



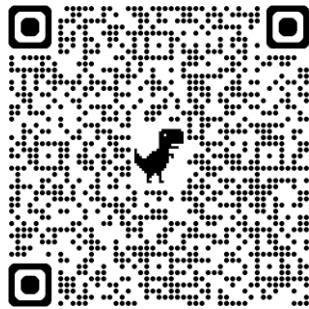
Zoom Technology Moment: Committee Members



AGENDA

- **Welcome, Intros, Agenda review**
- **Discussion: MHAD Training Toolkit**
 - *Updates on the Mental Health Advanced Directive (MHAD) Effective Implementation Workgroups and Subgroups.*
 - *Lived Experience input on MHAD training development.*
- **Future of the Lived Experience**
 - *What is CRIS?*
 - *Focus for the future.*
 - *Opportunity for co-lead meetings in future.*
- **Community Updates and Opportunities**
- **Legislative Updates**
- **Next Meeting - Mon. May 12th, 2025 1 PM - 3 PM**

To access these slides scan



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide features a close-up photograph of pink cherry blossoms. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, with some showing five distinct petals and yellow centers. The branches are dark and thin, contrasting with the soft pink of the flowers. The background is a light, out-of-focus white and pink.

2025 Meetings, Mondays 1-3 PM

- **May 12th**
- **June 9th**
- **July 14th**
- **August 11th**
- **September 8th**
- **October 13th**
- **November 10th**
- **December 8th**

*** Information on how to join the meeting will be sent out one week in advance of each meeting, as well as posted to the HCA Website.**



Comfort Agreement

What are the guidelines we want to agree to for how this meeting will run?

What do you need in order to feel comfortable engaging in discussions in this space?



Mental Health Advanced Directives: Request for Input on Training Toolkit

Lived Experience Meeting

April 14, 2025

HEALTH
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATES

**Mental Health Advance Directive (MHAD)
Effective Implementation Work Group***

Role: Develop recommendations for the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2025
for the effective implementation of MHADs in Washington.

**Document Storage
Subgroup**

Role: Inform the recommendations of the Work
Group on a reliable, standardized, and
accessible method for MHAD document
creation, storage, and sharing.

**Training for Document Creation and Utilization
Subgroup**

Role: Develop and pilot training toolkit to
support MHAD document creation and
utilization.

**Established Senate Bill 5660 (2023)*

Mental Health Advanced Directive Work Group Members

INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

[Maame Bassaw](#)

[Von-Na Chism](#)

[Elizabeta Wadsack](#)

[Julia Alexandra Miriam Evans Bell](#)

[Ruth Payne](#)

[Ralph Casillas](#)

EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE

[Sandra Mena-Tyree](#), Washington Health Care Authority

988 LIFELINE CRISIS CENTERS

[Christine Atienza](#), Crisis Connections

[Erin Whitney](#),
Volunteers of America Western Washington

[Sara Schumacher](#), Frontier Behavioral Health

TECHNICAL REPOSITORIES EXPERT

[Chris Baumgartner](#), Washington State Department of Health

[Dr. Chris Chen](#), Washington Health Care Authority

CHAD'S LEGACY PROJECT

[Todd Crooks](#), Executive Director/Co-Founder, Chad's Legacy Project

EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONDERS

[Katy Gilbert](#), Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

[Shaun Ford](#), Camas-Washougal Fire Department/ WA Fire Chiefs Association

DESIGNATED CRISIS RESPONDERS

[Melissa Jackson](#), WA Designated Crisis Responder Association

HCA BH AND RECOVERY DIVISION

[Jamie Framke](#), Washington Health Care Authority

[Julie Brown](#), Washington Health Care Authority

EXPERT IN HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND LAW

[Jennifer Piel, MD, JD](#), Center for Mental Health, Policy, and the Law, UW Medicine

[Elizabeth Perry](#), Health Equity Consultant Equity Is. Consulting

PEER ADVOCACY COMMUNITY

[Gail Kogle](#), Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy (OBHA)

[Stephanie Lane](#), Peer Washington

[Michelle Tinkler](#), Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy (OBHA)

[Cindy Adams](#), Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization

INPATIENT HOSPITALS

[Dr. Alysha Thompson](#), Seattle Children's

WASHINGTON STATE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

[Brittany Weiner](#), Washington State Hospital Association

CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM

[Julie Rogers](#), Poulsbo Fire

LICENSED OR CERTIFIED BH AGENCIES

[Karen Thomason](#), Frontier Behavioral Health

[Julia Bradley](#), Comprehensive Health Resources

[Kathryn Felix](#), Kitsap Mental Health Services

[Laura Crooks](#), Yakima Children's Village

DISABILITY RIGHTS WASHINGTON

[Chloe Merino](#), Disability Rights Washington

NAMI WASHINGTON

[Anna Nepomuceno](#), NAMI Washington

WASHINGTON COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

[Olivia Shangrow](#), Washington Council for Behavioral Health

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[Mark Sullivan](#), Washington Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

[Hillary Norris](#), Policy Analyst, Washington State Medical Association

Full Trainings:

- Mental Health Advanced Directives 101: Understanding, Supporting, Thriving
- Compassionate Conversations: Facilitating the Completion of Mental Health Advance Directives
- Crisis Prevention and Intervention: Leveraging the Mental Health Advance Directive
- Agents for Mental Health Decisions: Best Practices in Supporting Mental Health Advance Directives
- The Role of Healthcare Providers in Implementing Mental Health Advance Directives
- Mental Health Advance Directives, Treatment, and Transition Planning

