

General Membership Meeting Agenda

January 20, 2021

12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

12:30 PM **Welcome and Announcements** – Pat Bauccio,
*Chairperson, Governor’s Committee on Disability
Issues and Employment (GCDE)*

New Members (see roster)

- Yvonne Bussler-White – Okanogan County
- Candace Dickson - King County
- James Carlone – King County
- Patti Dailey-Shives – Pierce County
- Christa Hewitt – Kitsap County
- Andy Song – King County

12:55 PM **Strategic Plan Process** - Warren Weissman, *Vice
Chair, GCDE*

1:00 PM **2021 Legislative Priorities- Panel Presentation**

Panel Moderators: Bill Kinyon, *Legislative
Workgroup Lead, GCDE* and Elizabeth Gordon,
Executive Director, GCDE

Panel Members are:

- Darya Farivar, *Director of Public Policy,*
[*Disability Rights Washington*](#)

- Cheri Perazzoli, *President, [Hearing Loss Association of America, Washington State Association](#)*
- Sheri Richardson, *Governmental Affairs Committee, [Washington Council of the Blind](#)*
- Katherine Seibel, *Director of Public Policy, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Washington Association (see handouts)*
- Karen Williams, *Legislative Board Chair, Community Employment Alliance and Executive Director, Trillium Employment Services (see handouts)*

2:30 PM

Legislative Reception Update – Elizabeth Gordon, *Executive Director, GCDE (see handouts)*

3:00 PM

Adjourn

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

Executive Director's Report to the General Membership

Time Frame: October 2, 2020-January 20, 2021

Submitted by Elizabeth Gordon, Executive Director

Overview/Highlights:

- Governor Inslee updated the reopening guidelines in November, which requires GCDE staff to continue to telework through the end of June 2021. Though we remain thankful to work where telework is possible and are grateful to be able to do so, this also poses some real challenges for engaging as a team and with the Committee. We will continue to work to mitigate those challenges in the months ahead. This will mean that committee and subcommittee work will continue to be conducted remotely through June 2021 as well.
- RETAIN continues to gain momentum. RETAIN is currently in the Phase 1 pilot, which will end in March of 2021. I am writing the grant application for Phase 2 with the grant writer from Workforce Snohomish. I have been meeting with community partners to establish additional relationships for the Phase 2 program, as well as working with existing partners to build the plan for Phase 2. The award for Phase 2 would be approximately \$20,000,000. The application is due February 15th, 2021.
- I participated in a podcast for the State Exchange on Employment and Disability, through the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the US Department of Labor. The focus was on various work related to supporting people with disabilities in employment in Washington State. The discussion included a variety of topics, including RETAIN and the Governor's Executive Order 13-02 (Improving Employment Opportunities and Outcomes for People with Disabilities in State Employment).
- The pandemic has offered new avenues to partner with state agencies to ensure services are accessible, both internally for state employees with disabilities, and externally for service to the community. For example, I partnered with the Attorney General's Office to train human resource staff who arrange reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities who work for various government agencies. The roundtable trainings are offered quarterly and coordinated with Office of Financial Management State Human Resources. This quarter's training was on Reasonable Accommodation in the Virtual Work Environment and covered such topics as facilitation to increase access and inclusion, as well as an overview of virtual meeting platforms and their limitations. We also discussed some relevant case law related to reasonable accommodation.

Partnership and Collaboration:

- I partnered with other Office of Equity Task Force members: Dr. Benjamin Danielson-Odesa Brown-Children's Clinic & Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, Dr. Karen Johnson-Washington State Department of Corrections, Representative Mia Gregerson, Allison

Spector-Washington State Department of Transportation, Rachele Davis-Office of Governor Inslee, and Jan Ward Olmstead-American Indian Health Commission, to make a presentation to the Washington State Public Health Association conference. The presentation, titled "Addressing Racism in State Government to Achieve Health Equity," was a Q&A format that outlined the development of the Office of Equity. I spoke about including people with disabilities in the equity office, and the impact of intersectionality.

- I participated in the **Department of Health's** disability inclusion group. This group was formed to address issues with communication between the department of health and the disability community. This group reviews communications and tools, to ensure inclusion for people with disabilities and accessibility. We give direct feedback on vaccine distribution and emergency communication, among other topics.

