



Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Legislative Update for Clark County DDAB Public meeting

Prepared by PEACE NW (Darla Helt – Executive Director & Hattie Stigum – Program Manager)

Sunday, April 27, 2025, marked the end of the 2025 regular Legislative Session. There were some victories and defeats. All of the bills that didn't make it to Governor Furguson's desk will pick up where they left off in the 2026 legislative session next January.

Highlights and Information

- Operating Budget
 - Reduction of "No Paid Services" caseload
 - Community Respite increased by 1 hour monthly
 - Waiver service rate increased including – overnight planned respite, enhanced respite, crisis diversion, community engagement, and specialized habilitation.
 - ECEAP rate increase
 - Demonstration sites for Inclusive & Behavior practices, and includes the reduce isolation project were funded (5253)
- Capital Budget
 - \$55M for DD Housing
- Bills
 - Passed
 - SB5393 – Closing of Yakima Valley and Rainier School (delivered to Gov.'s desk, not yet signed)
 - SSB5253 – Extending special education services to students with disabilities until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22 (delivered to Gov.'s desk, not yet signed)
 - E2SSB5263 – Special Education Funding, removes the funding cap (delivered to Gov.'s desk, not yet signed)
 - HB1217 – Limits rent, fees, and deposits for tenants ((delivered to Gov.'s desk, not yet signed)
 - HB1130 – Prioritizes waivers distribution for clients over 45 years old

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Final Thoughts and Details

Overall, session was a success. We were expecting to take huge cuts to services and fight to keep basic needs funded. Surprisingly, we held on to most of our funding and even received some increases! PEACE NW will continue to nurture relationships with our elected officials during this off time and connect individuals to their representatives. We will also use this time to educate our representatives on the unique needs of the I/DD community.

- Operating Budget side by side is available was released in (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1678FpVx8U9Oh8Tzw9bE9KyAJEf7OgCWh_z3xVx6rdyM/edit?gid=0#gid=0)
- Bills of Interest can be found online (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iufBpvgISViU-hkWDgFuZ6MX_UzMSHFR0owPuZ8Bn0w/edit?gid=0#gid=0)
- The Legislative Notebook is now up on The Arc of Washington State's website (<https://arcwa.org/advocacy/2025-legislative-notebook/>)

If you have any questions, please email HattieS@peacenw.org or call 360-991-6755.

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