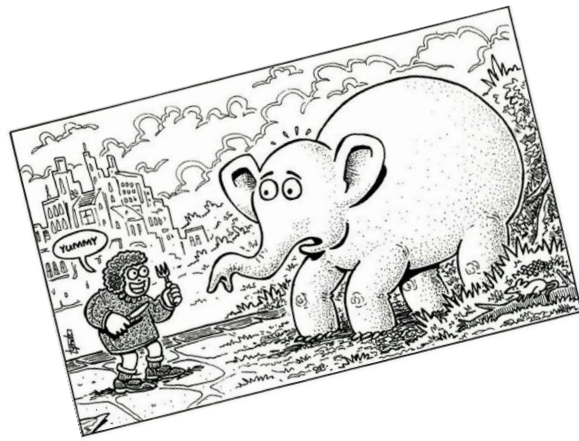


Building Relationships and Winning Trust with Educators, Administrators, Agencies, Parents and Students

Perspectives from Lewis, Stevens/Ferry/Lincoln, Asotin/Garfield Counties



How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.



Melinda Mae

Shel Silverstein

▶ Melinda Mae

- ▶ Have you heard of tiny Melinda Mae,
Who ate a monstrous whale?
She thought she could,
She said she would,
So she started in right at the tail.

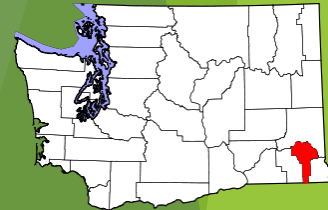
And everyone said, "You're much too small,"
But that didn't bother Melinda at all,
She took little bites and she chewed very slow,
Just like a little girl should...

...and eighty-nine years later she ate that whale
Because she said she would!!!

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Asotin/Garfield The County is a Provider



Asotin Population: 22,285 2 small providers in Idaho in addition to ACCS
2 School Districts: 3 High Schools (300 Seniors, 244 Juniors, 254 Sophomores, 263 Freshman)
3 Transition Students

Fun fact: Asotin County was created out Garfield County in 1883.



Garfield County Population: 2,286

1 School District: 1 High School (21 Seniors, 22 Juniors, 20 Sophomores, 33 Freshman)

Fun Fact: Garfield County is the least populated county in the state of Washington.

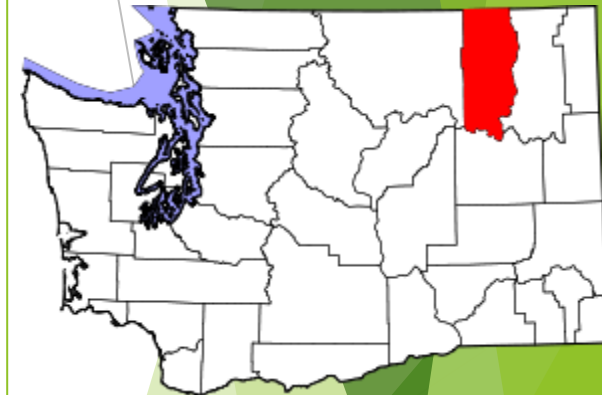
Challenges/Solutions in Asotin and Garfield Counties

- ▶ Asotin County: Overcome “crisis of the moment” mentality-not one more thing to do?
 - ▶ Establish strong relationships with local DD Case Managers and VR Counselors
 - ▶ Show up, speak up, do what you promise to do, respond quickly to emails, phone calls, be courteous, be kind
 - ▶ Asotin County: Find out what provider can do reduce work for the schools and I serve the students:
 - ▶ Provider (ACCS) instigated free JRT classes for any student with a disability; County Coordinator with education credentials acted as instructor.
 - ▶ This summer the provider offers classes for groups under WA PRE-ETS program-9 students in June classes;
 - ▶ Garfield County-Schools takes care of their own. We don't need anyone who doesn't understand our culture.
 - ▶ Build a Bridge-be a presence-do research-offer-meet with the key deciders
 - ▶ Invitations followed to attend IEP meetings, job coach a student working at the school under IE program DDA, next year more involvement.
- ▶ Invite family members you meet at IEPs into advisory group meetings, establish an annual resource fair, be a presence at events, plan to spend money on marketing.

Stevens, Ferry & Lincoln

“The Little Counties that Could”

- ▶ NorthEast Washington Alliance Employment Program serves as both the county and the provider.
- ▶ Stevens Population: 45,233 (5 Transition students in 2022)
- ▶ 11 School Districts
- ▶ Fun Fact: From the 1850s through 1910, Stevens County was one of the state’s top silver and copper producers.
- ▶ Ferry County Population: 7,643 (0 Transition students in 2022)
- ▶ 5 School Districts:
- ▶ Fun Fact: Ferry County's topography and climate make it an ideal recreation destination - tourism is becoming a significant portion of the county's economy.
- ▶ Lincoln Population: 10,732 (0 Transition students in 2022)
- ▶ 7 School Districts
- ▶ Fun Fact: Lincoln County is generally considered the second-largest producer of wheat in the United States sometimes producing 25 million bushels per year.



Challenges/Solutions in Stevens, Ferry & Lincoln Counties



- ▶ Ch ch ch changes
 - ▶ New coordinator, new program.
 - ▶ Identifying key partners and building new relationships
- ▶ Finding your ‘face’
 - ▶ One person in each county to be the ‘face’ of the program.
 - ▶ One-on-one meetings with school district staff - clarifying roles
- ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ Catching those who ‘fall through the cracks’
 - ▶ You CAN work and here are some of YOUR strengths

Lewis County



- ▶ Population: 79,604
 - ▶ 12 School Districts- 10 High Schools
 - ▶ 3 provider agencies, but only 1 providing Job Foundation services
 - ▶ Year 1: 10 students eligible, 3 participants
 - ▶ Year 2: 9 students eligible, 4 participants
 - ▶ Year 3: 9 students, 2 applicants so far!
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- ▶ **Fun Fact: Lewis County is twice the size of the state of Rhode Island and has just 7% of the population.**

Challenges/Solutions in Lewis County

- ▶ Outreach during COVID
 - ▶ Outreach events
 - ▶ Strong relationship with school staff
 - ▶ Attending IEP meetings
- ▶ Building the team
 - ▶ Ensure the team has regular communication
 - ▶ Learning together
 - ▶ Focus on process & outcomes
- ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ Increase in waiver requests & students engaging in services before exiting
 - ▶ Stronger partnerships around transition between schools, county, DDA and DVR
 - ▶ Identifying students who have not yet applied for DDA services

