



**February 2024**

## **Klickitat Skamania Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Resource Round-Up**



### **FINDING AN IN-HOME CAREGIVER**

Finding a qualified caregiver is very difficult due to few available providers. This is true across the state. Below are three options that, as of this writing, had openings.

<https://carina.org/> Clients with Medicaid may search for the Carina website to find licensed, trained caregivers to provide in-home care on a regular basis, back-up or respite care. The Carina website is free and easy to use. Registration is required. As of this writing, 7 providers are registered for Klickitat and Skamania Counties. Check out the [website](#), or call 1-855-796-0605 for assistance.

[Chesterfield Health](#) employs CNAs and HCAs to provide in-home care. Chesterfield accepts Medicaid, private insurance and private pay clients. Currently, there are providers with openings in the [Goldendale area only](#). Contact Tania at [tcarrasco@chesterfieldhealth.com](mailto:tcarrasco@chesterfieldhealth.com) or 509-457-3020. There may be providers in the Skamania and on the west side of Klickitat County at a later date.

[Rebecca Lee](#) works with a group of CNAs who provide private, in-home care from Stevenson to Lyle and in White Salmon. Services include companionship, respite care, help with activities of daily living (ADLs), medication administration, therapy with home health and transportation to shopping and appointments. Minimum of 4 hours a visit. Available 24/7. Email at [beccakickboxing@gmail.com](mailto:beccakickboxing@gmail.com) or 541-400-9663.

✍ In 2023, Gov. Inslee signed [House Bill 1694](#) into law to increase caregiver pay and improve benefits, including insurance, paid time off, retirement and mileage reimbursement. Additionally, the law makes it easier for family members to be certified as caregivers, and the State will explore paying spouses as caregivers and parents of medically complex children. Stay tuned for updates.





Developmental Disabilities  
Administration

## DDA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

[Let your voice be heard](#) and spread the word! NOW until March 27th.

DDA is conducting a study to explore ways to restructure services offered under the Medicaid waivers. Their hope is to hear from as many clients, family members and providers as possible, so their needs, ideas and experiences are considered when new changes are considered.

In December 2024, DDA will report to the State Legislature using feedback to [this survey](#). The report will give ideas about how to improve service accessibility across the state and align Waiver Services with the needs of those who use them. It is important that they hear from people who live in rural and tribal communities--like those found in Klickitat and Skamania Counties--who have less or no access to service options to meet their needs.

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## MENTORING PROGRAM

Klickitat County: Lyle, Klickitat, Bingen and White Salmon

Gorge Youth Mentoring (GYM) is a community-based mentoring program serving youths between the ages of 6 and 21. Adult volunteer "mentor" and youth "mentees" are matched based on similar interests, personalities, and needs, with the goal of providing additional positive role modeling, support, and opportunities to do fun things like hiking, baking, arts and crafts--even homework as needed. GYM also hosts free events and activities for participants, who are encouraged to meet at least twice monthly for a year or longer.

GYM welcomes all youth, and conducts an intake process to ensure a match that best meets the needs of the youth. Adult volunteers are thoroughly screened to ensure participant safety. Teachers, school counselors, and other community partners and youth-serving organizations may make referrals, or families may also self-refer.

For Bingen and White Salmon, contact Maria Diaz, Lead Match Coordinator (bilingual) at 541-490-9979 or [mariad@nextdoorinc.org](mailto:mariad@nextdoorinc.org)

For Lyle and Klickitat, contact Charlotte Meeks, Match Coordinator at 541-399-0259 or [charlottem@nextdoorinc.org](mailto:charlottem@nextdoorinc.org)

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**WISe (Wraparound Intensive Services)  
Upcoming Information Session**

**Guardianship & the ABLE Act**

**Online via Zoom, 5:30-7:30pm PST**

**March 19, 2024**

**[Click here to Register](#)**

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We recommend [www.informingfamilies.org](http://www.informingfamilies.org) as your **go-to source** for all things I/DD in Washington State

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## ABOUT US

**Klickitat-Skamania DD Advisory Board Mission:** To support Skamania County Community Health in providing high quality, comprehensive and effective developmental disability services to Klickitat and Skamania County residents in an efficient and respectful manner.

With the support from both the Klickitat and Skamania Board of Commissioners, the Developmental Disabilities services for both counties were joined to form one department in 2021. The Klickitat-Skamania DD Advisory Board was formed soon thereafter.

**Visitors are always welcome to attend Board meetings!** Meetings are held every other month (February, April, June, August, October, December) on the first Wednesday, from 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm, on Zoom. Contact Heather Trollier for an agenda and the link.

**We are currently seeking new Board members. [Ask](#) for a Board Application today!**

Heather Trollier  
Developmental Disability Coordinator  
Skamania County Community Health  
509.427.3970  
[trollier@co.skamania.wa.us](mailto:trollier@co.skamania.wa.us)