



FOCUS

*PC2 for Developmental Disabilities
Spring, 2023 ~ Volume 28, Issue 3*



**REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN FOR OUR
2023 VIRTUAL
TOOLS 4 SUCCESS
CONFERENCE**

*A free, two-day conference focused on preparation for
career and college readiness designed for youth, young
adults and community members who experience a disability
to dream, imagine and shape their future!*

**CONFERENCE WILL BE HOSTED
ONLINE WITH LIVE SESSIONS ON
MARCH 21ST AND MARCH 28TH
8:00AM AND 1:00PM**

We encourage all middle and high school students to
attend to gain the confidence they need to assure
their future success!



**GO TO: WWW.TOOLS4SUCCESSCONFERENCE.ORG
TO REGISTER TODAY!**

Live conference registration link:

www.tools4successconference.org



The "FOCUS" newsletter is a publication of the Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities (PC2) and is produced four times each year. It is available to view and download by visiting www.pc2online.org.

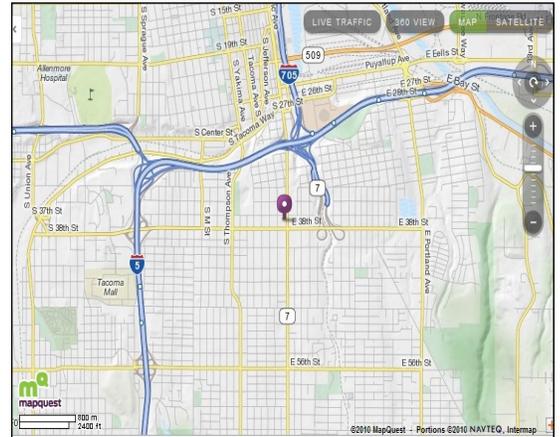
PC2 is comprised of both individuals & organizations of parents, guardians, professionals, & other partners interested in the well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities. Opportunities to gain information, education, & networking are available through our newsletter, website at www.pc2online.org, topical meetings/forums, & our Resource Guide.

PC2 provides education on the legislative process regarding policies & funding which allow families & individuals choice, control, & flexibility.

The PC2 office is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Please visit anytime for information, resources, brochures, or help with Internet searches.

If you have information on classes, conferences or events, or articles which may be of interest to others, please submit to:

PC2
3716 Pacific Avenue #A
Tacoma, WA 98418-7836
253-564-0707 (T) 253-564-0702 (F) 1-877-DD-LINKS (T/F)
E-mail: info@pc2online.org
Web: www.pc2online.org



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VIKRAM SHAH, *Parent*
ROBERT WARDELL, *Self Advocate*

From the Director's Desk . . .

Dear Families & Friends of PC2:

Happy Spring (almost!). Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour when you go to bed on Saturday the 11th.



We appreciate Pierce County Specialized Rec providing us their Summer Camp info for inclusion in this issue. We know many of you are ready to begin your Summer planning! Hopefully this will help you in registering early enough so that your sons/daughters get to participate in these exciting opportunities during the Summer.

As you might have noticed on the front page, the Tools 4 Success Conference starts next week. This is a great opportunity to learn more about employment and career planning. You will have the opportunity to listen to self-advocates who will be sharing their success stories. (See page 1 for the links to the virtual events.)

In our surveys over the years, one of the top areas of interest and concern has always been housing and residential options. If you would like to know more about how to plan for your sons/daughters future housing needs, please take advantage of the Partners 4 Housing's Residential Assessment. (See page 21 for more information and live link.) This is a great opportunity to begin your planning and we encourage you to take advantage of this assessment. If you would like more information, please call PC2. The cost is being covered by a grant from the DDC's Dan Thompson Memorial Fund.

For an update on the 2023 Legislative Session, please visit <https://arcwa.org/billtracker/>

There is still have time to participate in this year's Advocacy Days, which are all virtual. See page 6 for the calendar of remaining dates. Remember - your legislators appreciate hearing from you about issues of importance to you and your loved ones. YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

If you are interested in reminder calls for upcoming activities, please call Christopher at the PC2 offices (253.564.0707) and if you'd like to receive our bi-weekly e-blasts, please send your email and contact information to info@pc2online.org.

Have a safe Spring season and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Beth Ann

*EDITOR'S NOTE:
Get a jump start on Summer planning!
See pages 12-15 for Pierce County
Specialized Rec Summer camp info!*



*Pierce County Coalition
for Developmental Disabilities*

2023 ACTIVITIES

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 A.M.

