For Immediate Release

CLALLAM COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

On Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners proclaimed the month of March 2015 as Developmental Disability Awareness Month in Clallam County.

Every March we celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and Clallam County Health and Human Services, Developmental Disabilities along with numerous agencies and organizations throughout Clallam County invite you to join us to help raise awareness about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

President Ronald Reagan first declared March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month back in 1987. Powered by the energy of self-advocates, families and volunteers around the country, the month will commemorate the progress toward improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and recognize the challenges that remain in achieving full inclusion for people with I/DD.

Together we promote and protect the rights of individuals all year long. March is our special chance to join together to advance our mission to the wider world.

Contact(s): Timothy Bruce, Health and Human Services Planner, Developmental Disabilities; 417-2428
Photo above:
(Left to right) DDAC Member Annie Achziger, Clallam County Health & Human Services Planner Tim Bruce, Morningside Job Developer Vic Entriken, Clallam County Commissioner Jim McEntire, Morningside Job Coach Lara Radke, Clallam County Commissioner Bill Peach and Mosaic’s Executive Director Priya Jayadev.
Proclamation below:
“March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month”

RECOGNIZING MARCH 2015 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-483, enacted by Congress in 1987, designated the month of March as “National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” and;

WHEREAS, hundreds of Clallam County residents and their families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities including autism, traumatic brain injuries, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and intellectual and related disabilities and;

WHEREAS, people with lifelong disabilities are productive citizens, neighbors and family members, deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence and personal growth and;

WHEREAS, citizens of Clallam County are becoming increasingly aware that developmental disabilities do not keep individuals from realizing their full potential at school, work, home, or as members of their communities and;

WHEREAS, citizens of Clallam County with and without disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together and grow together and;

WHEREAS, the most effective way to change attitudes and beliefs about the abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities is through everyone’s work and active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual’s contribution and;

WHEREAS, we encourage all citizens to promote both the expectations and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in Clallam County to participate fully in our community through access to integrated employment, housing, education and civic engagement and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners hereby declare the month of March 2015 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

and recognize that together we accomplish more and everyone benefits. We also call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, business and schools in Clallam County to recognize the ability of individuals with developmental disabilities to make significant contributions to their communities and to take time to become acquainted with citizens with developmental disabilities and what they have to offer.

Signed this third day of March 2015

[Signatures of Clallam County Commissioners]