



The Arc.
Tri-Cities

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Achieve with us.

Date: April 6, 2021

To: Deidra Beck

From: Donna Tracy

RE: Need for Increased Services for persons with Autism and their families

The Arc of Tri-Cities is requesting your help to facilitate a round-table meeting addressing services currently available in our community for individuals with Autism and their families, plus other neurological disorders that mimic Autism.

The Problem:

The Arc of Tri-Cities Advocacy services has had increased calls from families in crisis who are dealing with Autism and behavior issues associated with their child's disabilities. Autism starts at a young age and continues into adulthood.

This issue affects not only the families but also the local community, increasingly using adult and juvenile correction systems to house those with diagnosed Autism, many with IQs lower than 69.

Drug addiction, homelessness, and joblessness often are issues that families face as they try to navigate the effects of their child's disability.

Accessibility and inclusion for families who have children with Autism have been severely impacted by the lack of access to experts and supports in our community.

The Request:

The Arc of Tri-Cities would like to co-sponsor a round-table meeting with your committee inviting the various organizations, businesses, and professionals who may be concerned by this issue and the gaps in services.

The Arc understands the problem and who should attend; we also have information to share with others that might be interested in increasing their organization's capacity to serve individuals with Autism and their families and additional funding sources to do so.

This meeting could also be a stepping stone to increased collaboration and coordination for autism services in our community.

Timeline - Late September to Early November 2021

Venue- Zoom might be the only mechanism available during this timeline, but our hope would be an in-person meeting option with refreshments.

Funding/Organizational Support: Manage invites, venue, create a group contact list, share calendar invites and take meeting notes.

Ongoing: Support a follow-up meeting if the group decides one is needed with the same organizational support.

Thank you so much for reaching out to see what the committee could do to help our community increase accessibility. The Arc has presented a problem that is at crisis level for many Tri-Cities area families. I look forward to discussing this idea further, and hope to work together with the committee to bring increased accessibility to our community.

Sincerely

Donna Tracy

donnat@arcoftricity.com

509-947-6090

From: Donna Tracy <donnat@arcoftricity.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Deidra Beck <Deidra.Beck@co.benton.wa.us>
Cc: Joanne Boyd <boyd.fam@hotmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Benton County ACAC--partnership ideas

EXTERNAL EMAIL WARNING!!!: This email originated from outside of Benton County. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Deidra

I appreciate you reaching out to see what the committee can do to help accessibility in our community.

I have written a short letter requesting help with a community issue.

I have CC Jody Boyd as she has been helping me with this issue. She is on our Board of Directors and was instrumental in developing the Lourdes day program for youth.

I look forward to hearing from and you what the committee decides

Thanks again Deidra

Donna Tracy

Program Manager

The Arc of Tri-Cities

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From: Deidra Beck <Deidra.Beck@co.benton.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Donna Tracy <donnat@arcoftricity.com>
Subject: Benton County ACAC--partnership ideas

Good morning, Donna.

Our Benton County ACAC (Accessible Communities Advisory Committee) is developing our projects and community involvement plans and goals for 2021. Are you still interested in finding a way that we may be able to partner with ARC of the Tri-Cities? I remember your explanation of some of your services such as:

- Advocacy to families with disable children
- The Buddy Club even
- Summer Camp
- Day Program

In our meeting, we asked you to send us a 'wish list' of how we may be able to partner or assist ARC of TC's efforts and services in our community. It would be wonderful if you could send me some ideas as soon as possible so I can share your information and ideas with our committee in our April workshop meeting.