service-enriched apartment complex, the Garden Court/Mike Foye Apartments, for seniors and persons with disabilities. Rent is based upon residents' adjusted income. Amenities include a community room, elevator, a garden setting, pet friendly community and on-site service coordinator. Services provided include case management, advocacy, referrals, education, and networking with other professionals and social services agencies in our community. Contact Tim Meliah, MSW, Regional Coordinator/Counselor at 509.525.0572.

**Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center** offers programs for homeless and at-risk Veterans. To learn more about this program contact John Adams, LCSW, HCHV Program Coordinator at 509.525.5200 Ext. 26771. You can also call the Help for Homeless Veteran's hot line at 877.4AID-VET or 877.434.3838.

**The Consolidate Homeless Grant (CHG) program** utilizes state funds to support communities in creating and maintaining an integrated system of housing assistance. This program provides resources to assist currently homeless people in obtaining and maintaining housing. The program is housed in the Department of Commerce. Sara Harrison is the Program Manager for Walla Walla County. Her phone number is 360.725.5073 and her email is Saraharrison@commerce.wa.gov

**Continuum of Care** is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program to promote community-wide commitment and support to end homelessness. It provides grants to nonprofit agencies, state and local governments through an annual competition. To learn more about this program contact Matt Mazur-Hart, Program Manager at 360.725.2926 or email him at [matt.mazur-hart@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:matt.mazur-hart@commerce.wa.gov).

## Promising Practices

**Catholic Charities and Volunteers of America** offer Housing First programs for the chronically homeless in Spokane using federal and state tax credits. Catholic Charities of Spokane and Volunteers of America of the Inland Northwest collaborated to build two neighboring 50-unit permanent supportive housing facilities on the 200 block of East Second Avenue in Spokane. Here is a link to a Housing First article describing the program and funding mechanisms in more detail:(Full URL:<http://www.thefigtree.org/may15/050115housinghomeless.html>.)

### **Catholic Housing Communities**

P.O. Box 2253

Spokane, WA 99210-2253

Phone: 509.358.4250 ext. 6183

Email: [chc@ccspokane.org](mailto:chc@ccspokane.org)

[Catholic Housing Communities website:](http://www.catholiccharitiesspokane.org/housing)

(Full URL:<https://www.catholiccharitiesspokane.org/housing>)

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

**The Arc of Spokane's Home Ownership Opportunities Program** helps individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families to navigate the complex process of buying a home. Since 2004, they have helped more than 200 individuals and families purchase safe and affordable housing. For more information contact the Arc of Spokane:

### **Home Ownership Opportunities**

Arc of Spokane

320 E. 2nd Avenue

Spokane, WA 99202

Attn: Theresa Griffith

Phone: 509.328.6326 ext. 8326

Email: [tgriffith@arc-spokane.org](mailto:tgriffith@arc-spokane.org).

Arc of Spokane Home Ownership Program website:

(Full URL: [http://www.arc-spokane.org/home\\_ownership\\_opportunities](http://www.arc-spokane.org/home_ownership_opportunities))

**Arc of Spokane website: (Full URL: <http://www.arc-spokane.org>)**

**HomeChoice Downpayment Assistance Loan Program** is offered through the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. It is a down payment assistance and second mortgage loan program for qualified borrowers who have a disability or who have a family member with a disability living with them. It funds up to \$15,000. HomeChoice combines with House Key and Home Advantage first mortgage loan programs. One-on-one counseling is required. Contact:

### **Downpayment Assistance Loan Programs**

Attn: Dietrich Schmitz

1000 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue #2700

Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: 206.287.4459

Email: [dietrich.schmitz@wshfc.org](mailto:dietrich.schmitz@wshfc.org).

**WA State Housing Finance Commission website: (full URL:**

**<http://www.wshfc.org/buyers/downpayment.htm>)**

## **Educational Services**

### **Participant Comments**

A parent of a young child with a hearing impairment expressed concerns about finding support services for parents of newly diagnosed children with disabilities. She experienced what she calls the “black box effect”. She knew services had to be available but had no idea where to start looking for them. Her dream for all parents is to have wrap-around services available upon diagnosis. School enrollment would have needed accommodations available and be offered automatically with no delays or questions.

