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UWEP Annual Report – 2022

The UW Employment Program (UWEP) works to create and support mutually beneficial relationships between people with disabilities and the businesses that hire them. In order to accomplish this mission, UWEP staff address three major goals: 1) to develop and implement new or expanded programs relating to employment of persons with disabilities; 2) to provide outreach and marketing of all program services to the community; and 3) to provide direct services to clients with a wide range of disabilities. UWEP staff members serve and advocate for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities and other types of physical and cognitive disabilities such as acquired brain injury. UWEP also provides direct services to clients and works to ensure successful and equitable employment through working with employers, parents, agencies, and other support personnel.

Direct services include job development, job placement, job training, and continued employment support. During 2022, UWEP served 96 clients. Of the 96 persons served, 31 individuals were female and 64 male, and 1 identified as non-binary. The average age of clients was 38 years.

The largest ethnic group served was Caucasian (75), the next largest group was Asian (9), followed by Black/African-American (7), American Indian or Alaska Native (1) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (1). The ethnicity of three individuals was “unknown”.

During 2022, the total number of service hours reported was 4,087.25. The majority of these service hours (3,716.50) were for job development, retention, replacement and follow-along for clients receiving long-term funding through King County Developmental Disabilities Division (KCDD). The average number of service hours per client was 44.43 hours.

In 2022, Washington State increased minimum hourly wage to \$14.49. The city of Seattle increased the minimum hourly wage to 17.27 with some exceptions at \$ 15.75 based on employer size, benefits and tips. 100% of the clients employed in 2022 earned at or over the state minimum wage with an average wage of \$17.27 hour. 61 of the employed clients reported at least 1 employer-provided benefit. The number of positions with at least one benefit (69). These benefits included sick Leave (68), vacation (29), health care (20), retirement (19) and dental (18).

At the end of 2022, 96 clients participated in employment for all or part of the 2022. 14 UWEP clients worked full time at 40 hours/week, 2 worked between 35-39 hours/week, 21 worked between 20 and 34 hours/week, and 52 worked 19 or fewer hours/week. The average number of hours worked per week was 18.74. 12 clients exited UWEP in 2022; electing to leave the program for other various reasons: successfully completing a short-

term vocational rehabilitation contract, not wishing to continue in the job market, health reasons, or moving out of the service area.

