

Special Education Family Resource Session

Disability Outreach and Advocacy

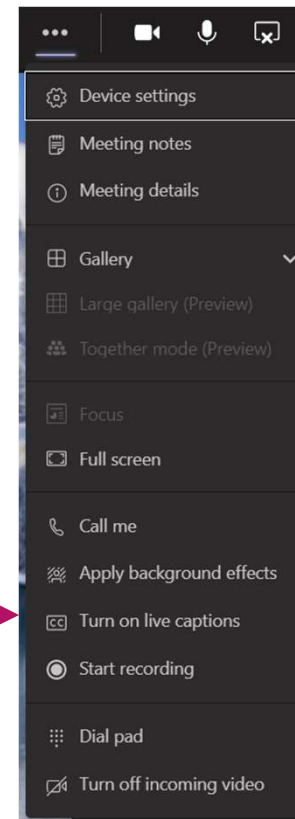
10/17/23



Bellevue Special Needs PTA

Captions?

- ▶ To turn on live captions – click on the 3 dots and select Live Captions. Select your language.
- ▶ Para activar los subtítulos en vivo, haga clic en los 3 puntos y seleccione Subtítulos en vivo. Elige tu idioma.
- ▶ 要打開實時字幕 - 單擊 3 個點並選擇實時字幕。選擇你的語言。



Reminders

- Please provide your e-mail address if you want materials from tonight's presentation sent to you (the session/materials will also be posted to our website)
 - **Teams:** please write your address in the chat
 - **In Person:** Please write it at the sign in sheet at the front table
- Your feedback is important! There will be a QR code at the end of the presentation and a link in the Teams chat
- This session is being recorded – please be mindful of questions that contain personal details



Presenters

- Bellevue Special Needs PTA



- Open Doors for Multicultural Families



- WA State Father's Network



- ARC of King County





Bellevue Special Needs PTA

Welcome!



We Believe



- Every student in the Bellevue School District has the right to reach their full human potential
- Parent involvement directly affects student success and is critical for students with disabilities or other learning needs
- Parents should not feel alone on this journey.

Join Us!!



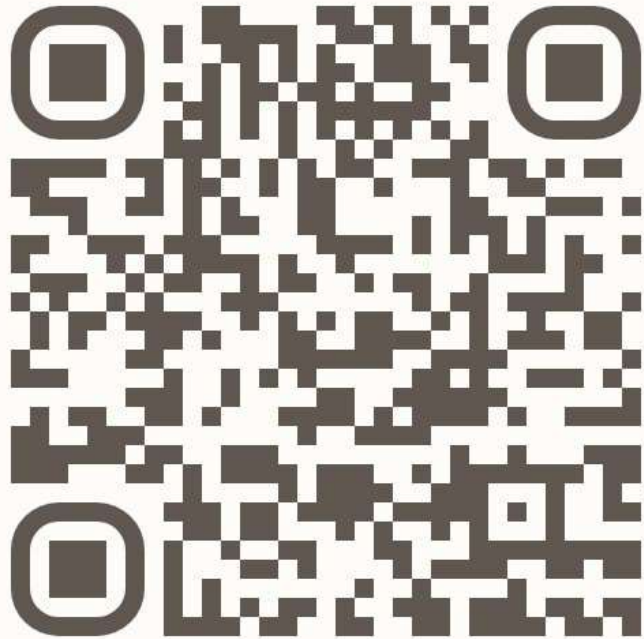
Join us for your child because increasing our membership, even by one, makes it possible to provide important educational resources, speak up on important issues and create a stronger special needs community.

Our 2023-2024 goal is to build an inclusive special needs community for all families

<https://bellevuespecialneedspta.com>



How Can We Help?



Take this brief survey to let us know what you want and how to best connect with you

<https://forms.office.com/r/27L148erLe>

Questions?





OPEN DOORS

for multicultural families



Meet our presenters 😊



Moses Perez – Advocacy and Civic Engagement (ACE) Manager



Minh Nguyen- Family Advocacy Coordinator



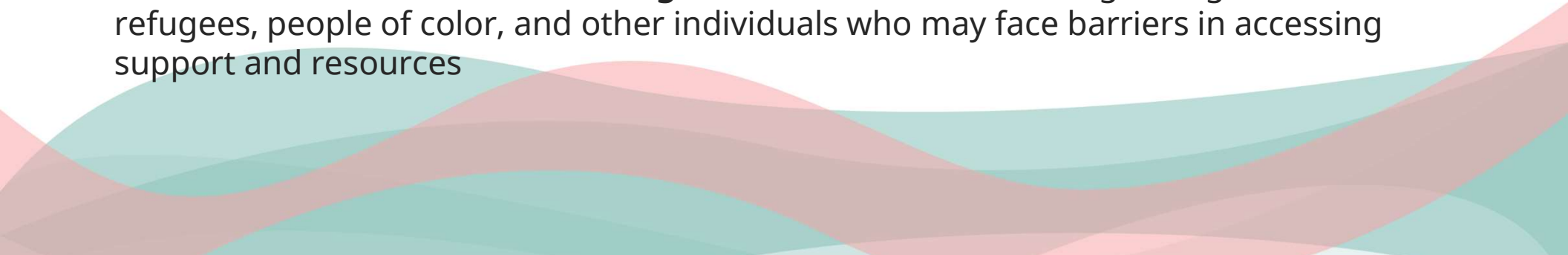
Erendira Mercado – Self Advocacy Coordinator

Introduction to Open Doors for Multicultural Families

Our mission is to **support and partner** with individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families, regardless of cultural or linguistic background.

