

Check out our latest newsletter!



WA State Parent to Parent (P2P) Newsletter: December 2017



Happy Holidays all. Hope you can enjoy this time of year. You are all amazing people who help families across the state in so many ways- Thank you for all you do!

Welcome back Angie Witt, new P2P Coordinator in Walla Walla and thanks for stepping in for a little while.

PS: I am not sure I mentioned but our new Programs in Clallam County (Shawnda Hicks Coordinator) and Klickitat County (PEACE organization with Donna Tiffan) are doing just great. Hosting many events and trainings and providing support to families in these very rural areas. Also, Walla Walla Valley Disability Network has contracted to provide P2P services in Columbia County this next year also. Thanks to all of you.

Trying to get Okanogan and Lincoln/Whitman P2P services in 2018 if get funding from the legislature.

Thank you to Maria Nardella, Manager for our CSHCN contract with DOH who is retiring. She has been instrumental in our involvement with health initiatives in our state and also helped provide funding to Parent to Parent programs. Send a note to Maria to thank her. We will miss her.

Take care of yourselves~~Susan and Jackie

P2P Coordinator Spotlight: Spokane County P2P

Shelly Gacusana, Coordinator - [All About Me](#)

(click on blue highlighted links for more info)...

[Email](#)

[Spokane P2P website page](#)

[P2P Facebook page](#)

Program Activities: Parent Support Group & Workshops, Parents 4 Life monthly meetings, Newsletter, Lending Library, Transition Support, Guardianship & IEP referrals, Annual Holiday Party & Summer Picnic, Annual Family Support Conference in the spring



Calendar of Events 2017...

December

12/13-12/15: [TASH Conference December 13-15, 2017 Atlanta, Georgia](#). This year's conference theme, "Still We Rise for Equity, Opportunity, and Inclusion," shows the resilience of individuals with disabilities and their families across the lifespan. Conference attendees will celebrate their passion for disability rights, civil rights, and human rights while exploring inclusive communities, schools, and workplaces that support people with disabilities, including those with complex support needs.

2018...

May

5/3-5/4: The [2018 IECC Conference](#) will be held May 2-4, 2018 in the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA with a preconference day on May 2.

July

7/1-7/8: Held in Seattle 2018- [The Special Olympics USA Games](#) more information to follow. The USA Games staff run all the events including opening ceremony - you can find all the [details here](#). Husky Stadium and tickets are \$20.

The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will be held in Seattle, Washington July 1-6, 2018. More than 4,000 athletes and coaches representing 50 state Programs and the District of Columbia, along with the support of tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators, will compete in 14 Olympic-type team and individual sports.

- [Law Enforcement Torch-run](#) representatives nationwide carry the Special Olympics Flame of Hope that will light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony (June 28th-July 1st 2018)
- [Events and Ceremonies](#)
- [View The Sports](#)



ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRAININGS

January 6, 2018 - March 24, 2018: [January Parent Leadership Training Institute](#) (PLTI) at Everett Community College.

The PLTI is a free, 11-week course centered on democracy, respect, dignity, and a belief that when parents and adults caring for children are given knowledge and skills, they will actively improve their lives and the lives of their families and communities by seeking improved financial stability and educational and job opportunities.

NEW! [The Children's Leadership Institute](#) (CLI) is the two-generation companion program to the PLTI that WA Family Engagement is proud to bring to our State. Instead of childcare, children (ages 3 to 11 years old) of parents attending in the Parent Leadership Training Institute will receive age-appropriate, literacy-based leadership classes and a book to take home -- at every session. CLI teacher training will be taking place in two weeks in Everett.

When; The PLTI begins January 6th and ends March 24th. Classes meet on Tuesdays from 6 pm to 9 pm and on Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon.

Where: Classes will be held at Everett Community College's Corporate & Continuing Education Center at 2333 Seaway Blvd, Everett.

Graduation: At the WA State Capitol

Free tuition and (no more just childcare!) The Children's Leadership Institute.