SENIOR FAMILIES

MONTHLY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ; CALL FOR OUR SCHEDULE

ART CLASS

LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 A.M.



**3716 PACIFIC AVENUE
#A
TACOMA, WA 98418**

**ADVANCE REG. REQ'D.
CALL 253.564.0707
OR EMAIL
INFO@PC2ONLINE.ORG**

Editor's Note:

March Friendship Club has been canceled; we invite you to join us for Art Class on March 30th.



Are you interested in learning more about the housing options available for your loved one who experiences a developmental disability?

Please join PC2 for our next Housing Meeting on Thursday, April 6th, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Agenda: Section 8 & DDA CARE Assessment

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88667299244?pwd=QngwNlVFSjBoYjFtV0FXbDA2Mm1UUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 6729 9244

Passcode: pc2pc2

Contact Nancy B. for more info at 253.564.0707 or nancy@pc2online.org.



PC2 Events / Activities

Live Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88667299244?pwd=QngwNlVFSjBoYjFtV0FXbDA2Mm1UUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 6729 9244

Passcode: pc2pc2

Contact Nancy B. for more info at 253.564.0707 or nancy@pc2online.org.

2023 Virtual Advocacy Days

These Virtual Advocacy Days begin at 10:00 am. Spanish translators provided. Please register at the links below (different link for each week).



March 15th – Family and Senior Supports <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

March 22nd – Caseload Forecasting in the Budget <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/12345678901>

March 29th – Workforce Shortage <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/23456789012>

April 5th – Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/34567890123>

Questions? Need more info?

Please visit <https://arcwa.org/advocacy-days/>

St. Patrick's Dance
March 19, 2023
Sunday 2:30-4:30pm
Tacoma Armory

Celebrate spring dancing with friends.
Wear festive green!
Enjoy our favorite songs played by DJ MattyK
sequoiatr.org
\$43 | \$20 scholarship

Sequoia Therapeutic Recreation

Visit www.sequoiatr.org to register or for more information.

Pierce County Parent to Parent

SDSPC Parents Night Out or In

January – June 2023



Sharing Down
Syndrome in Pierce
County Parents
Night In

Community, Acceptance, Support, Connections



Second Friday of the month at 7:00 PM

Join us online to meet other parents, caregivers,
and allies of people with Down Syndrome in
Pierce County

facebook.com/sharingdownsyndromeinPierceCounty



facebook.com/piercewashingtonpave

Register at wapave.org/calendar

PAVE

*No group on holidays.

Would you like a personal call with one of our Resource Coordinators?

[Book a phone call](#) or connect with us at wapave.org/get-help

2023

P2P Pierce Support Groups

**EVERY
MONDAY**

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Monday Night Coffee or Tea with P2P
 Parent to Parent emotional support and information to families with special health care needs. Meets every Monday night!



**3RD
TUESDAY
MONTHLY**

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Spanish Speaking Families Group
 Group for Spanish speaking families with children who have special health care needs. A place to talk with other families who get it. **** Se habla Español****



**4TH
THURSDAY
MONTHLY**

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Black/African American Family Group
 Group provides a safe, culturally rooted space for Black and African American families of children with special health care needs to access emotional support, culturally responsive resources & to cultivate relationships.



**4TH
TUESDAY
MONTHLY**

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Native Family Group
 Provides supportive & culturally respected space where Native families discuss different topics to help their families navigate the school year by cultivating & sharing their culture.






Register for a group by scanning the QR code
 or visit our website: wapave.org/calendar

PAVE / Pierce Co. P2P

MARCH 18TH

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

DANCE PARTY!



WHERE: Eastside Community Center 1721 E. 56th St.
Tacoma WA 98404
TIME: 12:00 - 1:30pm
FREE FAMILY EVENT!
Door prizes, Buddy Bingo, Dancing!
Space is limited.
Scan the QR Code to register!



