



Clallam Connection

Clallam Connection
March-April 2013

TO WORK OR NOT TO WORK, THAT IS THE QUESTION? - PART 2

In the last edition of the Clallam Connection, we explored the many benefits of paid employment compared to relying solely on SSI benefits. Benefits included rising out of poverty, increased purchasing power, inclusion, enhanced self identity, social expansion and more.

We briefly addressed a valid concern most SSI beneficiaries have: if beneficiaries start earning a livable wage, they may lose their medical coverage. In this issue, this concern will be addressed in more detail.

The question raised most often is, "What if an employer doesn't have medical benefits and my earnings are too high for Medicaid?" Fortunately, Section 1619 (b) of the Social Security Act provides some protection. This means that SSI beneficiaries who have earnings too high for SSI cash payment may still be eligible for Medicaid if they meet certain requirements. The Social Security Administration uses a "threshold" amount to measure whether a person's earnings are high enough to replace his/her SSI and Medicaid benefits. This threshold (The earning threshold for Washington State in 2012 was \$28,802.00) is based on the:

Amount of earnings which would cause SSI cash payments to stop in the person's State; and

Average Medicaid expenses in that State.

If a SSI beneficiary has gross earnings higher than the threshold amount for his/her state, the Social Security Administration, can figure an "individual threshold" amount if that person has:

- *Impairment related work expenses; or*
- *A plan to achieve self support; or*
- *Personal attendant whose fees are publicly funded; or*
- *Medical expenses above the average State amount.*



**Daylight
Savings
Time
Begins
Sunday,
March
10th!**

**Set your
clocks one
hour
ahead.**

*With the new
day comes
new strength
and new
thoughts.*

*- Eleanor
Roosevelt*

TO WORK OR NOT TO WORK, THAT IS THE QUESTION? PART 2 (CONT.)

If a beneficiary has any or all of the above, it will positively impact their individual threshold. Someone earning more than \$28,802.00 may still meet the threshold requirement and remain eligible for Medicaid.

There is also a program in Washington State for disabled workers called: *Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities (HWD)* which allows people with disabilities who are working to purchase coverage by paying a monthly premium that is based on their income.

The source of the above information is found on the Social Security and Washington State Health Care Authority websites. Please explore these sites to better understand the connection among Employment, SSI & Medicaid. Also, please speak with your Case Manager at the Division of Developmental Disabilities to get assistance in learning about your options.

If fear of losing Medicaid benefits has been the reason for staying unemployed, hopefully this article will help alleviate that concern and encourage everyone to enjoy the many benefits of working!

- By Mary Clifton, Clallam County Health & Human Services Developmental Disabilities Case Manager



**Partnerships for Action
Voices for Empowerment**

Contact Amy Davis, the Parent Resource Coordinator for Clallam County, at (360) 929-6840 or adavid@wapave.org for more information or go to their website at: <http://www.wapave.org> or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/PAVE.WA>

The majority of PAVE staff are parents who have children with special needs.

PAVE, a non-profit organization, exists to share information and resources with people whose lives are linked to children and adults with disabilities.

PAVE can:

- Help you understand the educational system for preschoolers and school-age children.
- Assist you to find services in your community for you and your child or adult with disability.
- Provide support when you learn that your child has a disability or chronic health care need.
- Help you as your child transitions from school to adult life.

DON'T FORGET

-  **DDAC Meeting** — Thursday March 7th, 5:30 - 7:30pm at the Board of County Commissioners Board Room, Clallam County Courthouse and Videoconferencing: District Court, Forks.
-  **BLAC Meeting** — “Business Leadership Advisory Committee”, a subcommittee of the DDAC ,will be held on Thursday March 21st, 5:15—7:30pm at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Clallam County Courthouse. Business Leaders interested in helping hire persons with developmental disabilities are encouraged to attend.