Flash Trainings:

Mental Health Advanced Directives 101 - Audience: All

One-Pagers:

Mental Health Advanced Directives 101 - Audience: All

Audiences

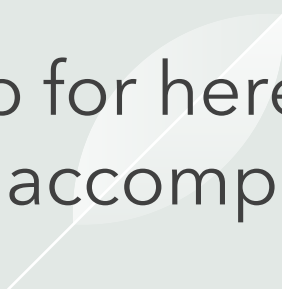
- Persons interested in having a MHAD
- Persons helping facilitate completion of a MHAD
- MHAD Agents
- Persons with Lived Experience
- Family Members of persons with Mental Health concerns
- Health Professionals/Care Providers
- First Responders
- Certified Peer Specialist/Peer Supporter

- 1. What knowledge or skills do you think people (providers, individuals, or families) need in order to understand or use MHADs effectively?**
- 2. What groups (e.g., providers, clients, families, caregivers) would most benefit from training on MHADs?**
- 3. What types of training materials or formats are most useful to you? (e.g., videos, written guides, scenarios, role plays, webinars)**
- 4. What does success look like for this training from your perspective?**
- 5. What's one thing we haven't asked that you think is important when designing a training on MHADs?**



CRIS Lived Experience Collaborative

CRIS LINK

- This is a community space, it belongs to you.
 - We no longer have a specific charge or task from the CRIS, we get to define our own purpose.
 - What are the things you show up for here?
 - What are the things you want to accomplish in this space?
- 



Community

- * Resources

- * Information

- * Opportunities





EASTERN WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Scan to Register
Or Register Online

GUIDING LIGHT: IGNITING THE LEADER WITHIN

WWW.PEERSEMPOWEPEERS.COM



JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRING DAY OF
CONNECTION, EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION!

THIS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IS A SPACE FOR ALL PEERS—INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE—WHO WANT TO COME TOGETHER TO UNITE AND UPLIFT ONE ANOTHER. BY EMBRACING THE POWER OF OUR INNER LEADER AND LEADING FROM WHERE WE ARE, WE CAN TRANSFORM NOT ONLY OUR OWN LIVES BUT ALSO THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND US. TOGETHER, WE’LL EXPLORE HOW EVERY VOICE HAS THE POWER TO SPARK POSITIVE CHANGE AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

TOGETHER LET’S LEAD, GROW AND MAKE A
MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE!

APRIL 26TH, 2025
10:00AM - 4:00PM
ELLENSBURG, WA





YOU ARE A LEADER!

WESTSIDE LEADERSHIP EVENT

THE RIPPLE EFFECT: USING YOUR STORY TO DRIVE CHANGE

APRIL 26TH, 9:30-4:00

This event is for individuals that have dealt with big life challenges. Join us for an inspiring and empowering day filled with speakers, resources, & fun prizes! Learn how to use your story to drive social change.

Our Peer Leader Speakers



GENE TAGABAN
"ONE CRAZY RAVEN"
Storyteller and Facilitator of Healing



MARY LAMBERT
Grammy nominated Singer and Advocate



TELA ROSE
Advocate and Teacher



EBO BARTON
Poet and Director of Lavender Rights Project



CATERING BY
www.natoncksmetsu.com



ANDREA ANDERSON
CEO Girl Scouts of Western Washington

More Information

THE DETAILS



BALLARD HOMESTEAD

REGISTRATION

THERAINBOWMAKERS.ORG


The Rainbow Makers



Health Care Authority
Community Voices and Empowerment

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

HOSTED BY THE RAINBOW MAKERS

Bringing Family Lived Experience To You

April 1st, 2025 | Volume 3, Issue 6

NFF News and Highlights

[Register for the 2025 NFF Conference](#)

Chicago, November 13th-15th, 2025

[Children's Mental Health ACTION Week](#)

May 4th-10th, 2025

NFSTAC News and Highlights

[Family Connections: Family-Led Crisis Planning](#)

April 3rd, 1:30 p.m. ET



[Office Hour: Medicaid Billing for Family Peer Support](#)

April 8th, 3:00 p.m. ET

[Webinar: Supporting your Loved Ones with Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder in Addressing Tobacco Use - The Role of Families and Family Peers](#)

April 16th, 2:00 p.m. ET

[Family Collective Podcast: Families Traveling the Journey of Recovery](#)

[NFSTAC Resources](#)

Legislative & Advocacy News

[H.R. 3669: Expanding Student Access to Mental Health Services Act](#)

[Secretary Kennedy Renews Public Health Emergency Declaration to Address National Opioid Crisis](#)

April Advocacy Resources

Note from the Executive Director

Children's Mental Health

ACTION Week 2025

We moved from raising awareness about children's mental health to working toward acceptance of children's mental health in 2022. This year, we're celebrating **Children's Mental Health ACTION Week** (CMHAW) from May 4th - 10th, 2025! We're encouraging affiliates, partners, and collaborators to focus on Wellness, Resilience, Action, and Purpose this year. Read more about how you can get involved below!

NFSTAC has a busy April planned with events to support families in planning for crises, family-run organizations in becoming Medicaid service providers, and family peers in supporting families' smoking cessation journeys. We also have an excellent new episode of our Family Collective podcast with CARS's Annie Powell about how the new technical assistance center supports families' recovery journeys.