Directors Meetings: I participate monthly with Executive Directors from Washington State Independent Living Council, Washington State Rehabilitation Council, Developmental Disabilities Council, and Arc of Washington State, to support one another's work and stay connected to issues for people with disabilities in the community.

Disability Policy Consortium: A group of disability advocates joined to improve visibility and engagement with the Governor's Policy Office (Developmental Disabilities Council, Washington State Independent Living Council, Arc of Washington, Office of Education Ombuds, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing). Disability issues fall into several different portfolios, which have different policy advisors. For example, there are different policy advisors for healthcare, housing, and civil rights-all of which are key policy areas for people with disabilities. We convened a meeting with partners and the policy office to discuss effective coordination. We agreed that meeting regularly will strengthen our work for people with disabilities. This will allow GCDE to have direct line of communication with the policy office. This will give stronger voice for policy issues that we are passionate about, as well as lending our expertise in matters of policy brought forth by the Governor. The group will meet monthly, unless more frequent meetings are needed. We will also add additional statewide partners, to ensure cross representation of the disability community.

Current Projects and Committees:

Disability Employee Engagement Group: This is an employee group for Employment Security employees with disabilities, which meets quarterly. Focus is to create a welcoming atmosphere for people with disabilities and share resources, support, and provide training to staff.

Disability Inclusion Network: Statewide Business Resource Group focused on disability. I am the accessibility leader for this group. The group meets monthly. Elaine attends the meeting when I am not able to attend and serves on the accessibility subcommittee.

Washington State Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council: This is a cross agency group that focuses on increasing diversity and inclusion in state agencies. I represent disability inclusion.

Vicarious Trauma Workgroup: This is a project with Employment Security staff to create supportive resources for workers. With unprecedented work volume and a high level of crisis in the people we serve, staff are experiencing high levels of burn out and trauma. The group worked to develop resources and strategies for self-care.

Team Washington Accessibility-ADA & Virtual Meeting Accessibility: I have been meeting with Office of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, and various other partners to develop guidance for Washington State agencies on accessibility for virtual online meeting platforms. One specific concern is the state's investment in Microsoft Teams as an online platform. We met with the Washington State Chief Information Officer to talk about accessibility barriers in Teams, who shared the concerns with Microsoft. As a result, Microsoft convened an accessibility improvement team, and is using Washington State as a "kitchen cabinet" to test accessibility features and get feedback. In addition, I met with the ADA Coordinators for the House and the Senate, to discuss accessibility concerns in virtual environments for people with disabilities who want to meet with their legislators and participate in hearings and committee meetings during legislative session. They were really interested in hearing the concerns that have been raised and had taken the training provided at the RA Roundtable.

Reasonable Accommodation Roundtables: I work with Office of Financial Management and the Attorney General's Office to provide quarterly training to Human Resources staff who work across state agencies that provide reasonable accommodations. I gave a presentation titled "Reasonable Accommodation in Virtual Environments". This was a co-presentation with an Attorney General, who discussed relevant case law.

Accessible Housing: Work with the Governor's policy office on increasing the percentage of affordable housing that is accessible for people with disabilities.

Executive Order 13-02: Updating Executive Order related to employment of people with disabilities in state employment, in partnership with OFM.

Upcoming Events:

Legislative Reception: WSRC is organizing the Legislative Reception Committee this year. I am participating in the planning committee and the workgroup organizing the programming. GCDE will arrange reasonable accommodations for the event. The event will be held virtually. Save the date information will be shared on the listserv. It is scheduled for January 27th from 5:30-7:30

Other:

Worked with ESD's Equal Opportunity Officer to develop inclusive language for the language access plan for the WorkSource system.

Provided comment to rule changes related to the Office of the Long-term Care Ombuds.