Apply now: [Registration](#)

[Visit our website and join our network.](#)



New Resources

Health Resources-First Steps newsletter health notes. [Washington State Medical Home Partnership Project Child Health Notes](#) (October 2017) First Steps Program and Special Needs Information and Resources

[The Family Voices Immigration Toolkit](#)* is a collection of documents designed to inform, empower, and assist families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and the professionals who support them to prepare for the possibility of an emergent immigration situation and/or to collect supporting documentation that accurately reflects the extent of hardship on the health and well-being of a child with SHCN if s/he or the caregiver is detained or removed. This toolkit differs from others in that it uniquely addresses and supports the needs of CYSHCN in terms of the documentation, including specific templates for doctor letters and a documentation organization checklist. (*This toolkit is not intended to be legal advice.)

[Personal Care Services](#)---"This goes for any child, regardless of immigration status. The only difference with immigration status is that once a person turns 18 they no longer qualify for Apple Health/Medicaid if they are undocumented."

[Autism & Safety Toolkit](#) -This toolkit has three parts: "[Research Overview on Autism & Safety](#)," "[Safety Tips for Self-Advocates](#)," and "[Ways for Family Members to Support the Safety of Autistic People](#)." We hope our toolkit can help you or someone you know learn more about this important issue.

[Need Child Care?](#) Child Care Aware of Washington Family Resource Center can help you explore your options. For information call: 1.800.446.1114 or 206.329.5544 or visit our website: www.childcare.org

[Need Support for Family with New Premie Baby-Graham's Foundation](#)...Contact us: 888.466.2943 Graham's Foundation delivers support, advocacy and research to improve outcomes for preemies and their families. Website: www.GrahamsFoundation.org

Gap Analysis in Support Services for families of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind and Deaf Plus Children in Washington State: The Missing Links to Parent Self-Efficacy, Involvement and Leadership- [Washington Hands & Voices](#) currently can download from website's front page.

[QUIZ FOR YOUTH: Are You Ready to Transition to Adult Health Care?](#)

With our National Young Adult Transition Advisory Group, Got Transition has created a [Youth Health Care Transition Quiz](#) for youth and young adults to find out how ready they are to transition to adult care. The quiz asks about major issues important during transition years. It also gives tips and resources to address many health care transition questions, including how to add their medical information to their smartphone, what legal changes happen at 18, and how to sign up for health insurance.

[Watch Me Grow Washington](#) is your social media avenue to get more health and safety information for your child in addition to what you get in the Child Profile Health Promotion mailings. By following the [Watch Me Grow in Washington State Facebook](#) page, you'll get information from the Department of Health on immunizations, growth and development, nutrition, and safety plus other timely information about product recalls, disease outbreaks, and more.

[Child Profile Health Promotion](#) is our state's immunization and well-child visit reminder system. The Washington State Department of Health uses the system to remind parents of upcoming well-child visits and send health and safety information to all families in the state with kids aged birth to six by mail and email. Each mailing includes age-specific, up-to-date information on immunizations, growth and development, nutrition, safety, and more. The mailings are free. The materials in the mailings are updated each year by health and safety experts with input from parents.

Creation of the [Office of the Developmental Disabilities Ombuds](#)

In 2017, Disability Rights Washington applied for and was awarded the contract to operate the Office of the Developmental Disabilities Ombuds. Work started by establishing offices for the Ombuds across the state in **Seattle, Spokane and Olympia**. Staff were hired and trained. Advisory Committee members were recruited, representing diversity across the 3 service regions and having a supermajority of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Finally, the protocols for the DD Ombuds were established and the website launched.