AND AROUND TOWN



Port Angeles Symphony Chamber Orchestra Concert #4 — Saturday, March 9th, 6:30-8:30pm at the Port Angeles High School Auditorium, 304 E. Park Ave, Port Angeles. Go to www.portangelessymphony.org or call 457-5579 for more information

Soroptimists International of Sequim Gala Garden Show — Saturday, March 16th, 9:00am-5:00pm and Sunday, March 17th, 10:00am-4:00pm at the Sequim Boys & Girls Club, 400 W. Fir, Sequim. Vendors, garden artisans, nurseries and speakers. Food, music, demonstrations, auction and raffle. Admission: \$5.00, children free. For more information contact Linda Klinefelter at: ljk1551@live.com



At the Movies—showing “Flight” - Wednesday March 20th, 7pm, and “Les Miserables” - Tuesday, April 23rd, 7pm, Olympic Theatre Arts, 414 N Sequim Ave., Sequim. Admission: \$5.00. Contact Karen Kuznek-Reese for more information at 360-681-3428 kkuznek@sequimwa.gov

First Friday Reception—Every first Friday of the month, 5-8pm, Blue Whole Gallery, 129 W. Washington Street, Sequim. View original art by local artists. Free admission. Call 360-683-8110 for more information.



Driftwood Art Show—March 23rd & 24th 10am-4pm, Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, .251 Hendrickson Road, Sequim. Admission is free.

Elegant Flea 2013 — April 5th & 6th, 9am—3pm, Sequim Prairie Grange, 290 Macleay Road, Sequim. This Flea Market will showcase pre-1965 or vintage items. Admission is free, donations accepted.



History Program— “The Wreck of the SS Governor, A Requiem” — Friday March 15th, 10am—12pm, Dungeness Schoolhouse, 2781 Towne Road, Sequim. Learn about the wreck of the SS Governor and vessels sunken in the North Olympic Peninsula waterways. Admission: \$5.00.

ORCAS UPDATE

We have just finished our Basketball season. 3 teams competed at the Regional Tournament held on February 3rd in Bremerton/Silverdale. One team that a player due to a last minute illness which created an 11 point handicap. Our team skills group played hard and received a 4th place ribbon. Team 2 stretched itself by moving up in the division ranks but lost its first game. They came back to win the next 2 games and also received a 4th place ribbon. Our 3rd team, pictured, came away with a Silver medal after winning 3 games in a row and then losing in a hard-fought 4th game by a small margin to a formidable opponent. Way to go Orcas!!



(Pictured from left to right: Coach Jennifer Petty, Blake Yacklin, Michael Rudolph, Aidan Petty, Gareth Bonham, Taylor Slota, Chris Knittle and Coach Steven Potter)

Spring season for the Clallam County Orcas Special Olympics program is fast approaching. Swim training will begin on Thursday, March 14th at William Shore Pool and will continue each Thursday. Practice in the pool is from 3:30 to 4:30. Track and Field training begins on Saturday, March 21st on the Track at Port Angeles High School and continue each Saturday from 10:00 to 11:30. The Southwest Regional Meets for both Track and Field and Swimming will be held on Saturday April 27th in Tacoma. All those who receive gold medals at these meets continue training and are invited to compete at the Summer Games which will be held at Joint Base Lewis McChord over the first weekend in June. Required paperwork is necessary to begin training for either of these sports. Please call Wendy Bonham if you need paperwork or have any other questions. 360-477-4134.

2013 TRANSITION FAIR

This year's Transition Fair will be a combined event with Clallam County Health & Human Services Developmental Disabilities, Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Vocational Rehab, Division of Developmental Disabilities and WorkSource. Students transitioning from high school into the workforce will receive an in depth view of their options from resume writing, how to complete employment applications, interview techniques and dressing for success. Students and other attendees may speak in person to employers who actively are recruiting and in some cases, have a chance to actually interview for a job!



Please stay tuned for more information in the next Clallam Connection.



Courthouse Closures

March
 11th—Furlough
 25th—Furlough



April
 1st—Furlough
 8th—Furlough



Emergency Management Survey for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

This survey collects data on how individuals with developmental disabilities use 911 services and emergency alerts and will be shared with Clallam County Emergency Management with the goal of improving emergency communication. Go online to complete the survey at:

<http://svy.mk/W8N6RL>

If you include your contact information on the survey, you will have the chance to win a \$100.00 Amazon gift certificate

WANTED!