GCDE Detail Report

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
Down syndrome/abortion Prohibiting abortion on the basis of Down syndrome. HB 1008 Prohibits abortion on the basis of Down Syndrome-makes it illegal for a person to perform or induce abortion when the person seeking abortion is because of a test indicating Down syndrome, a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome or any other reason to believe that an unborn child has Down syndrome.	H HC/Wellness	Klippert		
Hearing instruments/children Requiring coverage for hearing instruments for children and adolescents. HB 1047 Health plans issued after 1/1/2022 must include coverage for hearing instruments including bone conduction hearing devices for persons who are 10 yrs or younger including the initial instrument, assessment, fitting, adjustment, auditory training, and ear molds at a max benefit of \$2,500 every 36 months	H HC/Wellness	Wicks		
Public meetings/emergencies HB 1056 Concerning open public meeting notice requirements and declared emergencies. GCDE Tracking due to compliance with OPMA	H Local Govt	Pollet		
Child welfare/dev disability Concerning youth eligible for developmental disability services who are expected to exit the child welfare system. HB 1061 Act to reduce the number of children with developmental disabilities discharged from the child welfare system (foster youth) into homelessness. Requires DDA and DSHS to determine the number of foster youth under the age of 21 who are functionally and financially eligible for Medicaid waiver services. Requires a shared planning meeting to include additional partners to develop a transition plan and conduct advanced planning for housing options.	H Children, Youth	Senn		
Behav. health credentials HB 1063 Allowing additional renewals for behavioral health professional trainee and associate credentials. Increases to trainee certifications when there are barriers to testing due to a governor-declared emergency.	H HC/Wellness	Harris		
Epidemic, pandemic vaccines HB 1065 Concerning epidemic or pandemic vaccines. related to epidemic vaccines. I did not review this, adding for awareness.	H HC/Wellness	Eslick		

<u>HB 1080</u> (SB 5083)	Capital budget 2021-2023 Concerning the capital budget. Capital budget	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
<u>HB 1085</u>	Students w/seizure disorders Promoting a safe learning environment for students with seizure disorders. Changes language related to safety plans for students with seizure disorder. Needs deeper review.	H Education	Kloba
<u>HB 1086</u>	Behavioral health consumers Creating the state office of behavioral health consumer advocacy. Establishes an independent state office to advocate for and protect the interests of behavioral health consumers. The office will certify and coordinate activities of beh health advocates across the state, establish uniform reporting systems to collect data on complaints, conditions and service quality. Establishes a statewide advisory council. Certified behavioral health consumer advocates who shall identify, investigate and resolve complaints; assist and advocate on behalf of patients, residents and clients of beh health providers or facilities; inform providers and consumers of rights; monitor and make recommendations for improvements to quality of services.	H HC/Wellness	Simmons
<u>HB 1094</u> (SB 5092)	Operating budget 2021-2023 Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations. 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations	H Approps	Ormsby
<u>HB 1101</u>	Unused public buildings Creating a grant program for converting unused public buildings to housing for homeless persons. Creates a grant program to convert unused public buildings to housing for homeless persons.	H Cap Budget	Walsh
<u>HB 1110</u>	Local boards of health Concerning the composition of local boards of health. Delineates requirements for composition of local health boards to include additional consumers and medical care providers.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
<u>HB 1123</u>	Nursing care QAC authority Concerning the authority of the nursing care quality assurance commission. Adding for general information. Adds a stipulation that the Secretary will appoint an Executive Director who will staff the group.	H HC/Wellness	Cody
<u>HB 1141</u>	Death w/ dignity act access	H HC/Wellness	Rude

Increasing access to the death with dignity act.

Expansion of the death with dignity act that changes the language from attending physician to include qualified medical provider which includes physician, physician assistant, registered nurse practitioner. Expands consulting qualified medical provider to include physician assistant (pa), osteopathic PA. There is language in this act about competency and communication that could be important for the community of people with disabilities though it doesn't specifically call it out.

Language access in schools

H Education

Orwall

Increasing language access in public schools.

[HB 1153](#)

Relates to language access in the public schools which includes sign language interpreters. Requires school districts to provide meaningful language access for students and family members who have language access barriers.

Public testimony

H Local Govt

Kraft

Concerning public testimony at public meetings including virtual meetings

[HB 1180](#)

Gives guidance about testimony and public comment in virtual meetings.

Veterans & military suicide

H Hous, Human Svc

Orwall

Establishing programs and measures to prevent suicide among veterans and military members.

[HB 1181](#)

Suicide prevention program funding proposed for Veteran's who are 7% of the population of Washington state but account for 19% of total suicides in the state.

Crisis response services

H HC/Wellness

Orwall

Enhancing and expanding behavioral health and suicide prevention crisis response services.

[HB 1182](#)

Suicide is the single leading cause of death for youth age 10-24. The bill establishes a coordinated hotline center and crisis systems to improve the quality of and access to behavioral health crisis services. Further equity in services through cultural competency training. Expand crisis teams, upgrade technology, fund the expected increase of use of the hotline, and track and provide real time information which aids in crisis stabilization such as bed availability. Collaboration and cross system coordination is required including teams embedded in the ER.