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT * with SDSPC The Ram Lakewood 6:30 PM February 10th	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Graham 6:00 PM February 17th	I LOVE TACOS Gives Back I Love Tacos Tacoma All Day March 18th-19th	WDSO DANCE PARTY * with SDSPC Location TBD Get Updates on Facebook 12-2 PM March 18th	WDSO Takeover * with SDSPC Mod Pizza Locations listed on Facebook Lunch/Dinner March 21st
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PIERCE COUNTY DOWN SYNDROME COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS | 2023

Follow 321 BUDDY FUNDRAISING & SHARING DOWN SYNDROME IN PIERCE COUNTY on Facebook for up-to-date info.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT * with SDSPC Farrelli's Pizza Point Ruston 6:30 PM April 14th	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Parkland 6:00 PM April 21st	PARENT'S NIGHT OUT * with SDSPC Mama Stortini's Sumner 6:30 PM May 12th	A DAY IN THE PARK * with 321 Buddy Wright Park Tacoma 10:30 AM May 20th	PARENT'S NIGHT OUT * with SDSPC Topside Bar & Grill Steilacoom 6:30 PM June 9th
Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Graham 6:00 PM June 16th	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Parkland 6:00 PM July 21st	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Graham 6:00 PM August 18th	PARENT'S NIGHT OUT * with SDSPC The Float Gig Harbor 6:30 PM Sept 8th	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Parkland 6:00 PM Sept 15th
Buddy Walk with 321 Buddy Franklin Pierce Stadium Get Updates on Facebook TBD Oct 7th	PARENT'S NIGHT OUT * with SDSPC The Office Tacoma 6:30 PM Oct 13th	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Graham 6:00 PM Oct 20th	Snack & Yack * with 321 Buddy Rainier View Church Parkland 6:00 PM Nov 17th	PARENT'S NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY PARTY * with SDSPC Rainier View Church Parkland 6:30 PM Dec 15th

Events marked with * are free to attend. Some have an option to purchase

PAVE / Pierce Co. P2P

Pierce Co. Specialized Rec.



Pierce County Parks
SPECIALIZED RECREATION

CAMP KICK BACK



AUGUST
14-17



\$100

DDA Respite Funds
Accepted

Social Skills, Friendship
Leisure Opportunities
*Designed for those who benefit from a
more laid back camp experience.*



Registration opens
May 1st

Camp will be held at the
STAR Center
3873 S 66th St
Tacoma, WA 98409

More Information:

253-798-4199 | www.piercecountywa.gov/pcsr

View and download the April-June, 2023 Activity Guide by visiting:
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/122769/23PCSR-Q2-Guide-digital-linked-Rev3-7>



Pierce County Parks
SPECIALIZED RECREATION

CAMP LOTS OF FUN!



SIGN UP FOR ONE
WEEK AT A TIME OR
ALL FOUR WEEKS!

**MONDAY-
THURSDAY**
9AM-2PM

**JULY 10-13
JULY 17-20
JULY 31-AUG 3
AUG 7-10**

\$100
per week

Activities

- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Games & Sports
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Science Experiments
- ✓ Special Guests

Meridian Habitat Park

14422 Meridian East
Puyallup, WA 98374

Registration opens May 1st
DDA Respite
Funds Accepted



More Information: 253-798-4199 | www.piercecountywa.gov/pcsr

Pierce Co. Specialized Rec.

Pierce Co. Specialized Rec.

Fun Activity Programs

Develop Social Life Skills

Enriching & Creative Activities

Ages 20+
Lakewood Community Center

Summer Camp Pierce

Campers will learn about and use public transportation, enhance socialization with peers and community members, increase independence skills, and build their resumes. Campers will also engage in the community with volunteering, visiting parks and other organizations, and taking fun weekly field trips.

4 Weeks of Fun!
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Monday-Thursday
July 10-13, July 17-20,
July 31-Aug 3, Aug 7-10
Sign up for one week at a time or all four weeks!
Registration opens May 1st

Weekly Field Trips!
Different locations each week.

Socialization
Volunteering
Exploration
Independence

Pierce County Parks
SPECIALIZED RECREATION

www.piercecountywa.gov/pcsr
(253)798-4199

View and download the April-June, 2023 Activity Guide by visiting:
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/122769/23PCSR-Q2-Guide-digital-linked-Rev3-7>



Pierce County Parks
SPECIALIZED RECREATION

SUMMER CAMP

EARTH EXPLORERS | CAMP PURSUIT

When: July 5th - 7th (Wednesday - Friday)
 Earth Explorers Adventure Camp 9am-12pm
 Camp Pursuit 12pm-2pm

Where: Meridian Habitat Park
 14422 Meridian Ave E, Puyallup

FEE(S):
 EARTH
 ADVENTURE
 CAMP \$50

CAMP
 PURSUIT
 \$50



PAIR EARTH
 EXPLORERS
 ADVENTURE
 CAMP WITH
 CAMP PURSUIT
 FOR A LONGER
 DAY!

REGISTRATION:
 CALL 253-798-4199 TO REGISTER!
 DDA FUNDS ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT

Pierce Co. Specialized Rec.