April Advocacy Resources

[National Alcohol Awareness Month](#)

[National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

Events and Resources

[CRS-TTAC's Workforce Wellness Series: Stress and Burnout in the Crisis Workforce](#)

April 3rd, 2:00 p.m. ET

[MHA's Community-Driven Approach: Clinicians, Healers, and Healing Hubs](#)

April 7th, 4:00 p.m. ET

[PACER Center's Effective Communication When Addressing Bullying](#)

April 9th, 1:00 p.m. ET

[MHA's Community-Driven Approach: Effective Programming to Support Those Affected by a Death by Suicide](#)

April 21st, 2:00 p.m. ET

new technical assistance center supports families' recovery journeys.

Get ready for another amazing CMHAW taking action to inspire meaningful positive change for yourself, for your community, and for the children and youth in your life!



Lynda Gargan, PhD

Executive Director, National Federation of Families

[NTTAC's Family Exchange: Peer Networking for Family Leaders who Foster and Support Family Engagement](#)

April 30th, 3:00 p.m. ET

[Youth Move National Peer Center and Be Strong Families's Family Engagement & Support in Youth Mental Health Services](#)

[inseparable's School Mental Health: Policies to Improve Student Wellbeing](#)

[NEW Center for Mental Health Implementation Support](#)

[The Council of State Governments' Justice Center's Collaborating for Youth and Public Safety Initiative](#)

[HRSA's Talking to Families Using Telehealth for Children with Special Needs](#)

[Gallup's Poll Pandemic Hurt Children's Social Skills and Mental Health Most](#)

NFF ANNUAL CONFERENCE



NOVEMBER 13TH - 15TH, 2025

HYATT REGENCY CHICAGO

LEARN MORE

www.ffcmh.org/2025-conference



We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to [register](#) for the conference so you don't miss valuable breakout sessions, inspiring keynote speakers, the chance to connect with family members across the country, and opportunities to network and promote your organization's program and support services.

[Register to Attend](#)



We're gearing up to return to **Chicago, IL** for our **2025 Annual Conference** this **November**. Our team is thrilled with the quality of presentations we received and is looking forward to being together again. There is nothing quite like it!

Spending time with families who share similar lived experiences, seeing our affiliates and partners, hearing from parents/caregivers and professionals, **connecting and learning together** is what we look forward to each fall. Every year the conference **renews our spirit, our commitment, and our passion** and gives us new insights, skills, and tools to continue working on behalf of all families - including our own

- throughout the year.



Our 2025 Conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. We have a limited number of discounted hotel rooms available at the NFF Conference block rate of \$209/night (excluding tax).

The block rate is also available for 3 days prior and 3 days after our conference dates. Once these rooms in our block are gone, the discounted rate ends.

[RESERVATION LINK](#)

[Conference Website](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago, IL this November!



Washington State Community Connectors Coach Approach training schedule is now available

The goal of this training is to create better communication between families, youth, and the system partners who serve them.

The free, 16-hour workshop is designed to:

- Deepen critical thinking skills
- Offer strategies that help you empower others
- Improve the clarity and effectiveness of your communication
- Enable you to build strong collaboration and a culture of high accountability
- Equip you to bring a coach approach into day-to-day interactions

Training details

Each 4-day session goes from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday and Thursday, April 22 to May 1**
Tuesday, April 22
Thursday, April 24
Tuesday, April 29
Thursday, May 1
[Register](#)
- **Tuesday and Thursday, May 20 to May 29**
Tuesday, May 20
Thursday, May 22
Tuesday, May 27
Thursday, May 29
[Register](#)



A Note from the Director

Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is a day of celebration. An opportunity to honor the contributions, talents, rich diversity, and beauty within the trans, nonbinary, and gender queer community. The LGBTQIA+ movement is built off the labor and sacrifices of Black and Brown trans women. TDOV is a chance for all of us to celebrate joy and progress.

TDOV is a special day for my own family. On this day ten years ago, our family publicly announced our daughter's beginning of her trans journey. One that didn't start on that TDOV but was a day to claim joy and celebration for all of who our daughter is and will become. TDOV invites us to pause and give flowers of love and appreciation to cherished members of this community. People who have profoundly changed and impacted my life and continue to do so. Individuals who have been some of my greatest and most compassionate mentors. I love Trans Day of Visibility because I get to unapologetically celebrate the contributions of trans and nonbinary folx.



I was thrilled to start the day by attending a historic event by the City of Tacoma Monday morning. The trans pride flag was raised on the Tacoma Dome for the first time. Oliver Webb, from [Diversity Alliance of the Puget Sound](#), partnered with Tacoma City Council member Olgy Diaz and the City of Tacoma to make history while surrounded by leaders from all across the city. It was a joyous moment that was

born from a years-long partnership between trans leaders, community and city leaders rooted in a commitment to bettering the lives of trans individuals of all ages. (Image courtesy of City of Tacoma).

In the afternoon, Senators Manka Dhingra and Claire Wilson presented [Senate Resolution 8642](#), a Transgender Day of Visibility Resolution. The Senate took this opportunity to publicly demonstrate their commitment to protecting the lives of trans, nonbinary, and gender diverse Washingtonians. [Watch on TVW here.](#)

In Senator Manka Dhingra opening remarks, she shared, "Transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse people are a part of every community in our state. They are our friends, our family members, our neighbors, and colleagues. And they too deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. The trans community has been here for centuries. In the face of discrimination and hate they continue to fight for their rights. They have been at the forefront of the queer movement from the very beginning. And they are a community of resilience, strength, and inspiration... nobody who calls Washington home should live in fear for who they are, how they identify, who they love, or where they come from."