Television closed captions

S Law & Justice

Padden

Concerning closed captioning on televisions in places of public accommodation.

[SB 5027](#)

Requires that places of public accommodation turn on closed captions unless the receiver of the television programming is technically incapable or displaying closed captions. If there are multiple televisions up to 50% of them may be exempt.

Wilderness therapy programs

S Health & Long

Salomon

Concerning wilderness therapy programs.

[SB 5056](#)

Requires Community Mental Health by 12/31/22 to create a business license for wilderness therapy programs catering to people who experience emotional and behavioral problems that are required to include provision of behavioral health treatment delivered by licensed professionals.

Unemployment/voluntary

S Labor, Comm &

Saldaña

Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work.

[SB 5064](#)

Adds language to qualifications for unemployment insurance. Reasons for necessary separation includes that usual work shifts were altered so as to make care for a child or vulnerable adult in the claimants care inaccessible. Language on suitable work includes consideration of the individual's responsibilities to provide care for a child or vulnerable adult in the individual's care.

Involuntary commitment

S Behavioral Heal

Dhingra

Concerning involuntary commitment.

[SB 5073](#)

Adds language that a first responder who receives information alleging a person as a result of a behavioral health disorder is a danger must determine if a person will voluntarily receive appropriate evaluation and treatment in a secure withdrawal management and stabilization facility. It requires the designated crisis responder to attempt to ascertain if the person has executed a mental health advanced directive under chapter 71.32 RCW. Specifies that the courts can substantially modify an order for involuntary treatment for a less restrictive alternative treatment. Specifies that if outpatient care is required as a term of conditional release the inpatient treatment period shall not exceed 90 days if the underlying commitment was for a period of 14 or 90 days, or 180 days if the underlying commitment was for a period of 180 days. Adds language that includes a substance use disorder evaluation as one of the services required at a minimum in court ordered involuntary outpatient behavioral health treatment as well as consultation about the formation of a mental health advance directive (chapter 71.32 RCW). Adds language that the court may supervise a person on an order for less restrictive alternative treatment or conditional release order. Includes additional language about therapeutic courts.

Safe station pilot programs

S Behavioral Heal

Wagoner

Establishing safe station pilot programs.

[SB 5074](#)

Establishes grant program to develop the safe stations program based on successful practices in other states. Fire stations who participate in the program are established as safe stations and provide drop in services for people in need of substance abuse treatment.

Mobile home closure notices

S Housing & Loca

Das

Extending the closure notice period for manufactured/mobile home communities.

[SB 5079](#)

Manufacture/mobile home parks have many tenants that are elderly or low income and should have a reasonable expectation of long term security. Includes requirements for communication and leases

Capital budget 2021-2023

S Ways & Means

Frocket

Concerning the capital budget.

[SB 5083](#)
[\(HB 1080\)](#)

Capital budget

<u>SB 5092</u> (HB 1094)	Operating budget 2021-2023	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
	Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.		
	2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations		
<u>SB 5105</u>	Office of equity task force	S State Govt & E	Hasegawa
	Implementing the recommendations of the office of equity task force.		
	Adds recommendations from the task force on implementing the office of equity.		
<u>SB 5107</u>	Homelessness/shelter	S Housing & Local	Fortunato
	Addressing homelessness.		
	SHELTER act: (Serious Homeless Engagement Leads to Effective Results) Requires counties and cities with a population over 50,000 to establish and operate at least 1 emergency overnight shelter site in it's jurisdiction. Counties and eligible cities must coordinate to ensure that there are enough cumulative shelter beds to accommodate the sheltered and unsheltered portions of the county's most recent point in time homeless count. Shelter locations are required to make available employment, mental health, and drug counseling services at each shelter location.		
<u>SB 5185</u>	Health care consent	S Law & Justice	Pedersen
	Concerning capacity to provide informed consent for health care decisions.		
	Bill contains language about capacity for decision making and guardianship which may be of concern to the DD/ID self advocates. Reached out to DDC, ARC, WASILC for info.		
<u>SB 5194</u>	Comm. & technical colleges	S Higher Ed & Wo	Liias
	Providing for equity and access in the community and technical colleges.		
	Adds requirements to increase completion rates for students which include diversity, equity and inclusion planning and faculty retention. Does not include disability as part of the definition of diversity--needs more research		
<u>SB 5195</u>	Opioid overdose medication	S Health & Long	Liias
	Concerning prescribing opioid overdose reversal medication.		
	Persons who present at an emergency room for opioid overdose will be provided with a prescription for opioid reversal medication and referred to the services of a substance use disorder peer specialist.		
<u>SB 5209</u> (HB 1182)	Crisis response services		Dhingra
	Enhancing and expanding behavioral health and suicide prevention crisis response services.		
	Creates a coordinated crisis hotline center and crisis services system to further equity in substance use and mental health treatment, provide higher quality support for people in a behavioral health crisis.		

