

Friends of Fircrest

Fall 2018

Founded by parents and advocates. Incorporated in 1978

www.FriendsofFircrest.org

Friends of Fircrest Initiates Resident Enrichment Program

There's a new big screen TV mounted on the wall in the Junkin day room with a Blue Ray DVD player for movie nights, and that's not all.

A new fun game pack arrived at Aspen for the residents to use indoors and out. Eight games in all. Two new bowling ramps showed up for PAT A residents who love to go bowling.

What's going on? Just before Christmas, a young man moved into Fircrest with only the cloths he was wearing. On learning this, the FOF Board of Directors bought him a new wardrobe. But who else was in need? What could other residents benefit from? It didn't take long for

the Board of Directors to form the Resident Enrichment Committee. From it came the items mentioned above as well as musical performances, Art supplies, and yard games. Even the FunFest was gifted.

Anyone at any level of employment at Fircrest can apply for items or activities that would enrich the lives of residents. A simple form is available from PAT directors, just fill it out and submit it. The approval process is quick and easy.



Amazon Supports Fircrest Through Your Purchases

Now you can support Friends of Fircrest through your Amazon purchases. Amazon will donate 0.5% of all purchases from everyone who shops online. It's easy, just go to our website, friendsoffircrest.org and click on the orange AmazonSmile button.

What is the difference between Amazon and AmazonSmile? Absolutely nothing. Same products. Same Prices. Same Service. Same everything.

Where do I go to sign up? Anyone can create an AmazonSmile account online at amazon.com. Simply

go to smile.amazon.com to select us as your charity of choice. Every future purchase will generate donations for Friends of Fircrest. You can also get Amazon Smile on our website, friendsoffircrest.org. It's quick and it's easy. Your family and friends can do this too. Go ahead, sign up



Action DD Elects New President

At the annual meeting at the Yakima Valley School in Selah, Joeann Pulliam was elected President of Action DD. She is a retired Washington State Em-

ployees Union Associate. Joeann is willing to take the lead to work toward securing the best supports and services needed for all Washington residents with Developmental and Intellectual disabilities. Best wishes for a successful term. One of her first initiatives is to launch a new website including a fund-raising component.

Action DD will have an open meeting in Olympia during February. Legislators will speak regarding issues important to people with developmental disabilities. All are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided. Watch the Action DD website, actiondd.org, for date and time.

VOR Seeks Your Help Finding Writers of DD Issues

VOR continues to educate our federal legislators as to the true meaning of the Olmstead Decision. There was no call to close all institutions, but to give individual CHOICE to all persons with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities.

To further this effort VOR is gathering names and contact information for any reporter, journalist, blogger, etc. who writes on DD issues. It doesn't matter if they are pro or con institutions. Let's gather their info and begin the learning process.

Send this info to: Terri Anderson; e-mail:

WinchesterWillie@comcast.net



Friends of Fircrest is a member of VOR. You too can be a member and support VOR

Sanctions may see Rainier lose 60 residents 24 of them to Fircrest

For more than a year, Fircrest has been under sanction from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. During a routine inspection, CMS found that Fircrest was failing to provide aggressive active treatment of ICF residents in PAT A. DSHS is working to regain certification. Until Fircrest is in compliance no federal money can be used for new residents. According to Superintendent, Megan DeSmet, Sanctions against Fircrest School are expected to be lifted this Fall.

Rainier School is in worse trouble. After a series of investigations CMS found violations including failure to keep clients safe and failure to report allegations of abuse and more.

Federal money has been withheld for new admissions until the facility comes into compliance. For the first time Medicaid officials are

planning to withhold funding for new admissions as well as current residents.

The affected portion of Rainier is PAT C an ICF residential care unit with about 100 of Rainier's 350 residents. Because Rainier has no Nursing facility, 60 of them would transfer out of Rainier to community placements. 24 of them are scheduled to be send to Fircrest.

DSHS Deputy Assistant Secretary, Don Clintsman says they will appeal. But he said, "Our current thinking is to pursue the approach that will increase community residential options that allow residents to transition out.

To minimize harm to vulnerable residents Rainier requested the construction of an SNF facility on Their campus as an alternative to leaving. Even if this request is granted much time would elapse before it would be opened.



FRIENDS OF FIRCREST REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE 2018

All meetings, unless otherwise notified, are held on the second Saturday of the month at 1pm in the Staff Training room of the ATP (Adult Training Program) Building 88 N.E. corner Fircrest Campus.

You are always Welcome to Join us.

FOF Meeting Dates 2018
September 8, October 13,
November 10 Annual Meeting and elections
No FOF meetings in December

Home Unit Representatives:

Third Tuesday of the month at 1 PM
Fircrest, Admin Bldg. Baker or Cascade Room.

Ad Hoc Meetings:

Called as needed. Locations vary
Emergency/Conference meetings called by board member requests.