Through a **cultural brokerage model**, we connect them with services, provide specialized programming, and advocate for systems change.

Our focus is to **serve a diverse range of communities**, including immigrants, refugees, people of color, and other individuals who may face barriers in accessing support and resources



What is a Cultural Brokerage Model?

- Direct Support Staff serve as a bridge between families and agencies, and help families navigate systems.
- Staff are bilingual and bicultural
 - Arabic, Amharic, Cantonese, Korean, Kurdish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Tigrinya, Somali, Spanish and English.
 - If additional languages are needed, we use Language Line.



Who we are: Our Team

~63 staff members

19 languages spoken

93% People of Color

61% Immigrant/Refugees

**38% parents/family members of a person
with DD/IDD**

Services offered

Early Learning

Birth-6 years

- Case Management
- Home Visits
- Collaboration with Early Intervention
- Inclusive Playgroup
- Parent Education Groups

Family Support

Birth-26 years

- One-on-one system navigation
- Parent support groups (offered in 12 languages)
- Inclusion Celebration

Youth

5-26 years

- Peer engagement, social emotional learning
- Assistive Technology Lending Library
- Programming:
 - Friendship Circle
 - HOPE
 - Kickstart

Advocacy and Civic Engagement (ACE)

- Self-Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT)
- Family Leadership Training (FLT)

MIDST Team

Multicultural Integrated Intellectual/Development Support

- Community outreach
- Long term stability planning
- ODMF resource library and interface

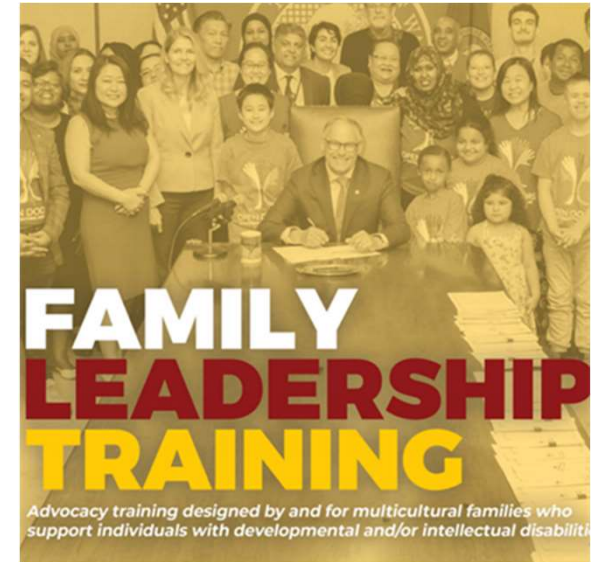
Family Leadership Training (FLT)

The Family Leadership Training (FLT) was developed and organized by the ODMF ACE department using Stolte Family Foundation grant funds.

36 hours of culturally relevant family-centered advocacy and civic engagement training

Most parents were recruited from ODMF Parent Support Groups (PSGs); recruitment was facilitated by Family Support Specialists (FSS), who acted as cultural brokers to help family members understand the initial outline and goals of FLT.

Cohort III run dates is scheduled tentatively for: September 18th – December 18, 2024



Self-Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT)

Self-Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT) is a leadership program designed by and for **culturally and linguistically diverse** individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

It is structured to teach people with **intersectional** identities fundamental skills to become **self-advocates** and pursue self-determined **systems change**.



SALT at a glance

Run dates: June 22 – August 17, 2023

8 weekly 3-hour sessions (24 hours total)

**Lessons on leadership, community,
independence and advocacy**

**12 BIPOC self-advocate participants
selected**

**Stipends paid for successful training
completion**

Contact us!



OPEN DOORS
for multicultural families
disability | community | opportunity

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(253)216-4479

WASHINGTON STATE
FATHERS
NETWORK





- Director of The Washington State Fathers Network
- Background in storytelling & game design
- Certified Therapeutic Game Master
- Certified Problematic Gaming Specialist
- Certified Geek Specialist

WASHINGTON STATE
**FATHERS
NETWORK**



About Kindering

- Started in 1962 by 5 parents as a playgroup for their children with disabilities.
- Now serves 10,000 children and their families each year with lifechanging therapies (*PT, OT, Speech, and Feeding therapies*), special education, and family support.
- 4 campuses across the Eastside of Seattle: Bellevue, Bothell, Redmond, and Renton.
- Specialized outreach includes services for families who are homeless or housing insecure, immigrants and refugees, and those in the kinship or foster care system.