Comp. restoration orders

Dhingra

Concerning updates to competency restoration order requirements.

[SB 5210](#)

Updates the competency restoration requirements so that the court can commit a defendant to the custody of the secretary for inpatient competency restoration or may alternatively order the defendant to receive outpatient competency restoration. Adds outpatient option to the existing RCW 10.77.086

Dev. disabilities ombuds

Nguyen

Clarifying the authority and role of the office of developmental disabilities ombuds.

[SB 5213](#)

Diversity, etc./higher ed.

Randall

Requiring diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism training and assessments at institutions of higher education.

[SB 5227](#)

Requires assessments including climate assessments at institutions of higher education. Needs more research on language and whether includes people with disabilities.

Legislative Group



Purpose
Mission
Scope
Guidelines

Legislative Group

- Purpose

1. Help create a unified voice in the disability advocacy community on legislation and policies that impact people with disabilities.
2. Receive, through partnerships with legislative arms of disability organizations, on legislation in process, administrative policies, and issues of statewide concern that might be addressed through legislation or administrative policy.



Legislative Group

- Purpose

3. Review and report on legislation and administrative policy to the GCDE for decision on priorities and positions (including recommended stances and the opposing point of view as well).
4. Provide links to resource information on how to impact disability-related policies and legislation through advocacy.



Legislative Group

- Mission



Mission

To be formulated by the Legislative Group, when it is formed, based on the Scope and Guidelines presented below.

Legislative Group

- Guidelines



- The GCDE Executive Director is the only person authorized to speak to legislators or administration officials on behalf of the G.C.D.E. or its subcommittees and groups (exceptions to this may be made by GCDE leadership).
- The Legislative Group coordinator, or their designee, is the only person to communicate group findings and recommendations to the Coordinating Committee and G.C.D.E. Leadership.

Legislative Group

- Guidelines (continued)

- Any communication to legislators or administration officials by persons other than the Executive Director, or those designated by leadership, are to be expressed on one's own behalf, with a statement that it is not on behalf of the G.C.D.E. (i.e. Although I am a member of the GCDE, I am speaking on my own behalf, not for the GDCE). This disclaimer should be used on social media posts as well.
- Activities of the Legislative Committee will be conducted with close cooperation and open communication with GCDE Leadership.



Legislative Group

- Guidelines (continued)



- Communications from the Legislative Group shall be directly to the GCDE Leadership (Executive Director, Chair and Vice Chair(s)) and copied to the Staff Contact.

Dear GCDE Members,

Below is an outline of our 2021 Legislative Priorities Panel. The panel presentation is from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm on January 20th, 2021. The meeting is being held virtually on Zoom. A meeting agenda is attached, which includes the Zoom link and phone numbers to join the meeting.

The panelists are:

- **Panel Moderators:** Bill Kinyon, *Legislative Workgroup Lead, GCDE* and Elizabeth Gordon, *Executive Director, GCDE*
- Darya Farivar, *Director of Public Policy, [Disability Rights Washington](#)*
- Cheri Perazzoli, *President, [Hearing Loss Association of America, Washington State Association](#)*
- Sheri Richardson, *Governmental Affairs Committee, [Washington Council of the Blind](#)*
- Katherine Seibel, *Director of Public Policy, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), [Washington Association](#) (see handouts)*
- Karen Williams, *Legislative Board Chair, [Community Employment Alliance](#) and Executive Director, [Trillium Employment Services](#) (see handouts)*

Round 1 – 30 minutes

Each panelist will be asked a question; once everyone responds, the next question will be asked. There are a total of seven (7) questions. Please note, we may not be able to get through all the questions, time permitting.