Pierce Co. Specialized Rec.



MOM & SON
Dance

MAY 12, 2023
6:00–8:00 PM

Create memories to last a lifetime at our Mom & Son Dance for young men with their moms, grandmas, aunts, or family friends for a special evening filled with fun, music, laughter, and light refreshments. Dance the night away with our live DJ playing an array of music that's sure to please all age groups and tastes!

-  **Ages 4 years and older**
-  **\$30/couple, \$10/additional son**
-  **Register by May 8, Activity Code: 18280**
-  **Meridian Habitat Park, Puyallup**

 Pierce County Parks

More Information: www.piercecountywa.gov/parks | 253-798-4199

Recreation Coordinator - Specialized Recreation

APPLY

Salary ⓘ	\$31.68 - \$39.89 Hourly	Location ⓘ	Tacoma, WA
Job Type	Career Service - Full Time	Department	Parks and Recreation Services
Job Number	23-00177		
Closing	3/26/2023 11:59 PM Pacific		

Core Daily Responsibilities:

- Assisting with the development, planning, promotion, implementation, and evaluation of our specialized recreation program as well as other focus areas as assigned which could include Special Olympics, athletics, day camps, and other family enrichment activities and classes.
- Responsible for direct service delivery on-site at the Lakewood Community Center and in area parks.
- Supervise, train, and hire extra hire employees and volunteers.
- Draft Special Olympics, athletics, and program plans, class and camp curriculum, and other correspondence as needed.
- Work with the supervisor and marketing team to successfully advertise programs through a variety of media sources.
- Other duties as required.

A classification description with a more detailed list of essential functions can be found here.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation or related field, AND
- One year of experience with a recreation organization, including some supervisory/lead experience.
- Possession of a current basic first aid card is required within thirty days of employment.

***Clearly relevant experience, education, or training can substitute for the above.

- Experience with program, event planning, youth, and adult athletics.
- Experience working with youth, adults, and teens.
- Experience planning and executing Specialized or Adaptive Recreation programming.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Outstanding customer service skills, able to work as a team and individually.
- Patience, ability to communicate and relate to a variety of people from different backgrounds, ability to recognize non-verbal cues and adapt accordingly.
- Ability to exercise mature judgment to ensure the safety and enjoyment of program participants.

Special Requirements and/or Qualifications:

- A valid Washington State driver's license is required or the ability to otherwise meet the travel requirements of the position.
- Ability to successfully complete all required background investigations.

As a condition of employment, the applicant will need to authorize and complete a background check. Information received from the background check is reviewed case-by-case and will not necessarily remove an applicant from consideration.

Supplemental Information

To be considered for this opportunity please:

- Complete and submit an online Pierce County Employment Application by selecting "APPLY" above or go to: www.piercecountywa.org/jobs.
- Submit a current resume and cover letter with your application.
- If you have a question about this opportunity, please email the Recruitment Team at PCHRRecruit@piercecountywa.gov and specify the Job Number and Title.
- If you do not have internet access, you may visit your local public library or any WorkSource location and use their computers.
- Individuals needing accommodation in the application, testing process, or need this job announcement in an alternative format may call Human Resources at (253) 798-7480, at least two days prior to the need.

This is a competitive selection process. Your application will be reviewed and evaluated for the quality and quantity of education/experience in the areas listed. Applicants whose qualifications most closely correspond to the County's needs will be eligible for further consideration. Notification of application status normally occurs 2 to 3 weeks after the closing date. Short notice may be given to applicants to participate in further selection processes which may include assessments, phone screen, and interviews.

At Pierce County, diversity, equity, and inclusion means commitment, not a single step. We strive to foster an inclusive environment that supports equitable access to opportunities throughout your career. We want to recruit, develop, and maintain a talented workforce from various backgrounds, cultures, lifestyles, and perspectives, committed to our vision. Employees of the County have local, direct, and visible impact in our diverse community. Will you join us in keeping Pierce County a great place to live, work, and raise a family?

Agency	Address	Phone	Website
Pierce County	Pierce County Human Resources 2401 S 35th St, Rm 121 Tacoma, Washington, 98409	(253) 798-7480 For Sheriff's Department positions: 253-798-6250	http://www.piercecountywa.gov/jobs

Pierce Co. Specialized Rec.

Live application link:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/piercecountywa/jobs/3942892/recreation-coordinator-specialized-recreation>

On the Road with PartnerCafe
A Direct Service Mobile Team

*You have questions?
 We have answers!*

Free Admission!