Senator Claire Wilson said, "We are celebrating the lives, the contributions, and the joy of my trans brothers, sisters, and siblings from across Washington state. The transgender community has a rich and diverse history and has been at the forefront of the queer liberation movement since the Stonewall riots... we'll continue to fight to protect our trans neighbors, our trans elders, our trans children, youth and emerging adults, and their families. To ensure that Washington remains a safe place for all to live, for all to thrive, and for all to be their true selves."

In closing, Senator Marko Liias shared the importance of bringing in trans voices. In reading one quote from one of Senator Liias' constituents, he read, "I worry on a daily basis about my future ability to live a normal, safe, and unremarkable life in this country. Having regular access to hormone treatments is a necessary part of living that life." As their senator, I am pleased and honored to represent them."

Moments like each of these come from relationships, whether personal, professional, or within our communities. Through the leadership of and the relationships with trans people, progress is made. As Senator Wilson proclaimed in her remarks about the trans community, *"They were resilient in the past and refused to be erased. They will continue to be resilient and refused to be erased. We will continue to be resilient and refuse to be erased."*

COMMISSION NEWS

Apply to be a Washington State LGBTQ Commissioner Today!

JOIN US!

**OPEN
COMMISSIONER
POSITIONS:
APPLY
NOW!**



Are you interested in helping shape public policy
for 2SLGBTQIA+ Washingtonians?

Head to our website to see more information about
qualifications and how to apply to be on the Commission!

LGBTQ.WA.GOV

We accomplish the work of to improving the state's interface with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and intersex community by listening and engaging our community throughout the state with the support of 15 individuals, appointed by the Governor, to serve for a three-year term as Commissioners.

If you are a resident of Washington, over 18 years old, and who identifies within the LGBTQ and Two Spirit community, you qualify to serve as a Commissioner!

Everyone is welcome to apply, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Washingtonians with expertise or lived experience in these areas are particularly encouraged to apply:

- Rural communities and cities and towns outside of the I-5 corridor
- Older 2SLGBTQIA+ people
- LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit members of Tribal Nations

- Disabled and neurodivergent 2SLGBTQIA+ people
- Active military servicepeople, veterans, or spouses
- Small business owners and entrepreneurs
- 2SLGBTQIA+ people of mixed, Desi, Black, Latina/o/x, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander racial and ethnic identities

If you are interested in being considered to serve as an appointed Commissioner, please fill out [this application form](#) found on the Governor's Office of Boards and Commission's website or click the image to your right. You can also nominate others to be considered. If you have applied in the past, were not selected, but want to be considered again, please fill out a new application. There is no application deadline, applications will be considered on a rolling basis with final recommendations submitted in June. If you are interested, we encourage you to apply as fast as possible!

We are looking for people who understand the challenges facing the LGBTQ in Washington today, who are interested in shaping policy to support LGBTQ Washingtonians, and who can really commit to being present to advocate with and for the community. The WA State LGBTQ Commission offers stipends for qualified, appointed Commissioners according to the Community Compensation guidelines adopted by the Office of Equity which can be [found here](#).

If you have any questions about the Commissioner application process, please reach out to contact@lgbtq.wa.gov and a member of our staff will connect with you.

APPLY HERE!



Pride Across Washington: Let Us Know About Your Pride Events!

We are quickly approaching pride season! We are so lucky in our state to have SO many communities that celebrate pride every year, and every year there are more and more events that celebrate and uplift the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Each year, the Washington State LGBTQ Commission compiles a list of all of the different pride parades, festivals, and events happening across Washington for our Pride Across Washington series. We feature them on our [Events Calendar](#) on our website, and across our social media platforms. If you have a pride event that you would like to have featured on our website, please fill out [this form](#).

We are excited to see you around pride this year!





We are proud to feature articles written by our LGBTQ Youth Advisory Councilmembers. Want to learn more about the council? Head to www.lgbtq.wa.gov/YAC!

Human Rights Youth Rally Recap

Ling Lomanog (they/them/she) - Kitsap County

There is a [Human Rights Youth Rally](#) that takes place every year on Olympic collage. I had done presentations in years prior, and this year I did a breakout session on "How To Advocate for LGBTQ+ Rights On A Political Level". There I went into some of the worries that the 2SLGBTQIA+ community recently have and gave them a safe place to talk. We presented on how to contact your legislator and other ways to get involved in you community and state. There was about 27 people that attended the breakout session. The Rally itself was a great place to network and meet other people and advocates. There was advocates on food insecurity, diversity, education, LGBTQ+, disability, and so much more.

2SLGBTQIA Movie Recommendations

Emma Blue Esquivel (any pronouns) - Whatcom County




Councilmember Esquivel compiled the following list of some of their favorite and classic 2SLGBTQIA+ movies. Some of these movies contain sensitive subjects and themes, viewer discretion is advised. Please do your research prior to watching potentially triggering material.