Friends of Fircrest is a volunteer 501(C)(3), non-profit organization advocating for the right to quality living and care choices for all citizens with developmental disabilities

Officers:

President: Paul Strand
Vice President: Kent Questad, Ph.D.
Secretary: Gordon Ellison-Oslin
Treasurer: Tom Norton

Directors:

Terri Anderson
Candace B. Braley
Saskia Davis, RN
Gordon Ellison-Oslin
Leone McMullin
Liz Patterson
Launi Whedon
Gwendine Norton

Emeritus:

Dot Brenchley
Jo Bousman
Betty Cantrell, RN, BSN
Ruth Durkan
Alice Hardman, MSW, C.P.G.
Jim Hardman, J.D., C.P.G
Jean Huntley
Phil Scheier

Advisory:

Michael Johnson J.D., C.P.G.
Maria Walsh
Janet Way

Editor: Paul Strand
pstrand2020@comcast.net
(360) 556-1213

Aggressive Active Treatment Can Deny ICF/IID Care

By Paul Strand

Last year, Fircrest School and Rainier School were decertified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for failure to meet CMS care standards. This was due in part by insufficient staffing at the RHCs and by a fundamental method of treatment change made by CMS. That method, now in use affects how RHCs accept new residents and treats existing ones. It is called, "Continuous and Aggressive Active Treatment." Clients for whom this new method is deemed inappropriate are scheduled to move from Rainier School. As many as sixty residents are affected. Fircrest School and Lakeland village residents can expect the same. This new method is about to become law in our state.

What is "Continuous and Aggressive Active Treatment?" In its simplest definition it means that clients must be trained to acquire life skills that would make them more independent.

Here is how the new law reads: "NEW SECTION WAC 388-837-9010 Must a client in an ICF/IID be able to benefit from active treatment? An individual admitted to a residential habilitation center's intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities must be in need of and able to benefit from continuous and aggressive active treatment."

What has DSHS said about this? In a 2017 document they said, "CMS has emphasized the 'intermediate' aspect of institutional care. That is, it is the responsibility of the RHC not to house and protect people, but rather to be actively preparing them for leaving the RHC and integrating into

the community."

The document went on to say, "Several stakeholders will welcome the additional emphasis on compliance with continuous and aggressive active treatment in accordance with federal regulations, including CMS and Disability Rights Washington (DRW). There may also be some resistance from RHC resident stakeholder groups such as Friends of Fircrest, Friends of Rainier, and Friends of Lakeland Village. Many family members and guardians have viewed the RHCs as a place where people are healthy and safe, not where they are pushed every day to achieve more functional abilities in order to transition out of the RHC."

This addition to the RHC treatment paradigm furthers the Inclusionist ideology that all "institutions" should close. This flies in face of the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision which states in part: "This Court emphasizes that nothing in the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) or its implementing regulations condones termination of institutional settings for persons unable to handle or benefit from community settings. Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it."

We as family, friends and guardians know that the continual drive toward, "deinstitutionalization" is not best for those in need of close care. But, how can any one of us change any of this? Ultimately, our law makers make the changes. You have legislators and congressmen who will listen to your concerns. As for me, I have three legislators and my son at Fircrest School has three more. All of them will hear from me.

Best wishes,
Paul Strand, President
Friends of Fircrest

Family Friendly Meeting Times for Friends of Fircrest

We meet the second Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. for 90 minutes. This usually includes a guest speaker and always includes a great snack buffet.

Meetings are held in the ATP building (88). Please plan to attend.



Autistic Man Missing From Shoreline

First reported by KIRO TV **SHORELINE, Wash.** - A 41-year-old intellectually disabled man is missing out of the Shoreline area.

Craig is a client of the Camelot Society,. The nonprofit says he was last seen in the 14500 block of 25th Avenue Northeast in Shoreline.

He is described as white, 5 feet 9 inches tall, with brown hair and blue eyes. He wears glasses and was last seen wearing a blue shirt and shorts.

Anyone who sees Craig is asked to call the Camelot Society: 206-440-0619 or 425-616-8142.



Study Finds No Link Between Prenatal Tdap Vaccine, Autism

Condensed from Disability Scoop by Michelle Diamant | August 17, 2018

A vaccine that's strongly recommended for pregnant women does not influence the odds that their children will develop autism, according to a large new study.

Researchers looked at data on more than 81,000 children born between 2011 and 2014 to assess the impact of the Tdap vaccination — which protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, also known as whooping cough — given during pregnancy. They found no association between women who received the shot and the likelihood of autism in their children.

"Pregnant women can be reassured by this study that there is no indication of an increased risk of autism spectrum disorder in children after being exposed prenatally to the Tdap vaccine," said Tracy Becerra-Culqui of Kaiser Permanente Southern California's Department of Research & Evaluation who led the [study](#) which was published this week in the journal *Pediatrics*

For the study, researchers reviewed medical records of children born at Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Southern California. Of mothers who received the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy, 1.5 percent of their kids were later diagnosed with autism.