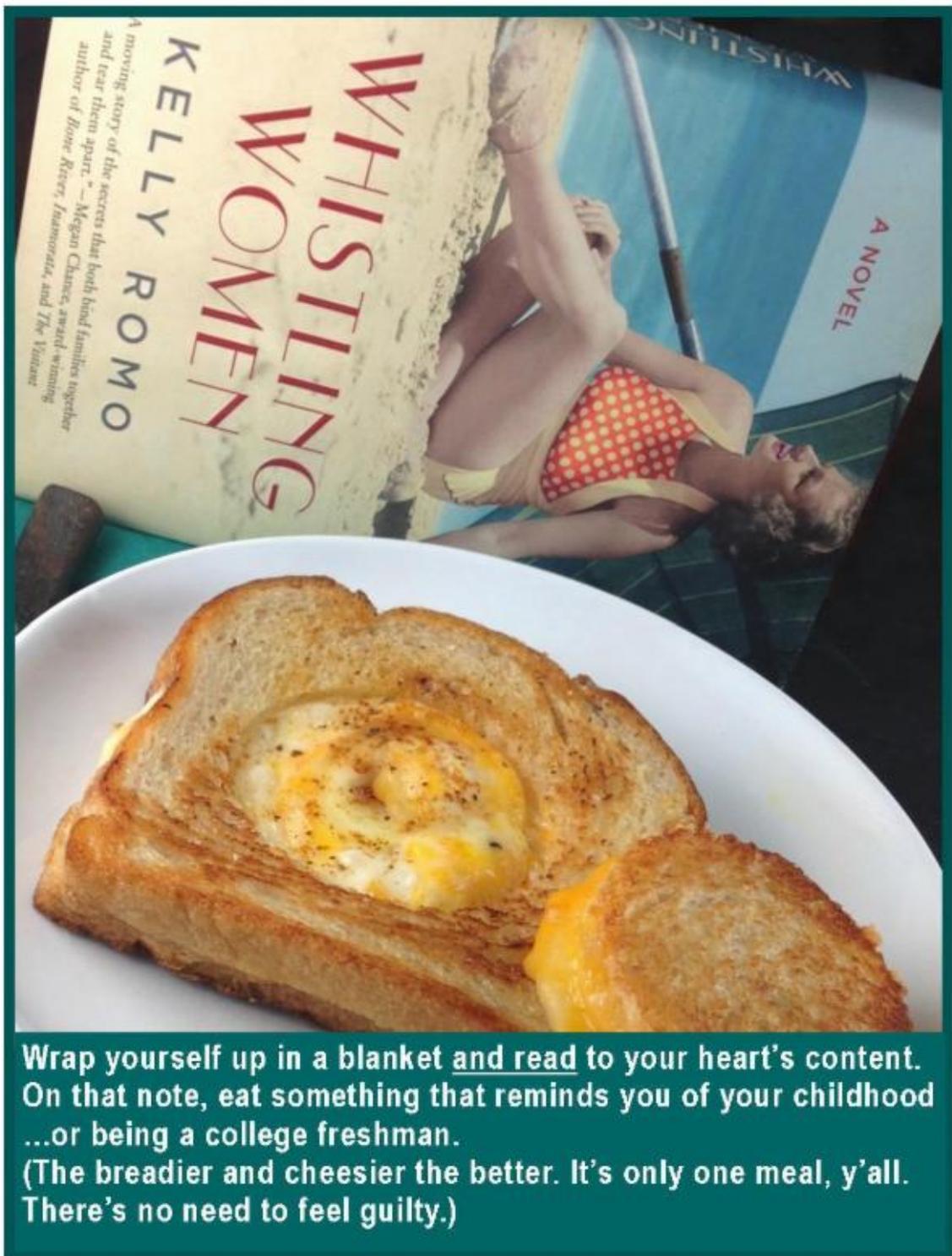
Today, the systems for collecting complaints are being refined, volunteers are being located and trained, information is being gathered to present to legislators about the state of the service system, and the places where people are in need of outreach are being found. The DD Ombuds continue to work hard to serve Individuals with developmental disabilities in Washington State. [To contact](#)

[The Power of a Good Question](#) by Sexuality Educator and Trainer Katherine McLaughlin

[Making A Holiday Impact: Three easy ways to engage the whole family in giving back.](#)

By Lauren Domino and Elaine Chu, Philanthropic Advisors

- Foster the philanthropic spirit.
- Do a family service project.
- Share stories.



Links for Archived Newsletters

(Click to read [archived past editions](#) through August 2016 of the P2P Newsletter!)

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[October 2016](#)

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parent2parentwa@gmail.com |
http://arcwa.org/index.php/getsupport/parent_to_parent_p2p_programs

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