- Blow Dry (2001) directed by Paddy Breathnach - "A woman wants to enter a hair competition to rebuild her relationship with her son and ex-husband who won't talk to her after she came out as a lesbian and began a relationship with the husband's ex-hair model"
- Bottoms (2023) directed by Emma Seligman - "Lesbian fight club but more funny"
- Love Lies Bleeding (2024) directed by Rose Glass - "Lesbian body builders fight for their love and fight some bad guys doing bad things"
- The Bird Cage (1996) directed by Mike Nichols - "Gay men who run a drag club, one is a drag queen"
- Mysterious Skin (2004) directed by Gregg Araki - "Troubled gay teens try and fight through childhood trauma to find out the truth (TW: mentions of sexual abuse)"
- But I'm a Cheerleader (1999) directed by Jamie Babbit - "a cheerleader is sent to the worlds gayest conversion camp and discovers her own sexuality and fights to get out"
- Paris is Burning (1990) directed by Jennie Livingston - "A queer classic. A documentary about the gay ballroom scene"



LGBTQ+ Veteran Ally Workshops



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS LGBTQ+ VETERANS PROGRAM

LGBTQ+ Veteran Allyship Workshops

YOUR Washington Department of Veterans Affairs is offering no-cost workshops as part of the LGBTQ+ Veteran Ally Program. The workshops are interactive sessions that prepare veteran service providers with information to better serve LGBTQ+ veterans and their family members.

Workshop Information

The Ally Program consists of 3 workshops:

1. The LGBTQ+ Veteran Experience and LGBTQ+ Military History
2. LGBTQ+ Program, Definition of Veteran, and Correcting Errors or Injustices
3. Inclusive Practices

Upon completing all 3 workshops, you will be recognized as an Ally for LGBTQ+ veterans. Someone that is committed to observing inclusive practices and providing a safe space to serve LGBTQ+ Veterans with dignity and respect. Your name/agency will be added to a resource list that veterans and other service providers can access on the WDVA

Dates And Registration

Multiple dates are available in March, April, and May 2025

<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/27572>

Space is limited. Register today!

Questions? Contact Robin Lang at robin.lang@dva.wa.gov

Join the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs for the LGBTQ+ Veteran Allyship Workshop Series!

YOUR Washington Department of Veterans Affairs LGBTQ+ Veterans Program is offering no-cost workshops as part of the Ally Program. These are interactive sessions that prepare veteran service providers with information to better serve LGBTQ+ veterans and family members. The program consists of 3 workshops:

- The LGBTQ+ Veteran Experience and LGBTQ+ Military History
- LGBTQ+ Program, Definition of Veteran, and Correcting Errors or Injustices

- Inclusive Practices

Register now: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=27572> As a reminder, the state's definition of a Veteran has also been expanded to increase access to state benefits, learn more at: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/definition-veteran>

Queer & Trans Trade Career Fair

Job-seekers, aspiring trade-workers, and community-members-We're overjoyed to invite you to the Queer & Trans Trade Career Fair, taking place on April 13th from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Peer Seattle (1520 Bellevue Ave, Ste 100, Seattle, WA). The event will be held across two large open rooms, featuring dozens of tables hosted by unions, employers, and community organizations eager to connect with LGBTQ workers interested in their organizations and services. Please feel free to reach out to Peer Seattle's Housing/Employment Program Manager, Rosa (rosalita@peerseattle.org) with any questions regarding the event!

LGBTQ+ TRADE CAREER FAIR

CENTERING TRANS & GENDER NON-CONFORMING TALENT, OPEN TO ALL

THIS FREE EVENT CONNECTS ATTENDEES WITH LOCAL UNIONS, TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, EMPLOYERS, & OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS. EXPLORE A DIVERSE RANGE OF UNIONS ACROSS INDUSTRIES, FROM CONSTRUCTION AND CLERICAL TO HOSPITALITY AND BEYOND!

**APRIL 13TH
4 - 7:30 PM**
AT PEER SEATTLE



PEER SEATTLE
HOPE - RECOVERY - PRIDE

PEERSEATTLE.ORG
1520 BELLEVUE AVE STE 100 SEATTLE WA | 206-322-2437



Washington State Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment - Disability Townhall Meeting

GCDE

The Washington State Governor's Committee
on Disability Issues and Employment presents:
(in partnership with Disability Action Center & People First of Washington)



DISABILITY TOWN HALL HYBRID MEETING

WHERE: In-person or virtual on Zoom
Spokane City Council Chambers, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Ste. 332, Spokane, WA 99201

DATE: Thursday, April 17, 2025

TIME: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

BUS: Spokane Transit Authority (STA),
(509) 325-6000/509-328-1552 (Paratransit).
Please let us know if transport is an issue for you.

Improve the lives of Spokane County residents who experience disabilities.
Attend the Disability Town Hall Meeting to discuss:

- Issues affecting people who experience disabilities, their families, and advocates
- Accessible housing, transportation, and school-to-work transition
- Employment opportunities, services for people who experience disabilities, and physical access to the built environment
- Local success stories and your ideas for positive change

Announcements

Opportunities to inform the prenatal through age 25 (P-25) Behavioral Health Strategic Plan

Join the Health Care Authority (HCA) P-25 Section at an upcoming discussion group meeting to inform the development of a strategic plan for P-25 behavioral health.

Discussion group sessions provide opportunities for anyone across the state to engage in the process by learning about project updates, providing feedback on project materials and outputs, and sharing unique perspectives to support the development of the P-25 Behavioral Health Strategic Plan.

Upcoming discussion group meetings

- [Youth and young adults: Wednesday, April 2, 4 to 5:30 p.m.](#) (rescheduled)
- [Youth and young adults: Monday, April 21, 4 to 5:30 p.m.](#)
- [System partners: Thursday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.](#)
- [Parents and caregivers: Thursday, April 24, 2 to 3:30 p.m.](#)

For more information and opportunities to get involved, view the [full announcement](#) on The Athena Forum.