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

Another challenge for parents is before and after school programs for children with disabilities. A working parent clarified she is married and is fortunate to have a spouse to help. She knows many mothers of children with disabilities who are single parenting. Having reliable and affordable childcare is the only way parents can survive and navigate the system. All parents need options and schools need to be part of the solution.

Cyndy Knight talked about “Better Together” a learning series for parents, educators and individuals with a disability. It was developed in collaboration with the Walla Walla Public Schools’ Special Education Department, the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network and the Walla Walla community. The program started in October 2018, with monthly meetings that included dinner and childcare services. Video copies of the learning sessions are available on their website in English and Spanish. To learn more, visit the WWVDN website at (Full URL: <https://www.wvvdn.org>.)

A parent of a 12-year old with behavioral problems complimented Willow School. Willow has several students with disabilities. They are able to provide effective accommodations, making school a positive experience. Having a child with behavioral issues and dealing with bullying is stressful. Telling her son to ignore the kids and keep his mouth shut is not effective. He wants to retaliate because it is hurtful. He has had more success at Willow because of their supportive environment and she is very thankful.

### Educational Resources

**Northwest Justice Project** (NJP) provides legal assistance to eligible low-income families and individuals needing help with civil (non-criminal) legal problems in Washington State. View their Frequently Asked Questions for more info on the services they provide.

Northwest Justice Project  
38 E. Main St. #207  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509.547.2760  
1.866.402.7971  
1.888.201.1014 (CLEAR - Client Intake)

**PAVE** (Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment) provides support, training information and resources to empower and give voice to individuals, youth and families impacted by disabilities.

PAVE  
6316 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tacoma, WA 98465  
Phone: 800.5.parent or 253.565.2266  
Email: [pave@wapave.org](mailto:pave@wapave.org)

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

**Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds** helps to advance educational equity in three ways:

- 1) Providing information and informal, impartial, and collaborative conflict resolution for families, educators, and community professionals to support students in our state's K-12 public schools. (2-minute video in English, Spanish/Español, or Tigrinya.)
- 2) Offering free trainings and outreach on a variety of topics to advance educational equity in public K-12 education
- 3) Partnering with policymakers to tackle opportunity gaps

Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds  
3518 Fremont Avenue North, #349, Seattle, WA 98103  
Toll-free phone: 1-866-297-2597  
Phone interpreter services available  
Website: Full URL: <https://oeo.wa.gov/>

## Promising Practices

**ACHIEVE** is a comprehensive program partially funded as one of the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) through the Office of Postsecondary Education. **ACHIEVE** is a model demonstration program for Washington. For more information or to schedule an informational meeting call 206.592.3526. **ACHIEVE** is located east of the main Highline College campus at 23835 Pacific Highway S. in Kent Washington.

**DO-IT** (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) Center is dedicated to empowering people with disabilities through technology and education. It promotes awareness and accessibility—in both the classroom and the workplace—to maximize the potential of individuals with disabilities and make our communities more vibrant, diverse, and inclusive. For more information, consult their [Programs and Resources brochure \(Full URL: https://www.washington.edu/doit/do-it-programs-and-resources.\)](https://www.washington.edu/doit/do-it-programs-and-resources)

**DO-IT Scholars** prepares Washington State high school students with disabilities for success in college and careers. Scholars attend Summer Study sessions, held during three consecutive summers at the University of Washington campus. This allows students to experience college life and work on self-advocacy skills. Throughout the school year, Scholars connect with program staff, DO-IT Mentors, and each other using email and e-lists. They also meet in-person at DO-IT events, complete individual and group projects, and receive valuable information and support for the transition to college. Washington state high school students with disabilities may apply. Priority is given to students in their sophomore year in high school, followed by students in their junior year. For more information and to find an application visit <https://www.washington.edu/doit/do-it-scholars>.