Meanwhile, 1.8 percent of children whose moms were not immunized prenatally were ultimately diagnosed with the developmental disorder, the study found.

"The link between vaccination and development of autism has been refuted by many rigorous scientific

investigations. Unfortunately, the misconceptions still generate concerns," said Hung Fu Tseng of Kaiser Permanente who worked on the study.

Federal Disability Policy Office Proposed

Originally reported in Disability Scoop, by Michelle Diamant, July 31, 2018

Federal policy is often implemented with little consideration for how it will impact people with disabilities, but that could change under a new proposal.

A bill introduced this month in the U.S. Senate calls for the creation of an Office of Disability Policy.

Housed within the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, the proposed entity would be specifically tasked with reviewing legislative and regulatory plans to assess how they would affect Americans with disabilities.

If established, members of Congress would be able to request reviews looking at how legislation, guidance and regulations might impact those with disabilities and the individuals who support them, much like lawmakers can already seek input from GAO on matters generally.

Additionally, the legislation calls for the office to produce an annual report evaluating the impact of enacted bills and regulations on the disability community.

"The Office of Disability Policy Act would provide people with disabilities and the general public with unbiased information about how proposed bills could affect them," said Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., chief sponsor of the proposal.

Aside from Casey, the bill is co-

sponsored by Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., and Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill.

Microsoft CEO says son's developmental disability impacted his leadership

Condensed from Q13 News

SEATTLE -- It's not every day somebody will admit the birth of their first child left them devastated. But that's the very honest confession from the CEO of Microsoft, Satya Nadella.

"I was 29 when Zain was born," Nadella said about the birth of his son in 1996. He and his wife, had been anxiously awaiting their first born.

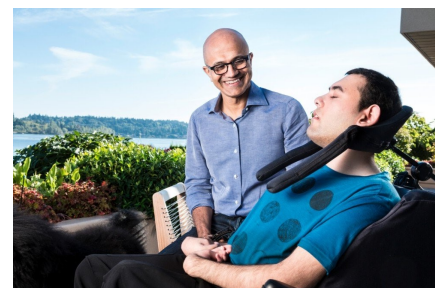
"The night he was born, everything changed," Nadella said.

"In utero asphyxiation caused a severe case of brain damage, which led to cerebral palsy. To be honest, for a few years after, I was thrown a real curve ball because all my plans were out. I said, 'why did this happen to me? What happened to us?'"

Nadella said watching his wife put together a team of doctors and therapists, all dedicated to helping Zain, changed his perspective.

"That's what I think ultimately woke me up, to recognize that nothing happened to me," he said. "Something happened to Zain,"

"Nadella says, he's always trying to find "harmony." Adding, "Some days I get. Some days I regress, but each day I try to get better."



Are You a Member of Friends of Fircrest?

Membership in Friends of Fircrest is essential. Thank you for joining, renewing, or donating to FOF, a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. Your support provides what this issue highlights and much more. Your membership advances FOF's advocacy for high quality care and human rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please ask others in your family and among your friends and associates to join or donate. It's easy and so necessary.

Become a Member of The Board of Directors

There are openings on the Friends of Fircrest Board of Directors. The total number is twelve. This is your opportunity to contribute. Directors take great satisfaction in bettering the lives of residents of Fircrest School.

Have Questions? Contact Paul Strand at (360) 556-1213 or email: pstrand2020@comcast.net

Friends of Fircrest 2018 Membership and Donation Form

NAME: _____ LEGISLATIVE DIST: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TEL: _____ E-MAIL: _____ CELL: _____

PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO GET FOF Newsletters, Bulletins and Announcements

ANNUAL DUES: \$25.00 FAMILY ____ \$15.00 INDIVIDUAL ____ ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____

Check Total: \$ _____

Please make check to Friends of Fircrest

Kindly indicate on your check how much you are dedicating for membership if additional donation is included with a single check. Your donations are tax deductible. Be sure to keep a record.

Questions? Contact Candace at 206 527 1125 or cbbraley@q.com

Thank you for mailing this form with your dues /donations and comments to:

Friends of Fircrest , c/o Fircrest School RHC, 15230 15th Avenue NE, Shoreline, WA 98155

Comments:

Friends of Fircrest

c/o Fircrest School, RHC
15230 15th. Ave. N. E.
Shoreline, WA 98155

Friends of Fircrest Mission Statement

Friends of Fircrest is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization advocating for the right to quality living and care choices for all citizens with developmental disabilities.

Friends of Fircrest Newsletter

Fall 2018 Issue

Save the Date: .

- September 8 — 1 p.m. FOF meeting
- October 13 — 1 p.m. FOF meeting
- November 10 — 1 p.m. annual membership meeting, elections and awards.

See full meeting schedule at: <http://friendsoffircrest.org/meeting-schedule.htm>

Reminder: All FOF meetings are now combined board and membership meetings.

Friends of Fircrest is an all volunteer 501(C)(3), non-profit organization.