Monday, April 14 webinar: New *Friends for Life* overdose prevention materials and Take Back Day resources

The [Friends for Life](#) and [Starts with One](#) overdose and opioid misuse prevention campaigns are hosting a joint webinar on Monday, April 14, 2025, 11 a.m. to noon.

Attend this online event to learn about:

- New medications for opioid use disorder treatment and recovery materials and additional resources to help older teens and young adults keep themselves and friends safe from overdose. These new materials were developed recently as part of the *Friends for Life* fentanyl and naloxone

education campaign.

- Resources to promote Prescription Drug Take Back Day (Saturday, April 26) and safe medication disposal in your community. The [toolkit](#) includes ready-to-use ads, posters, social media content, and other localizable materials and information.

The first part of the webinar (11 to 11:30 a.m.) will focus on *Friends for Life*, and the last section (11:30 a.m. to noon) will cover Take Back Day tools.

[Register for the webinar](#). Questions? [Email Mariah Johnson](#).

April's National Drug Take Back Day is coming up!

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Drug Take Back (NDTB) Day is coming up on **Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** NDTB day is a free, safe, anonymous, and convenient way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs and prevent opioid and prescription medication misuse in your community!

In October 2024, 66 collection sites across Washington collected a combined total of 5,736 tons of unused prescription medications! Don't miss your opportunity to get involved in this month's Take Back Day and make a difference.

How to participate

- **Host a Take Back Day collection event in coordination with a local law enforcement agency.**
 - The partnering law enforcement agency must complete the April NDTB Day registration form and email it to the [DEA](#).
- **Dispose of unused or expired medication or volunteer at a Take Back Day collection event near you!** Visit the DEA's [Collection Site Locator page](#) and enter your location information.
 - Unable to attend? Visit [WA's safe medication return \(SMR\) website](#) to find a permanent safe disposal kiosk or location near you!
- **Help spread the word about Take Back Day!** Consider sharing education and awareness resources from HCA's *Starts with One* campaign [safe disposal toolkit](#), HCA's *Friends for Life* campaign [prevention partners toolkit](#), and/or DEA's [NDTB Day partnership toolbox](#).

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month

National Alcohol Awareness Month is observed annually in April to increase public awareness about alcohol use disorder and the adverse impacts of alcohol misuse on individuals, families, and communities.

According to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), more than 178,000 people die each year from excessive alcohol use. This includes alcohol-related deaths from chronic conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, and liver disease, as well as alcohol-related deaths from binge drinking or drinking too much on one occasion, including vehicle crashes and alcohol poisonings. Alcohol remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in the U.S.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Surgeon General published an advisory, [Alcohol and Cancer Risk](#), recognizing the link between alcohol consumption and increased risk for at least seven different types of cancer - mouth, throat, larynx, esophagus, breast, liver, colon and rectum. [Shareable resources](#) are available to help spread the word!

Alcohol Awareness Toolkit: #ProofsInTheNumbers

In honor of National Alcohol Awareness Month, the [Northwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center](#) launched an alcohol awareness toolkit, [#ProofsInTheNumbers](#), to raise awareness about alcohol-related harms and the importance of alcohol policies. The toolkit includes weekly themed social media shareables, a policy analysis worksheet, legislator letter templates, and more!

For additional alcohol education and awareness resources, check out the [full announcement](#) on The Athena Forum.

Important update: DBHR's 2025 Spring Youth Forum

Thank you for your patience as we considered all possible avenues for hosting this year's Spring Youth Forum. As the tentative event date approaches, we continue to navigate obstacles on several fronts. Given this, it will not be possible to host an in-person conference this year. We understand how disappointing this decision is, especially for all the youth across the state that have done incredible work to plan and implement prevention projects.

HCA would still like to recognize youth for their hard work, and we encourage youth to continue implementing projects in their communities. While we do not anticipate holding a formal competition, we are looking for meaningful ways to recognize youth who have planned and implemented prevention projects locally, in a virtual setting. **We welcome [suggestions and feedback via email](#) on meaningful ideas to recognize youth by Friday, April 4.**

Please continue to hold Wednesday, May 7 on your calendars as we develop a plan to recognize youth. Thank you for all that you do to make Washington a healthy place for children, youth, and families.

Dedicated Cannabis Account (DCA) scholarship update

The DCA scholarship was established to provide registration fees to prevention providers. Unfortunately, at this time we have decided to pause accepting and processing applications until further notice. Scholarship information and the application form have been archived on [The Athena Forum](#).

We are hopeful that we can resume in the future and will send out notice if/when we are able to reopen the scholarship. Visit our [funding opportunities page](#) for information about current internal and external funding opportunities.



The 2025 Washington State Prevention Awards of Excellence nomination survey will be available soon!

Each year at the [Prevention Summit](#), professionals, community members, youth, and coalitions are recognized for their exemplary contributions to substance misuse prevention, problem gambling prevention, mental health promotion and the health of their communities.

The Prevention Awards of Excellence goals are to:

- Identify superior substance use disorder prevention, problem gambling prevention, suicide prevention, violence prevention and mental health promotion programs with exceptional outcomes that can be adopted or adapted by others;
- Recognize outstanding community partners, including youth engaged in prevention efforts as well as honoring Tribal and Urban Indian work in prevention; and
- Focus statewide attention on exceptional prevention work.