1. What is the greatest priority for your organization that could be addressed by legislation?
2. What do you see as the most significant improvements for Washingtonians with disabilities in recent years, resulting from legislative action?
3. As you look at the legislation in the pipeline now, what do you see as the keystone legislative issues of 2021 for people with disabilities?
4. How does your organization stay up to date on legislation and the progress on bills you support or oppose?
5. In engaging with legislators to lobby for legislative decisions most beneficial to your members, what methods of engaging have you found most effective?
6. How might the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment help in the arena of legislative advocacy?
7. How would suggest Washingtonians with disabilities form effective relationships with their individual legislators?

This will conclude the first round. A 5-minute break will be taken.

Round 2 - 30 Minutes

The focus of Round 2 is to provide more time for each panelist to discuss their top priorities for the 2021 legislative session. Each panelist will have between 5 and 6 minutes for comments. Immediately following Round 2 will be another 5-minute break.

Questions and Answers - 10 Minutes

After the break, meeting participants will be able to ask panelists questions. After the Q & A Section, Bill Kinyon will do a quick wrap-up.

If you have questions or want more clarification, please call Melinda Johnson at 509.482.3854 or contact her by email at msjohnson@esd.wa.gov.

Thank you for participating in our General Membership Meeting. We look forward to learning more about these issues and concerns together.



Washington State's Largest Volunteer Organization for People with Hearing Loss

The Hearing Loss Association of America, its local chapters and state associations work to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support, and legislative and policy advocacy.

- ❖ HLAA advocates for equal access for all Americans with hearing loss in areas such as telecommunications, employment, healthcare, education, and community life. Programming includes Communication Access in Health Care Settings and Toolkits for Employment and Get in the Hearing Loop, HLAA's community communication access program.
- ❖ HLAA Chapters provide support and information to local chapter members. A virtual veteran's chapter meets every third Tuesday. In Washington State there is a Whatcom County chapter and a support group in Renton.
- ❖ HLAA State Associations focus on statewide issues of communications access and pursue activities to support and educate state residents with hearing loss.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA— WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION (HLAA-WA)

There are an estimated 1.5 million people in Washington State living with hearing loss. HLAA-WA provides support and education for people with no local chapter, provides a bridge to information from HLAA, collaborates with state organizations, agencies, and venues to increase accessibility, and advocates for city, county and state legislation and policy to increase communication access for people with hearing loss. HLAA-WA is run by an all-volunteer board of directors.

HOW DOES HLAA-WA SUPPORT WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS?

SUPPORT

Hearing accessible gatherings and virtual meetings include speakers, and opportunities to build friendships, learn from others and stay connected.

EDUCATION

Through the Get in the Hearing Loop program, HLAA-WA educates the community about hearing loss, hearing loops and hearing assistive technologies to promote access.

LEGISLATIVE / POLICY ADVOCACY

Efforts include representation at the state, county, and local levels to ensure Washingtonians with hearing loss are served in laws, policies, systems, and environments.

INFORMATION

Information is shared via a bi-weekly E-News, social media, bi-annual meetings, and the HLAA-WA website- all designed to empower and educate people living with hearing loss.

For more information:

HLAA: <https://www.hearingloss.org> HLAA-WA: <https://hearingloss-wa.org> or info@hearingloss-wa.org



Washington State 2021 Legislative Priorities

Washington State

- **Captions for TVW (Budget)** – We support a line item in Governor Inslee’s 2021-23 biennium budget that ensures continued funding for live captions across all TVW broadcast platforms: TV, Internet, and mobile. This funding covers licensing and service fees required for automated captions on TVW.

Background: Funding from CARES was secured to purchase and install the customized machine encoders required to provide captions. Associated fees will only be covered through the 2021 legislative session. Ongoing support is needed to ensure these captions continue.

Rationale: Live captions provided in real-time are needed for hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians who are Deaf or who have a hearing loss. Captions ensure that vital safety and health information can reach these people promptly. Without captions for the legislative sessions, meetings, and testimony, people with hearing loss are disenfranchised from the civic process. Further, without ongoing funding, the investment in equipment will be wasted.

- **Let Washington Kids Hear (HB 1047)** – We support House Bill 1047, the Children’s Hearing Aid bill, to require private insurers in Washington State to cover hearing aids for youth aged 19 and under.