**WSU ROAR** (Washington State University Responsibility Opportunities Advocacy and Respect) is a two-year inclusive postsecondary education program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The program provides individualized

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

programs of study in education, social skills, and vocational training through person-centered planning. The program started in 2018. WSU ROAR students live communally on the Pullman campus during the University's fall and spring semester and complete WSU audit courses with same-aged peers. Most importantly, the WSU ROAR program welcomes young adults with I/DD to be part of the Cougar family experience. For more information, their email address is [coe.roar@wsu.edu](mailto:coe.roar@wsu.edu). Their Facebook page is Full URL: <https://www.facebook.com/WSUROAR/>.

**Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)** is a unique leadership-training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. The program is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Students serve as delegates from their communities at this six-day, five-night event. Young people with disabilities cultivate their potential leadership, citizenship and social skills. There is no cost to attend. GCDE pays for lodging, meals, transportation and all accommodations. This year the forum will be held at the Dumas Bay Center in Federal Way. The Forum will be held on August 3 - 9, 2019. For more information contact Elaine Stefanowicz.

Elaine Stefanowicz, Program Coordinator  
GCDE  
PO Box 9046  
Olympia, WA 98507-9046  
360.902.9362  
[estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov](mailto:estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov)

## Emergency Preparedness Services

### Participant Comments

Cindy explained Joey Ferguson is with the County's Emergency Preparedness program. He has been working with Cindy and the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Case Managers to get information out specifically to the developmental disabilities community. A simple one-page document was developed with specific local emergency information. The document also includes space for individuals to list their personal emergency contact numbers and any medications they are currently taking. The information sheet is to be placed on the refrigerator door as first responders are trained to look there for the document. Another piece of good news is the Lillie Rice Center has been certified by the Red Cross as an accessible emergency shelter. Everyone in the community needs to know if a disaster occurs, and evacuation is required, the Lillie Rice Center is able to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Lillie Rice Center  
2616 E. Isaacs Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509.525.5433  
Website: [info@lilliericecenter.org](mailto:info@lilliericecenter.org)

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

A meeting participant added that each person is responsible for having an emergency kit on hand; it is a personal responsibility. She recommended that people go online and download the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Checklist (Full URL: <https://www.emergencykits.com/fema-emergency-kit-supply-checklist>.) Basically, it is a rather large grab-and-go kit, so you have enough medicine, food and water for 72 hours.

## Employment and Transitional Services

### Participant Comments

A meeting participant explained that employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities are being challenged in Washington State by well-meaning advocates. Advocates and disability organizations are trying to pass legislation to eliminate the special certificate for subminimum wage. Seattle was the first city government to end the practice last year. As a parent, she is concerned her son Shawn, who works at Blue Mountain Industries, will lose his job and be stuck at home. Shawn enjoys his job and is proud to be a working man earning a paycheck. He likes going to work every day and working alongside his peers. By closing workplaces like Blue Mountain Industries, she believes that everyone in the program will be forced to be at home and do nothing. She supports community integrated jobs and regular wages, but it shouldn't be the only option. She strongly believes work opportunities cannot be a "one size fits everyone" opportunity. She referenced two individuals who left Blue Mountain Industries for integrated community jobs; they did not find success. One person's hours were cut from 10 hours a week to five hours and now is no longer working. The other person is still waiting for a job placement. Both individuals are now at home with nothing to do to fill their time. The state needs to honor personal choice and individuals like Shawn need to be able to choose where they want to work.

Libby Thompson, Director of Special Education for the Walla Walla School District supports diverse employment options. Schools provide individualized programs for students with disabilities; employment options need to be wide-ranging as well. The Walla Walla School District offers the STEP Program (Students Transitioning into Employment Possibilities) which is geared for students between 18-21 years of age with mild to moderate disabilities. Students are identified through their IEP Team as continuing to need specially designed instruction in vocational and adaptive areas. Students develop job skills in community work sites with job coaching support, identify and participate in community activities, learn transportation options, and learn soft skills through classroom and community participation. Students are able to job shadow and work on job sites to learn new skills. Job coaches are provided if needed. As students master their job duties, natural supports are put into place. Many local employers support the program and offer students opportunities, but it is not enough. Libby and her team are working to remove employer fear and hesitation to work with students with disabilities.