Are you interested in nominating someone who has made an impact in your community? **The nomination survey for the 2025 awards will be available soon and remain open through Thursday, July 17.** Please note, nominations are only accepted via this survey.

For more information, please review the [2025 Prevention Awards of Excellence page](#) on The Athena Forum.

Powered by hope, Strengthened by prevention

In April, we recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Every action that strengthens families helps prevent abuse and creates a nurturing environment for children to thrive in Washington. Whether it's a parent spending quality time with their child, a childcare provider offering support and resources, or a neighbor providing a meal to reduce family stress, small actions make a big difference.

This month, we are excited to share important events, resources, and training opportunities designed to support families and advance child abuse prevention efforts across Washington State. Read on to learn how you can get involved, access valuable tools, and make a lasting impact in your community.

In this issue

- [Strengthening Families Washington](#)
- [Announcements, events, trainings](#)
- [Services for parents, caregivers, and youth](#)
- [Raise your hand and be part of the change](#)
- [Stay informed](#)

Strengthening Families Washington

[Strengthening Families Washington](#), a program within the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), is dedicated to empowering families and strengthening communities through a variety of strategies. The program focuses on **five key protective factors** that help reduce child abuse and neglect:

- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Building social connections
- Cultivating parental resilience
- Providing concrete support in times of need
- Enhancing children's social and emotional competence through nurturing and attachment



By sharing valuable information with families, childcare professionals, and others who work with children, Strengthening Families Washington helps foster these protective factors, creating stronger families and environments that support healthy child and youth development.

Approach

They believe in partnering with families and caregivers and encourage leadership and collaboration in all aspects of their work. Strengthening Families Washington supports families through various initiatives, including:

- Home visiting programs that provide support and guidance to families
- Community outreach and partnerships to strengthen family networks
- Funding opportunities for local organizations working to support families

Get Involved

If you're interested in opportunities to collaborate with Strengthening Families Washington, or want to learn more about our programs, please contact [Strengthening Families](#).

Announcements, events, trainings

Child Abuse Prevention month toolkit

To celebrate and spread awareness about Child Abuse Prevention month, DCYF has a variety of free items available for distribution throughout the state. This includes a prevention month [coloring page](#), [Strengthening Families coloring book](#), [Strengthening Families Washington activity pack](#), and the [What makes a hero coloring book](#), stickers, poster kits, and temporary tattoos.

Contact DCYF for more information

Pinwheels for prevention campaign

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will [plant approximately 15,000 blue pinwheels](#) across Washington State. These pinwheels represent the joy and innocence of childhood and serve as a visual reminder of the importance of child abuse prevention.

- Date: Throughout April

Pinwheels are available

Protecting your children: Internet safety training

Offered by the Children's Advocacy Center of Pierce County, this training aims to educate parents and caregivers on strategies to protect children from online exploitation and abuse.

- Date: April 9, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Location: South Hill Piercy County Library

Register

Five days of action

Organized by the YMCA, this week-long campaign is designed to raise awareness and inspire adults to take action to protect children from sexual abuse. The campaign provides resources and encourages community participation in child protection efforts.

- Date: April 21-25

Learn more

Victim advocate roundtable

Hosted by the [Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington](#), this roundtable is open to victim advocates working with Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multi-disciplinary Teams (MDTs) in Washington State. It provides a supportive space to network, share experiences, and discuss best practices in supporting child abuse victims.

- Date: April 30, 11 a.m. to noon

Register



Services for parents, caregivers, and youth

The RUBI Autism Network

Research Units in Behavioral Intervention (RUBI) is a parent training program that is an evidence-based, outpatient program designed to help parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities.

[Learn more](#)

Family Reconciliation Service (FRS)

Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) is a voluntary program serving runaway adolescents and youth who are in conflict with their families. The program targets adolescents between the ages of 12 through 17. FRS services are meant to resolve crisis situations and prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement. They are not long-term services.

[Learn more](#)

Family Voluntary Services (FVS)

Family Voluntary Services (FVS) is a program which allows parents and guardians to engage voluntarily in services that improve their protective capacities to meet the safety, health, and well-being needs of children and youth.

[Learn more](#)

PSYCHOSIS CARE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

<https://registration.socio.events/e/pc25>



Don't miss out: Register for the 2025 Psychosis CARE virtual conference

A reminder—registration is still open for the 2025 Psychosis CARE virtual conference happening April 29–30, 2025.

- **Dates:** April 29–30, 2025
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day

This virtual event is a unique opportunity to learn from experts, connect with peers, and explore valuable resources related to psychosis care.

Topics include:

- Early identification of psychosis
- Support strategies and resources
- Psychosis care services available in Washington State

Whether you're a provider, educator, family member, or someone with lived experience, there's something for everyone.

Register today to reserve your spot!



Join the "Understanding" training series for children and youth behavioral health

Health Care Authority (HCA) is sending this message on behalf of Washington Community Connectors.

Join the "Understanding" training series, designed to provide an overview of key topics relevant to the children and youth behavioral health community, all explained in family-friendly language.

This series includes six virtual 2-hour trainings, hosted by Washington State Community Connectors (WSCC). Sessions are available every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. from March 4 to April 8, and every other Friday at 11:30 a.m. from March 7 to May 16.

You can choose to attend any or all topics!

