



**NW Universal Design Council
January 12, 2012 Meeting Notes
Quarterly Meeting**

Attending

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| Andrea Yip, Planner, Aging & Disability Services | Tom Minty, John L Scott/Able Environments | Jocelyn Freilinger, Landscape Designer |
| Rose Curran, King County Housing & Community Development | Scott Starr, SMR Architects | Michelle Molloy, Penates Design |
| Janice Tufte, Low vision/Hearing consumer and Low Income Housing advocate | Cheri Perazzoli, Hearing Loss Association of WA | Jess Chow, Planner, City of Seattle Human Services |
| Amy Gray, Office of Housing, City of Seattle | Bill Morrell, Adaptive Installations | Doug Hayman, DO-IT Program |
| Brianna Blaser, DO-IT Program | Joanne Donahue, Aging Your Way, Senior Services | Laura Berry, Beverly's Daughter |

Member Updates

- Jess Chow introduced a benefits portal called People Point. She is interested in how to make it and WA Connections more accessible. <http://www.peoplepoint.info/>
- Amy Gray updated us on the release of www.housingsearchnw.org – a free resource for landlords and tenants. Rose Curran also helped put this together. It is supported by a call center; has map, transit, affordability calculators, and a compare feature.
- Scott Starr's company is working on an 87 unit supportive housing project on Aurora. The Mental Health program will be run by DESC.
- Bill Morrell spoke about his company, adaptive installations www.adaptiveinstallations.com. They focus on home modifications and accessibility upgrades for residential houses. They also are an elevator contractor.
- Tom Minty is working with Charles Durrett to find a suitable site for a senior co-housing project.
- Joanne Donahue, Aging Your Way, spoke about the March 21st conference. Signups are underway
http://www.seniorservices.org/getting_assistance/all_programs/aging_your_way.aspx

Steering Committee Update (Jocelyn)

- The bylaws are close to complete and our main focus is on filing for corporation and the articles of incorporation. Jocelyn will send out the most up-to-date for feedback from the steering group.

Assistive Technology Program

Frances Pennel, Washington Access Fund <http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org/>

- The WA Access Fund is a small state-wide non-profit that provides loans and matched savings accounts for assistive technology and business equipment for employment or self-employment.
- They provide loans for assistive devices not usually covered by Medicare such as hearing aides. They also provide funding for vehicle and home modifications.
- They also provide long-term rentals of closed circuit TV magnifiers.
- They have 374 loans to date which equates to \$1.3 million and majority (70%) to low income households.

Brianna Blaser and Doug Haymen, UW DO-IT <http://www.uw.edu/doi/>

- DO- IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) helps students with disabilities to succeed in an academic setting. In addition, DO-IT promotes universal design to physical spaces such as classrooms, information technology such as websites, instruction, and services. DO-IT provides resources for students with disabilities, educators, postsecondary faculty and administrators, librarians, employers, parents, and mentors.

Laura Berry, Beverly's Daughter <http://www.beverlydaughter.com/>

- Aging at Home, a concept store, sold a variety of assistive devices. They recently went through a transformation. They found they were attracting the wrong clients. They ended up re-branding themselves and market to the caregiver not the client. This has increased their sales in the first few months.

Cheri Perazzoli, Hearing Loss Association of WA

www.loopseattle.org

- Cheri presented the loop project. She learned about looping on a trip to Europe where she saw signs at a train station about flipping on her t-switch. Looping allowed her to hear the ticket agent very clearly more so than those without hearing loss.
- Looping uses old technology for new applications. There is a national push to get public places looped.
- Dave Myers, the founder of looping, is coming April 20th. Cheri will send more information.

Next Meeting Date:

- Steering Committee – 2/9 9:30 – 11:30 at UW DO-IT
- **Quarterly Mtg - April 19, 2012; 9:30 – 11:30**
 - **Theme TBD**

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Northwest Universal Design Council Web site: www.environmentsforall.org