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

Cindy Wolski serves as the Developmental Disabilities (DD) County Coordinator and has a son, Joey, with severe autism. He works with a subminimum wage employer but earns minimum wage. Many subminimum wage employers are in manufacturing. These jobs tend to require fine motor skills. Generally, not a good fit for many individuals with developmental disabilities. These types of jobs don't offer the opportunity to increase wages because of the slow production time. She works with schools to broaden job skills training. Students need a broader understanding of work opportunities and be better prepared for competitive integrated employment. Work needs to be fulfilling and not just a way to occupy your day. It takes a community to build successful employment options. The community also needs to embrace state and federal regulations designed to improve the lives of those with developmental disabilities.

Mayor Clark asked if someone could explain why the state is trying to eliminate subminimum wages and the source of funding that covers sheltered workshops?

Cindy Wolski noted the Workforce Integration and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which was signed into law in 2014, emphasizes competitive integrated employment. WIOA reinforces that individuals with significant disabilities, with appropriate supports and services, are successful in competitive integrated employment. Not only is Washington State a leader in supported employment outcomes, it is an Employment First state. Many states are modeling their employment programs after us. Program funding comes from federal and state governments. Using federal and state monies requires us to abide by federal and state regulations. In March 2019, Medicaid funds can no longer be used to support individuals in subminimum wage jobs.

Cindy feels Walla Walla is faced with more part-time jobs because most of the employment opportunities are with small employers. Carving jobs in a small business is much more difficult. The County DD developed a new training program on creative techniques to develop job opportunities. The training is geared for employment providers, school transition programs and employers. Training results are favorable; people are finding jobs they want. The County DD is seeing their customers getting promotions and wage increases.

Carla is a parent of Mark, who is an adult and employed at Lillie Rice Center. He works 20 hours a week at a subminimum job. He lives independently, prepares his meals, does his laundry, cleans his home and sets his own schedule. He enjoys his job and working alongside his friends. As a family and as his guardian, they know Mark is happy with his choice of employment. Consequently, the state describes successful job placement as a person who works for minimum wage for just one, two or three hours per week. What is not taken into account are the many hours these minimum wage earners are sitting at home and doing nothing. Carla is also alarmed that in some communities, daycare is being developed to support individuals who have limited work schedules. She believes providing daycare is reverting to the old ways and not being progressive. Everyone should have a right to choose where they want to work.

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

**Note:** The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment supports the elimination of the subminimum wage employment. Exploring individual choice and finding a good job match in the community is the goal. Providing training, job coaching and natural supports leads to an inclusive and a more productive workforce.

Below are several links to websites and newspaper articles for more information on WIOA and subminimum wage and what it means for people with disabilities:

- <https://www.thearc.org/document.doc>
- <https://apse.org/washington-state-looks-to-end-subminimum-wage/>
- <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/401273-eliminating-subminimum-wage-waivers-will-harm-hundreds-of-thousands-of>
- <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/legal-and-compliance/employment-law/pages/lawmakers-work-to-end-subminimum-wages-for-workers-with-disabilities>
- <http://arcokingcountyvoice.blogspot.com/2019/01/bill-would-end-subminimum-wages-in-wa.html>

## Employment Resources

**Plan for Work** serves Oregon residents and Washington's southern counties of Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Klickitat, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum, and Walla Walla. Get help understanding how work might affect your SSDI and/or SSI.

If you are a Social Security disability beneficiary and would like to know how work may affect your benefits, **Plan for Work** can provide information about work incentives to help you make informed decisions about work. Call 1.833.438.7308 or 503.323.9159. You can also visit their website at FULL URL: <https://droregon.org/need-help/plan-for-work>.

## Promising Practices

**The Governor's Employer Awards Program** is an annual event honoring public, non-profit, and private employers statewide for their exemplary work to recruit, hire, retain, and advance workers with disabilities. Two individual awards are also presented; the Direct Support Professional and the Governor's Trophy *in Memory of Carolyn Blair Brown*. The Direct Support Professional award recognizes a job developer/coach who has shown extraordinary ingenuity and drive to create and sustain supported employment opportunities that create jobs. The Governor's Trophy is presented to an individual with a disability who has developed or influenced programs, services, legislation etc. resulting in positive outcomes dramatically enhancing the empowerment of individuals with disabilities. **Nominations will be accepted until August 27<sup>st</sup>, 2019.** For more information on the Awards Program, visit the [GCDE Website](http://esd.wa.gov/gcde) (Full URL: <http://esd.wa.gov/gcde>), call Emily Heike at 360.902.9440 or email her at [ehеike@esd.wa.gov](mailto:ehеike@esd.wa.gov).



# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

**ACCESS Tri-Cities** (Allying Companies, Communities, and Employees with Skills for Success) provides knowledge, ideas, resources, and motivated job seekers with supportive local employers. It has a Recognition and Awards Breakfast followed by workshops and a career fair. It is held in October. Their contact number is 509.378.5333 or you can email them at [accesstricities@gmail.com](mailto:accesstricities@gmail.com).

## Local Resources

### Participant Comments

Tim is an Army veteran and a Walla Walla Community College student. He moved to Walla Walla just two weeks ago. His life changed overnight. He was a professional painter one day and man with significant disabilities the following. He struggles to find services to help him navigate through the rehabilitation process. He recommends people work together to develop a service manual for Walla Walla. It could be an electronic listing which is updated on a regular basis and posted on social media like Facebook and others.

Cindy shared that the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network has a community and statewide resource listing on their website. With over 300 volunteer hours, they developed a plethora of services and supports for people with disabilities and their families (see contact information below).

Heather added that she is interested in developing a community garden that employs individuals with disabilities. Her goal is to have a program ready in the next two to five years. She encourages those who have an interest in working on this project to email her at [Hdmeares@gmail.com](mailto:Hdmeares@gmail.com).

### Promising Practices

**Walla Walla Valley Disability Network** developed a community and statewide resource website. If you don't find what you're looking for or know a resource that should be included, there is a suggestion box where you can let them know. To visit the website, click on the link <https://www.wvvdn.org/resources>.

## Social Security Disability Benefits

### Participant Comments

Sue shared her concerns about a local couple who is experiencing catastrophic health issues. Over the last two years the wife had seven major surgeries. She has not been able to work and applied for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and qualified. The application process is very difficult, and you must prove your disability is a barrier to employment. The challenge is - Social Security requires a 24-month waiting period before they provide medical coverage

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

through Medicare. During the two-year waiting period, Medicaid might be an option for some; eligibility is based on financial need and family income is considered.

Sue encouraged all disability advocates in Walla Walla and across the state to work with their congressional delegation to remove the two-year waiting requirement. It makes little sense to have people wait for medical care. Getting the medical care they need may in fact improve their condition to the point they could return to work.

### Social Security Disability Benefits Resources

To learn more about Social Security Disability and Medicare visit <https://www.ssa.gov>.

For more information on Social Security and Disability Insurance (SSDI) & Medicare coverage, click on the following link <https://www.healthcare.gov/people-with-disabilities/ssdi-and-medicare/>

### Leadership Breakfast Exercise

The following morning, 40 people attended the Leadership Breakfast representing elected officials, service providers and leaders in the disability community to brainstorm solutions for the issues discussed at the Town Hall Forum. The outreach team reviewed and rated the topics discussed and identified the top four issues:



Leadership Breakfast Participants

- 1) Improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities
- 2) Increase affordable housing for individuals in the disability community, providing more choices in where they can live
- 3) Increase accessibility in the Walla Walla Valley, making it more desirable for residents and tourism
- 4) Increase care options for parents/guardians of children and adults with disabilities to provide respite alternatives, care options and enrichment opportunities

Participants were led through a modified “Gallery Walk”; a group exercise requiring participants to be actively engaged in a problem-solving process for four corresponding questions. The exercise provides opportunities to share ideas, review comments from other participants, prioritize issues and work towards possible solutions.