Background: Hearing aids are not covered by many private insurers. In 2018, we successfully helped pass SB 5179, which restored coverage for adults on Medicaid in Washington State.

Rationale: Hearing is vital to many aspects of a child’s development: speech, language, social, relationships, education, and more. As many as one in five parents of children with hearing loss can’t afford hearing aids, which can cost as much as \$4,000 each—and need to be replaced as a child’s hearing loss changes over time. Without hearing aids, vulnerable children are left behind.

- **Closed Captioning for Televisions in Places of Public Accommodation (SB 5027)** – We support Senate Bill 5027, requiring closed captioning to be activated on televisions in places of public accommodation, with limited exceptions.

Background: This bill was presented in the 2020 legislative session, but did not move beyond the second reading in the House before the session ended. The bill has strong Senate support; public testimony was heard 1/18/21.

Rationale: Closed captioning provides equal access to information and entertainment in places of public accommodation. Captions ensure that vital safety and health information, broadcast via television, can reach people promptly, including Deaf and hard of hearing people. There is no cost to places of public accommodation to implement this law.



hearingloss.org

HLAA Position Statement on Aural Rehabilitation

Synopsis: The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) supports the use of an Aural Rehabilitation model for hearing healthcare to reduce or eliminate participation restrictions and activity limitations imposed by hearing loss.

Aural Rehabilitation (AR) consists of evidence-based practices that help to address the challenges posed by hearing loss, such as communication difficulties and diminished quality of life, both for hard of hearing individuals and their significant others. These practices include:

- Use of Hearing Assistive Technologies (HAT) to mitigate the impact of distance and noise, facilitate the use of the telephone, and/or serve as alerting devices;
- Training in communication strategies;
- Auditory Training for better concentration, management of auditory fatigue and the development of relaxation skills;
- Access to peer groups that provide empathy, support, encouragement, and education; a
- Counseling to cultivate skills for building resourcefulness and emotional resilience.

Historically, aural rehabilitative audiology for adults with acquired hearing loss has been difficult to access. Audiologists are rarely trained to practice hearing healthcare within an aural rehabilitation model and professionally delivered AR services provided by audiologists are often not covered by health insurance. By contrast, AR services are often covered by insurance, for example, when they are provided by speech/language pathologists.

HLAA helps to make available resources for AR and supports the availability of resources and tools that help individuals to successfully solve communication challenges and optimize quality of life.

Approved by the HLAA Board June 2018



hearingloss.org

References

Montano JJ, Spitzer JB, editors. Adult audiologic rehabilitation. Plural Publishing.

Preminger JE, Yoo JK. Do group audiologic rehabilitation activities influence psychosocial outcomes? American Journal of Audiology.

Preminger JE. [Audiologic rehabilitation with adults and significant others: Is it really worth it?](#) Audiology Online.

Ross M. A retrospective look at the future of aural rehabilitation. Journal of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology (accessible here).

Ross M. [Is aural rehabilitation effective in improving listening skills?](#) First published in Hearing Loss Magazine, J/F 2011.



POSITION STATEMENT

Free Access to Automatic Captioning for People with Hearing Loss to Support Social Engagement, During the COVID Pandemic

Summary: HLAA, the U.S. leader in advocacy for people with hearing loss, calls for all online video call and conferencing platforms to offer free (no-cost) access to automatic captioning technology to people with hearing loss at the same level that platforms offer to their premium customers, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because social engagement and connection is a basic human need, HLAA has fought long and hard on behalf of people with hearing loss for access to the highest quality captions across all media, from captioned phones and TV shows to internet content. Without this access to high quality captioning, many people with hearing loss—who often struggle to understand speech over electronic media—would be unable to access much mainstream communication.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more and more personal social engagement occurs via online video calling and conferencing platforms such as those offered by Zoom, Google, and Microsoft.

However, many people with hearing loss are unable to use these online video applications for calls with their families and friends because captions are typically not available on the free “consumer” version. Even people with mild hearing losses often say, “I can hear but I can't understand.” This leaves people with hearing loss unable to communicate well with loved ones, especially during this crisis period.

While some services support captions by trained human speech transcribers—CART writers, the gold standard for captioning—the need for captioning vastly outstrips the availability of trained CART writers during this crisis period.