Training Topics

Training topics

- Understanding the Zone of Usefulness
- Understanding WISe and Wraparound
- Understanding Family Initiated Treatment (FIT) and Rickey's Law
- Understanding the Trauma Informed Approach
- Understanding the System of Care
- Understanding Sexual Orientations, Gender Identity, and Expression

[Fri 11.30 am trainings](#)

[Tue 5.30 pm trainings](#)



Substance Use Disorder family navigator training

Washington State Community Connectors (WSCC) and partners have developed a training to educate families about substance use disorder (SUD) and related treatment options across the state. This training is for parents, family members, and caregivers who are interested in learning how to support their loved ones with SUD. Participants will learn about up-to-date information around SUD, addiction and its effects on the adolescent brain, skills for families navigating their relationship with someone with SUD, and systems navigation.

This training is grounded in research and information supported by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), including their training and technical assistance partners. A toolkit, including information and resources regarding SUD supports and services specific to Washington State, will be provided as a reference guide for participants.

Training details

The training is split into 4 days. Attendance is required for all 4 days.

- [Register for February 10-13](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily
- [Register for February 24-27](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily
- [Register for March 10-13](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily
- [Register March 24-27](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily
- [Register April 28-May 1](#) from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily
- [Register May 6-9](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily
- [Register May 27-30](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily
- [Register June 2-5](#) from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily
- [Register June 23-27](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily

[Visit WSCC for more information](#)



[Register here](#)

Substance Use Disorder family education & curriculum training

Health Care Authority is offering **Substance Use Disorder Family Education & Curriculum Training**, an online training designed to empower families and communities with knowledge and resources to support loved ones navigating challenges related to substance use.

What will you learn?

- Key insights into substance use and its effects on families.
- Information about various substances and their impact.
- Tools to support recovery and foster resilience for youth and families.

Why attend?

- Gain access to developmentally specific resources tailored for families.
- Enjoy the flexibility of online sessions designed to fit your schedule.

Who should participate?

- Families of individuals navigating substance use challenges, especially youth.
- Youth-serving organizations, including schools and nonprofits.
- Peer support specialists, behavioral health providers, and community advocates.



[Find more info here](#)

State Opioid and Overdose Response learning community meetings in 2025

The State Opioid and Overdose Response (SOOR) learning community meetings are a publicly held space to share and learn about different work related to opioids and overdoses. This meeting seeks to bring together state government leaders, Tribes, academic researchers, health care providers, individuals with lived experience, members of the community, and anyone else with an interest in attending.

Dates of learning community

Every learning community meeting is from 10 to 11 a.m. on the following dates:

- February 6
- March 20
- May 15
- July 17
- September 18
- November 20



<https://excelsiorwellness.org/news/2025-firearm-violence-prevention-conference/>



2025 | FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

MAY 21 9AM- 4PM SHADLE PARK LIBRARY



Legislative Updates





2025 Behavioral Health Bills that are still moving forward:

Bill #	Companion Bill #	Bill Description
ESHB 1149		Preventing cruelty to animals.
HB 1162		Concerning workplace violence in health care settings.
EZSHB 1163		Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.
EZSHB 1218		Concerning persons referred for competency evaluation and restoration services, concerning persons referred for competency evaluation and restoration services.
HB 1222		Concerning public inspection and copying of proprietary financial and security information submitted to or obtained by the gambling commission.
HB 1234		Concerning the mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers advisory committee.
SHB 1272		Extending the program to address complex cases of children in crisis.
HB 1287		Addressing the disclosure of health information for care coordination.
HB 1341		Medical cannabis database.
HB 1347		Cannabis testing labs.
2HB 1359		Criminal insanity.
2SHB 1427		Peer support specialists.
EZSHB 1432		Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services.
2SHB 1519		Alcohol service in public.
ESHB 1531		Preserving the ability of public officials to address communicable diseases.
ESHB 1551		Cannabis social equity prg.
HB 1574		Protecting access to life-saving care and substance use services.
EZSHB 1686		Health care entity registry.
SHB 1706		Prior auth. APIs/health.
SHB 1811		Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.

*Double-click the image to open the PDF.





988 Bills

HB 1813: Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.

Shifts responsibilities for facility-based behavioral health crisis services from Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) to behavioral health administrative services organizations (BHASOs).

-

Directs the Health Care Authority (Authority) to conduct a reprocurement of Medicaid managed care contracts.

-

Eliminates the requirement that MCOs contract with BHASOs for behavioral health crisis services and directs the Authority to establish new contracts with BHASOs for behavioral health crisis services beginning January 1, 2027.



HB 1811: Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.

The University of Washington school of social work, in consultation with the authority, shall collaborate with a statewide organization focused on co-response outreach to develop a statewide internal peer support program designed to assist co-response professionals who have faced life-threatening or traumatic incidents that occur while on the job.



Open Discussion & Sharing





#We can apply Ragnar, Relay for Life, Staggered breath singing ideas to the work we do!

we Work - we Rest

we Take Turns!

We do it Together!



What We Covered

- **Welcome, Intros, Agenda review**
 - **Discussion: MHAD Training Toolkit**
 - *Updates on the Mental Health Advanced Directive (MHAD) Effective Implementation Workgroups and Subgroups.*
 - *Lived Experience input on MHAD training development.*
 - **Future of the Lived Experience**
 - *What is CRIS?*
 - *Focus for the future.*
 - *Opportunity for co-lead meetings in future.*
 - **Community Updates and Opportunities**
 - **Legislative Updates**
 - **Next Meeting - Mon. May 12th, 2025 1 PM - 3 PM**
- 