There was much discussion of the top four issues. The summary of the discussion has the following categories:

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

- 1) The question being addressed
- 2) A list of brainstorm ideas as they appeared on the chart paper
- 3) A list of the team members and table leader
- 4) Pathways for Change - A report out of the group's ideas and action plans

## **Question # 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 employment outcomes for people with disabilities?**

### **List of Brainstorming Ideas**

- Use apprenticeships & OJT to increase access to jobs
- Increase connections and communication between public school programs & businesses
- Use business and service organizations to serve as liaisons between schools & training institutes & businesses/govt. employers
- Both WWP & CPPS have 18-21 years old in-transition programs for students with special needs
- Unity Team – supportive employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities; more education, movement into community-based employment opportunities
- Increase access to DVR services/decrease wait time to access services
- DVR in the public school system
- Connecting students that are aging out
- Above 18-21 w/o school
- With business licenses hand out literature on the disabled work force
- Educate workforce (employers) on how to hire disabled
- Assist w/ paperwork that can facilitate
- Consolidation team that knows all the new rules & opportunities for disabled

### **Team Members**

Cindy Wolski, Developmental Disabilities Coordinator, Department of Community Health

Mike Stevenson, Walla Walla Goodwill

Debbie Dumont, Supervisor, Walla Walla WorkSource

Jessica Rusch, Counselor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Lauri Jordan, Rehab Tech, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Table Leader Marilyn Crandall

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

## Pathways for Change

**Group Report Out** - The two ideas developed from this group are; 1) provide more training opportunities to businesses on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and 2) develop an awards program to recognize what local businesses are doing to employ people with disabilities.

This group already works closely with each other. They plan to invite representatives from WorkSource and veteran programs to expand the Unity Team, which includes representatives from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, community rehabilitation providers and employment support professionals. Another suggestion is to set the Unity Team meeting dates on the same day as another community meeting (not identified) is held. Stakeholders would then be afforded an opportunity to attend both meetings in a single afternoon.

They will create a new Work Opportunity Tax Credits flyer targeted to employers explaining the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities and using the tax credits.

They plan to develop an employer awards program modeled after the Access Tri-Cities program which includes a breakfast, employer awards presentation and a career fair. ([Accesstricity@gmail.com](mailto:Accesstricity@gmail.com) or 509.378.5333)

## **Question #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?**

### List of Brainstorming Ideas

- City Council Affordable Housing Study to be published on June 11<sup>th</sup>
- Attend luncheon to review Affordable Housing Study
- Join workgroups: Identify people to join
- Ensure WW city code includes accessibility
- Educate community on housing/bldg. codes
- Educate the community on WW city zoning change
- Grant for senior living – age in place via clearing house
- Contractors overextended in new housing
- Hayden Homes builds price mix home
- WWCC/BMAC – 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyers with attention to accessibility
- Prioritize accessible apt. for those with need
- Learning opportunities for landlords. Require (the above) in accessibility to & in new buildings (zoning) Fair Housing Act enforcement
- Investigate SAFE @ HOME program in Rogue Valley
- Meld/leverage senior needs & the needs of those with disabilities.

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

- Incentivize builders to be inclusive (tax breaks, etc.)
- Inclusionary zoning
- Tiny home zoning changes
- Re purposing empty buildings & space – incentive
- Manage Tourism
- Integrated income structure in neighborhoods
- More employment opp. To bring in a younger living community
- Variety of living options
- Affordable accessible homes & zones that allow multi-purpose dwellings—in-laws, quarters & duplex
- Multi use areas: homes near shopping, parks
- Living units available – small housing
- Tiny homes zoning
- Building codes include accessibility, County and City build homes with accessibility in mind above ADA
- Ability to convert current housing
- House may be accessible but outside isn't
- City/county fees & planning time
- Aging in place funding to convert your own home
- Publicize opportunities
- Shared housing
- Mobile/modular homes
- Lack of construction force
- Neighborhood design

## Team Members

Steve Jordan, Developmental Disabilities Administration  
Mayor Barbara Clark, City of Walla Walla  
Nancy Riggle, Walla Walla Valley Residential Services  
Traci McGee, Developmental Disabilities Administration  
Table Leaders Pat Bauccio and Julian Wheeler

## Pathways for Change

**Group Report Out** - This group wants to review Walla Walla City Council's Affordable Housing Study to be released on June 11, 2019. They plan to join the housing workgroup and identify other key people who should be involved as well.