There are openings to serve on the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Tim Bruce at (360) 417-2428 or tbruce@co.clallam.wa.us

Are You Interested in Current Legislative Issues?



If so, visit The Arc of Washington State's Legislative Issue Papers website at: http://www.arcwa.org/takeaction/washingtonstate/issue_papers

Mosaic Class Schedule

Spring Quarter April 2 ~ June 8, 2013



Mosaic Mission ~ *To enrich, encourage and empower people with developmental disabilities toward achieving independence, social skills, and community inclusion through the arts, education, and social activities.*

Empowering People with Developmental Disabilities for a More Viable Community

Welcome back to Spring Mosaic for growing more opportunities, rekindling friendships and meeting new people. Mosaic has an exciting line-up for Spring Quarter 2013. The free soft employment skills class in Port Angeles is rocking with multi-media. The class to enhance your work skills at 10 a.m.~Noon, Fridays. The Theater Arts class is busy building the set for the Snappy Players production, while the cast and crew are finishing up costumes for the photo shoots. ***"What Happened in Atlantic City, Wyoming,"*** will be presented at the **Olympic Theater Arts, in Sequim at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., May 18.**

Join in the healthy living exercise and cooking classes or see the world through the Voyagers class. Tell your friends and see you in April—Bonne Smith, Mosaic Program Director

Mosaic Vision ~ *A community of individuals working together to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.*

2013 Spring Quarter Classes

Recreation

Sequim Recreation Club ~ 10 classes ~ \$40

TUESDAY'S ~ 3:30 – 5 p.m. ~ Sequim High School Classroom

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4

Living & Healthy Choices

Exercise ~ 10 classes ~ \$ 30

WEDNESDAY'S ~ 10 - 11 a.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5

Healthy Eating & Cooking ~ 10 classes ~ \$48

Includes ingredient fee

FRIDAY'S ~ 12:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7

Soft Employment Skills ~ 4 classes ~ Free

FRIDAY'S ~ 10 a.m.-Noon ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

April 12, 19, 26, May 3

Culture & Science**Voyager Traveler's ~10 classes ~ \$36****WEDNESDAY'S ~ 2:30- 4 p.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5****Music & Dance****Drumming with Dave ~ 10 classes ~ \$36****THURSDAY'S 3:30 - 5 p.m. ~ Sequim High School Classroom
April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6****Saturday Dances ~ 3 potluck Dances and Show ~ \$8****SATURDAY'S ~ 2 - 4 p.m. ~ Olympic Vineyard Church, Port Angeles
April 20 ~ "April in Paris" Ball; May 25 ~ "So You Can Dance" Dance; June 8 ~ "Jitter
Bug June" Dance****Arts****Exploration of Home Arts ~ 10 classes ~ \$34 *Includes supplies fee*****WEDNESDAY'S 1 -2. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5****Theater****Theater ~ Snappy Players Troupe ~ 10 classes ~ \$40****TUESDAY'S ~ 10-Noon ~ Olympic Theater Arts, Sequim
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4****Theater ~ Design & Create ~ 10 classes ~ \$36****WEDNESDAY'S ~ 11-12:30 p.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5****Theater ~ Show Performance ~ 3 performances ~ \$ 20****Saturdays ~ 1- 3 p.m. ~ Olympic Vineyard Fellowship, Port Angeles
April 20 ~ "April in Paris" Ball; May 25 ~ "So You Can Dance" Dance; June 8 ~ "Jitter
Bug June" Dance**

To register for classes email Program Director Bonne Smith at clallammosaic@gmail.com with your address for a mailing or for an electronic registration form, a PDF attachment file. Return mail to Mosaic, P.O. Box 3081, Sequim, WA 98382

Clallam County Health & Human Services
Developmental Disabilities
223 E 4th Street, Suite 14
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Got a Story? Got News? Contact Tim Bruce at
360-417-2428 or tbruce@co.clallam.wa.us

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TO END THE WORD
www.r-word.org