### Skagit –
Parent 2 Parent- Heather Milliren

We hosted dozens of events for parents whose children have developmental disabilities and/or complex special health care needs, including the six-part Powerful Tools for Caregivers of Children with Special Needs series. Half of our participants are foster care parents of CSHCN and greatly appreciated the series and feeling more "visible." All participants were sad to have the series end. We hosted multiple "Organizing Your Child's IEP Binder" workshops and had positive feedback on this essential advocacy tool. As well as, an educational workshop on the newly rolling out ABLE (Achieving Better Life Experiences) state/federal savings program.

Looking ahead to the new year, we've hired a Hispanic Outreach Specialist allowing us to relaunch our Hispanic Support Network. In addition, we're partnering with our neurodevelopmental center to provide enhanced support for parents whose children are newly diagnosed with Autism. As well as, offering five county-wide support networks.

### Snohomish –
Parent 2 Parent- Alaina Kube

**4th Quarter updates - Arc of Snohomish County:**
The Arc continues to provide ongoing Parent to Parent support to families raising kids with special needs, including disability services navigation, special education support, Helping Parent and IEP Parent Partner matches, education, and free family events.

**4th Quarter highlights:**
Family Support and Events: Arc Harvest Festival, Arc Holiday Festival with Santa photos, Padres Unidos "Posada Navidena" celebration, Fathers Network Pizza and Poker Night, Mothers Network Bunko Night, Sibshops for youth, adult sibling support, Lego Club, monthly support groups for parents/caregivers in English and Spanish.


Grants: The Arc's Assistive Technology grant purchased iPads and communication devices/software for eligible individuals with I/DD living in Snohomish County.

### Whatcom –
Gail Bodenmiller

**As Whatcom County’s CSHCN Coordinator, I work with community partners in Whatcom Taking Action to improve our local system of care and support for CYSHCN and their families. Whatcom Taking Action updates for this quarter include:**
- We have begun monthly meetings with the North Sound Region’s P-TCPi Care Facilitator (Paula Young) and have also met with the Region’s Practice Manager (JoAnn Paris) to learn more about their roles and their work in Whatcom County. Our hope is that we can coordinate with Paula and JoAnn to build on and strengthen our services in Whatcom, and to avoid duplication and/or confusion among our local providers.
 COUNTY | UPDATES
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• As part of our Healthy Tomorrows grant, we are gearing up to focus more of our attention on Universal Developmental Screening in our community in the next two years.
• As a result of a discussion in the Taking Action Family Tools Team regarding parents consistently having difficulty obtaining help for their child in the school setting unless they formally request that the child be made a focus of concern, we are exploring ways to address the issue both on a system level, and by developing a guideline handout/tool for families. We also recently completed a parent handout on wandering in children with autism and other developmental disabilities. We are still behind in posting handouts on our Taking Action website at [www.whatcomtakingaction.org](http://www.whatcomtakingaction.org).
• In Whatcom County, SEAS provides entry for Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) services. The total number of ESIT referrals has grown significantly every year that SEAS has been in place. In 2016, there were a total of 365 ESIT referrals. In 2017, from January through November, there were already 453 ESIT referrals. (December 2017 data isn’t available yet.)
• Whatcom Taking Action’s GIDES (General Interdisciplinary Developmental Evaluation System) is now in place at two sites: PeaceHealth Pediatrics and Kornerstone Kids. In all, GIDES has completed evaluations on 215 children, approximately 66% of whom are on Medicaid. Currently there are 155 children on the waiting list. At full capacity, GIDES serves about 12 children per month. With recent hires of a new pediatrician at PeaceHealth, and a nurse practitioner at Kornerstone Kids, there is a potential for expansion of evaluations in 2018.
• Care coordination is a critical component of our GIDES evaluation model. We have a Community Health Worker (CHW) who has completed the Washington State Department of Health Community Health Worker training, and has had additional training on local pediatric care and services to help families connect with services in Whatcom County. Locally based, comprehensive care coordination, tailored to a specific child and family’s needs, is an important element in improving health outcomes for children. **Locally based care coordination** can assure up-to-date information about local resources, build collaborative relationships among local providers, and help build a local support network around a family.
• **A Major Challenge:**

Due to budget realities, our CHW’s hours have recently been severely cut, resulting in the loss of most of our care coordination capacity – essential to the GIDES model. This is a very disappointing set-back for us. The reality on the ground, **in the local community**, is that the quality of care management/coordination that families of CYSHCN need requires dedicated staff time, most of which is not billable.

We are looking into other ways to sustain care coordination, including:
  o We worked with CSHCN staff at DOH on a pilot proposal for accessing Diagnostic and Treatment funds for hours spent on interdisciplinary care management, a large part of the CHW’s work. In the end, this was not funded.
  o We were later approached by the CSHCN manager at DOH with the possibility of our submitting a Demonstration Project proposal for
### County Updates

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<td></td>
<td>P-TCPI Carry Forward funds. We did that, and are waiting to hear whether this proposal will be submitted to the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). If so, by February, CMS will choose proposals to fund. and</td>
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<td>o We’re working with our clinic site partners on incorporating clerical and record collecting tasks as part of their practice, freeing up CHW time for essential care coordination.</td>
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<td>o We are seeking contacts in the Whatcom County MCOs to explore potential for being contracted by them to provide local whole-person/family care coordination, at least for our GIDES families.</td>
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<td>o We’re researching other grant opportunities.</td>
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