Their participation will ensure the disability community has a voice in these proposed changes. Their involvement will also provide an opportunity for more awareness and education on the housing needs of those with disabilities.

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

### **Question #3: How can we make the Walla Walla Valley community more accessible and desirable for residents and tourists with disabilities?**

#### **List of Brainstorming Ideas**

- Patio areas (space of patio & sidewalk encroachment)
- Water meter caps
- Cross walk
- Disability parking downtown
- Sidewalk accessibility
- Valley transit capacity for wheelchairs
- Building entrances (door openers)
- Education to business owners, elected officials, business employees, everyone! Create checklist (ADA website)
- Homebuilder's assoc.
- Hotel assoc. – ADA rooms
- Construction curriculum – in. ADA? (Does it)
- ACAC resource for walk-thru's, recommendations
- Create checklist available thru ADA website
- Cycling – Outdoors for All (bring them here) – adaptive bike demonstrations
- Wine tours – charters that are accessible
- Valley Transit - keep log of difficult access points for clients & easy access
- Map it out
- -Educate business
  - easy steps
  - why it's important.
- Steps:
  - 30 days start report
  - Quarterly-semiannual to ACA
  - Have them take lead after on education.
- Business involvement w/ acc. Issues willingly
- Grade (?) business Assessments on if they are accessible
- Window decal identify that business is accessible \*
- City of WW advisory bicycle & pedestrian community resource
- Stair chairs to open up 2<sup>nd</sup> level businesses
- Chamber involvement w/ identifying accessible businesses
- Networking w/ non-profits – bring all to 1 table.
- Adaption grants to open/refurbish current businesses
- Visibility awareness
- Cross-walk (sound)

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

- Parking downtown – in general
  - inventory
  - signage
  - use Visit Walla Walla
- Have an Access Walla Walla section to Visit Walla Walla
- Keep in mind that there can be conflict btw. Accessibility solutions
- Should be a clearing house for consideration
- Repairs & improve sidewalk accessibility in all areas of WWV
- If money is the limiting factor, FIND the money
- Use existing plan to create a priority list for which areas will be improved first – access to medical, schools, parks, etc.
- Are traffic improvements (e.g.; roundabouts) focusing on accessibility/equity?
- Pedestrian over & under passes; (decrease) speed limits; flashing signs indicating speed & pedestrians
- Tourism & chamber & commerce including accessibility info.

### Team Members

Noman Thiel, Executive Director, SonBridge Community Center  
Jesse Kinney, Administration Manager, Valley Transit  
Lowell Nee, Operations Supervisor, Valley Transit  
Claudia Limon, Blue Mountain Action Council  
Table Leader Warren Weissman

### Pathways for Change

**Group Report Out** - Over the next 30 days, Valley Transit will collect information about buildings and/or locations where bus riders with disability frequent that present barriers or have great accessible features.

Bus drivers will be responsible for logging the information and the workgroup will review their findings. Buildings that are easy to access will be highlighted and facilities needing improvements will be addressed.

Walla Walla ACAC will be asked to take the lead on providing education and information on possible solutions to improve Walla Walla Valley's Accessibility. Reports will be submitted either quarterly or semi-annually.

**Question #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?**

# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

## List of Brainstorming Ideas

- Ad valorem (tax) & available to make wildwood park more accessible.
- Caregiver support groups at SonBridge for Alzheimer's/dementia
- ALTC for family caregivers.
- Developmental Disabilities provide support for
- Qualified caregivers are not available.
- Is there adaptive class?
- Blue Mountain region trails – include in planning process.
- Include disabilities in planning process
- Lack of daycare/qualifications/more expensive
- Migrant head start – had additional targeted funding disabilities.
- Willow School has higher concentration those with disabilities.
- Are after school programs accessible?
- Connect opportunities with public schools, campfire YMCA also – knowing what is available to whom
- Leverage WWVDN as a liaison for all Walla Walla Valley services/organizations for those with disabilities.
- Maximizing of INCLUSIVE PRACTICES to utilize services of all community organizations – regardless of ability focus.
- Advocating for fully inclusive access for those with disabilities when building new facilities/remodeling existing facilities. Putting EQUITY into the equation...
- Daycare night & weekends (workforce 24/) 24 hr. opportunities
- Special training & opportunity for caregivers w/ disabled needs
- Can WWCC add education to add to CAN care incl. Spec. Needs
- Respite dollars to accompany someone to a resource
- Day care opp. For student under (birth-3) w/ spec. Needs
- Regulation changes – change current laws outdated
- Database for services to assist those w/disability
- Funding to assist in in training & opening resources: Early learning Co
- Trauma training for caregivers
- Full day for people w/ DD
- Few hours work + other activities (structured) inclusive
- Schools – education/acceptance.
- After school programs – inclusive > YMCA & campfire
- YMCA's, City Parks & Rec
- Churches
- Community education