About The Washington State Fathers Network

- The roots of the program started in 1978 at the University of Washington, with UW's Experimental Education Unit.
- Lack of funding ended; transitioned that funding from UW to Merrywood School, now known as Kinderling Center in 1985.
- Program expanded and was nationwide until funding was cut and thanks to the Director of the Washington State Department of Health, in 1994 the Washington State Fathers Network was established.
- The Father Network program at Kinderling Center in Bellevue, is the longest running father's program of its type, in the world.



Washington State Fathers Network

3 Focus Areas

- Connecting Men
 - Support Groups – 12 Chapters, 7 meet
 - Social Activities
- Raising the Voices of Men
 - Telling Your Story with a Purpose
- Advocating for Equal Access to the Community



Why the Need for a Fathers Network?

**"In every community,
there is work to be done.
In every nation, there are
wounds to heal. In every
heart, there is the power
to do it."**

– Marianne Williamson



Common Themes of Fathers Groups

- Safety – A place to let down one's guard, to be taken seriously, to know that what is said will be held in strictest confidence.
- Exposure – To new information, to shared feelings, to firsthand experiences.
- Relaxation – A place to unwind, to laugh, to swap stories rarely told and often misunderstood by others.
- Camaraderie – A place to make new friends, have friends to reach out to, to share with, and to also lean on.
- Understanding – How to manage the strong feelings of anger, joy and all the feelings in between that all parents experience when confronted while parenting.

Challenges

- Generally: Connecting with Men
- Specifically:
 - Rural Parts of the State
 - Communities of Color and Immigrant Communities
 - Culture
 - Language

What are we doing about it?

- Generally: Supporting the systems already in place and create new opportunities.
- Specifically
 - New and updated workshops and trainings
 - Updating the Unexpected Journey workshop
 - Updating the Telling Your Story with a Purpose workshop
 - Training parents how to play with their children
 - Creating new ways to engage with families
 - Creating more inclusive programs

What questions, comments or ideas
do you have?

WASHINGTON STATE
FATHERS
NETWORK



Contact Information

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<https://fathersnetwork.org/>

WASHINGTON STATE
**FATHERS
NETWORK**





Advocacy @TheArc

Your voice, your perspective, your ideas can make a difference.

The Arc of King County protects and promotes the rights of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and works to build inclusive communities – so we can all thrive!



arcofkingcounty.org/advocacy

Our Information and Family Support team offers 1:1 assistance, Parent 2 Parent mentoring, and IEP Parent Partners to help families navigate education, medical care, social services, and so much more

- ask@arcofkingcounty.org
- preguntas@arcofkingcounty.org

Our Advocacy team works to change public policy to advance civil rights and improve supports for people with disabilities.

- We educate people about disability rights and emerging issues and help them connect to lawmakers
- We educate civic leaders about what people with disabilities (and their families) need





Key wins

- Securing funding and support for inclusive practices in schools
- Changing subminimum wage law
- Increasing the cap on special education funding (twice)
- Securing millions of dollars for affordable housing for people with disabilities



Ongoing ...

- Crisis supports that anticipate and are responsive to neurodivergence
- Ending isolation and limiting restraint in WA schools
- Inclusive opportunities in every WA pre-K and K-12 school
- Family caregiver support
- Safe, affordable, accessible housing

arcofkingcounty.org/advocacy/ what-we-advocate-for

We are part of a national network and work with chapters across the state and nation to advance shared priorities and goals.

Mostly – we work so everyone can live the life they want.

The Arc – United States

<https://thearc.org/>

The Arc – Washington State

<https://arcwa.org/>

The Arc – King County

<arcofkingcounty.org>





Sign up for our advocacy newsletters. 'Sharing' covers resources for families, including classes and community events. 'Engage' includes action opportunities and issue education. **bit.ly/TheArcKC_SignUP**



The Arc of King County's Guide to Voting



Resources!

Accessible resources for advocates

<https://bit.ly/EasyReadAdvocacy>

Easy read materials use simple words and images to make information easy to understand.

Plain language materials are similar but may use longer sentences and usually do not include graphics.

We develop accessible resources to help advocates make decisions about their lives.

COURSE STARTS JUNE 9



INCLUSION ACADEMY

For parents and allies of young children with disabilities.

A course to practice activism

Apply by
May 27



Our goal: Belonging,
membership, participation.
For all children



SHIFT SYSTEMS. PROMOTE EQUITY

Questions? rhattendorf@arcofkingcounty.org or 206-829-7048
To apply, scan QR code, or go to bit.ly/inclusion2022

Classes

Contact Director of Advocacy

rhattendorf@arcofkingcounty.org

We offer civics and issue education classes to various groups, and as funding allows run leadership cohorts like the Inclusion Academy or Leadership Intensive.

Sample topics: How Change Happens; Civics 101; Disability History & Pride; Who has Power; Student Rights; ADA, Section 504 & IDEA



Follow us!

The Arc is also a membership organization. If you are interested engaging in a deeper way, visit <https://donorbox.org/join-the-arc>

We share a lot of resources online.

➤ **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/>

➤ **Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/arcofkingcounty/>

➤ **Enews:**

https://bit.ly/TheArcKC_SignUP

• **Voice:**

<https://arcofkingcountyvoice.blogspot.com/>

• **Resource guide:**

<https://bit.ly/TheArcKCResourceGuide>