**Under the Big Top
 Community Resource Fair**

Resources available:

- Housing
- Mental Health
- Healthcare (Medical Coverage)
- Healthcare (Medicare)
- Aging and Disability
- Special Needs
- Transportation
- Education
- Autism Support
- Dementia & Alzheimer's Support
- Youth & Young Adults
- Counseling
- Jobs & Careers
- Veterans Services

*Raffles!
 Giveaways!
 Grab Bags!*

Free Covid & Flu Vaccine Clinic
 Walk in's are welcome, OR pre-register for your vaccine by scanning the QR code





Family Friendly!
 Everyone is welcome!

<p>Friday 3-24-23 <hr/> 10am-2pm</p>	<p>Dryer Masonic Center 306 134th St S, Tacoma, WA</p>	<p> www.ontheroadwpc.org info@ontheroadwpc.org 646-598-4675</p>
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SAVE THE DATE!
 Sponsorship opportunities available!

Tax ID# 85-3358820

CALLING ALL PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN!

If you've been looking for an in-person support group, it's here! Dad's are welcome too!

The meeting place will be held inside the chapel at the Morgan YMCA.

Please be prepared to check-in at the membership desk, bring photo ID, & expect to have your photo taken & provide your contact info. (This is only required for first time visitors, thereafter the front desk will be able to look you up.)

Inform the staff that you're there for the support group & come join in the conversation!

This is a safe place to come vent, exchange ideas, community resources, and offer one another support!

You can follow our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090417169124&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Email us at: ParentsofWashington@gmail.com

Parent Support Group

**Support Group for
Parents of Individuals
with Special Needs**



**Come and share your
experiences**

Morgan Family YMCA
1st Friday of every month 5-7 &
3rd Saturday of every month 10- noon

Assistive Technology opportunity for clients and providers

<https://medium.com/@waDSHS/assistive-technology-opportunity-for-clients-and-providers-da365f16744>



Did you know that funding was provided to purchase 4,394 phones to share with DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration clients and providers? The purpose is for clients and providers to have access to the technology needed to engage fully in remote services.

We currently have 2,700 iPhones with a service plan from 18 to 24 months (depending on when the phone is given out) with unlimited data, text, and Wi-Fi hotspot capability. These phones are ready to be distributed to clients and or providers who may not otherwise have access to participate in remote services.

When the service plan has ended, T-Mobile will unlock the phone and the end-user can continue using the phone with any carrier.

If you need a phone for remote services, please contact your DDA Case Resource Manager to request a phone as soon as possible. These phones will be given out on a first come first serve basis.

If you are a DDA contracted Individual Provider, or a DDA client not currently assigned to a case manager and would like to request a smartphone to access remote services, please follow the instructions and submit a request form to the region you reside in.

Region 3 encompasses the following counties: Clallum, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum.

[DDA Region 3 External iPhone Request Form](#)

News to Know!



Partners4Housing has been awarded grant funds to provide free Residential Assessments to families in Washington State with Loved Ones 18 years or older.

Completing a Residential Assessment can help your family explore housing possibilities and make a resilient plan for the future.

Eligible families will also have free access to our Roommate Matching Pool, to help them connect with other families and find compatible roommates for their Loved Ones.

To help us reach as many families as possible in WA state, we are partnering with several area nonprofits, including:

- PEACE
- Arc of Washington
- Arc of Whatcom County
- Arc of Snohomish County
- Arc of King County
- PC2 (Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities)

I am so excited to announce that, thanks to a generous grant from the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council's Dan Thompson Memorial Fund, we can now provide *free Residential Assessments to 6,688 families in Washington State* ... at absolutely no cost to the families!

Completing a Residential Assessment will help families explore housing possibilities and make a resilient plan for the future for their Loved One with IDD. The Residential Assessment starts with an online questionnaire, where families and their Loved One clarify their housing vision and articulate what will define "home." Once the assessment is submitted, we schedule a consultation to help them understand how to access all the benefits their Loved One is eligible for, including that all-important Section 8 housing subsidy. These are all important pieces of the puzzle of your Loved One's independent and resilient housing solution.

How to get started:

If you or someone you know have a Loved One with IDD 18 years or older, and they live in Washington State, click the button below and start today on your journey toward a resilient housing solution ... at no cost!

Live assessment link: <https://signup.partners4housing.com/promo/>

Pam Blanton

Founder/CEO

www.partners4housing.com

News to Know!