## Team Members

Jerry Maher, Director, SEATech Skills Center  
Carla Nibler, Walla Walla Valley Disabilities Network



# Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

Tom Porter, Walla Walla Public Schools  
Cyndy Knight, Walla Walla Valley Disabilities Network  
Amelia Odeen, Voter Registration Coordinator, Walla Walla County Auditor's Office  
Libby Thompson, Director of Special Education, Walla Walla Public Schools and  
Table Leader –Connie Taylor-Randall

## Pathways for Change

**Group Report Out** - This group is forming a committee to address before and after school care. They plan to assemble all key players that can make before and after school care a reality.

They will determine the needs of the students with disabilities; identify available resources; and develop a training curriculum. A couple of known challenges needing to be addressed are toileting, social behaviors and communication needs.

An essential element for success is to develop a training program for providers and parents. In September, a pilot program will be launched to study what works in practice. The group wants to learn more about the program's limitations and gear up for the unknown challenges prior to launching the program district-wide.

Families continually contact the school district with concerns about before and after school care because of the proposed time changes for middle school next year. The group will partner with the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network (Full URL:<https://www.wwvdn.org>) to connect agencies and parents with WWVDN's resource information. WWVDN helps families from the birth of their child with a disability throughout the child's lifespan. To fully encompass the needs of families, WWVDN provides trainings, emotional support, resource referrals, disability awareness training, and social and recreational opportunities.

Their group's final goal is to explore funding opportunities with the newly formed Accessible Communities Advisory Committee.

Libby Thompson and Cyndy Knight agreed to be co-chairs. Cyndy will set the time for the 1st meeting and get it out to the committee members.

## Commitment Statements

Participants of the Leadership Breakfast were asked to complete a "Commitment Statement" – to write down what they plan to do to support the action plans developed in the meeting. Participants could either share their personal statements and/or take them home as a reminder.

Below is a list of action steps individuals shared with us.

## Walla Walla, Washington Outreach Summary

---

- Lowell Nee will plan and implement a process to begin collecting reports on businesses/locations that are not accessible or difficult to access and those that are very accessible.
- Mike Stevenson – I will be putting together a packet of WOTC information and distribute to businesses especially independent and smaller companies that may not be aware of the benefits.
- Debbie Dumont will expand training for businesses regarding OJT/apprenticeships. Allison and Deb agreed to distribute WOTC flyers to employers at 4/22 hiring event.
- Cindy Wolski will reach out to veteran groups regarding date/time and invitees and expand the inclusive work of Unity Team by inviting the DVOP.
- Jessica Rusch is interested in adopting “Access Tri- Cities”, a business recognition program sponsored by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for an October event in Walla Walla.
- Norman Thiel will investigate process for applying for funding from the ACAC.
- Carla Nibler will work closely with the committee working with schools to develop inclusive afterschool care for students with disabilities. Will get information out to all families who have children with disabilities about the opportunities for information, recreation and socialization.
- Traci McGee will work with schools, YMCA, business etc. regarding care provider services available to people with disabilities.
- Amy White, ACAC member, will address several issues over the next month but unsure if an action plan can be effective with only 30 days to complete.
- Nancy Riggle is interested in participating in work group discussions to address affordable housing issues.
- Barbara Clark will reach out to several people to encourage them to apply for membership on GCDE.