Some online conferencing platforms provide or support captions generated by automatic speech recognition algorithms (ASR captions). However most services provide or support access to ASR captioning only to their “premium,” i.e., paying, customers (for example, businesses and schools). While the free ASR captioning available on some services is too slow to be usable by people with hearing loss, good ASR captioning technologies do exist that can be very helpful in certain situations including personal calls and family conferencing. However, ASR captioning at this level is often locked behind a prohibitively expensive paywall for many users with hearing loss.



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HLAA calls for all video calling and conferencing companies to provide or support free (no-cost) access to their premium-quality ASR captioning at the same level that they offer to their premium customers, to people with hearing loss.

We want to be clear that accessibility is a legal obligation under various laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other health laws as well as state and local laws. In situations beyond the “personal use” case described here, people with hearing loss are entitled to effective communication for distance learning, telemedicine and employment-related meetings. HLAA has a long history of supporting access to effective communication in educational, clinical and employment settings, and will continue to do so during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The need for social engagement—a basic human need—is paramount, especially during this period of global crisis. Accordingly, all free online video calling and conferencing platforms should be accessible to people with hearing loss for their personal use at no additional cost, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted by the HLAA Board: May 5, 2020
Expires after one year unless renewed.



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POSITION STATEMENT

Medicare Coverage of the Cost of Hearing Aids and Hearing Health Services

Synopsis: HLAA recommends that the Medicare program cover costs of acquiring and successfully using hearing aids.

Nearly half of Americans age 65 and over have clinically significant hearing loss that threatens their health and well-being. Medicare, the federal program that provides health insurance to Americans age 65 and over, does not cover most hearing health services, including the cost of acquiring hearing aids.

HLAA's mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss. To meet that mission, HLAA supports amending Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enable Medicare to cover needed hearing assessment, treatment, devices and related services.

Several pieces of legislation addressing Medicare coverage of hearing health care services are being considered by Congressional committees. HLAA is carefully assessing these bills, watching their progress, and providing input to key legislators on points of concern to its members. This position statement may be updated as the debate proceeds.

Updated June 12, 2019



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POSITION PAPER

Telecoils and Hearing Loops

Synopsis: HLAA supports the inclusion of telecoil technology in all hearing aids and cochlear implants as well as the installation of high quality, well-maintained hearing loop assistive listening systems in public spaces such as ticket counters, auditoriums, houses of worship, classrooms, theaters, concert halls, airports, train stations, and public transportation.

Despite significant advances in hearing aid and cochlear implant technology, people with hearing loss cannot adequately hear in many public spaces when there is too much background noise or the voices are too far away. The most common adjunctive solutions—FM or infrared assistive listening devices (ALDs)—typically require the user to wear a large, stigmatizing, and cumbersome hearing device in addition to or as a replacement for their own devices. As a result, ALDs are underutilized and people with hearing loss cannot participate fully in many areas of public life.

The combination of telecoils and hearing loops offers an easy-to-use, effective and dignified solution for people with hearing loss. Telecoils—simple magnetic coils—can be found in most hearing aids and in nearly all cochlear implants. Hearing loops are a straightforward connectivity technology that enables sound to be “broadcast” wirelessly directly to the telecoil in a hearing device, delivering clear sound directly to the wearer’s hearing aid or cochlear implant that is free of the effects of background noise, distance and reverberation.

Simple loops enable people with hearing loss to hear, for example, a pharmacist provide instructions for a prescription. More sophisticated loops—installed in a meeting room in a municipal building—enable people with hearing loss to participate fully in their government. These are only two of many examples of the exceptional utility of hearing loops and telecoils.

HLAA encourages the development of universal wireless connectivity for assistive listening technologies, solutions that are fully compatible with all hearing devices from all manufacturers. However, at present, and for many years to come, no wireless audio technology (including Bluetooth) is as usable, flexible, or as easy for consumers with hearing loss to use as telecoils and hearing loops. Therefore, HLAA supports the inclusion of telecoil technology in all hearing aids and cochlear implants as well as the installation of well-maintained hearing loop systems in public spaces that meet or exceed IEC 60118-4, the international standard for loop installations.

Adopted February 2018, to be reconsidered February 2021.



hearingloss.org

HLAA Position Statement on Insurance Coverage of Hearing Aids

Synopsis: HLAA recommends that health insurance cover the full cost of acquiring hearing aids.

An estimated 48 million Americans have hearing loss, which limits their full participation in society. Yet up to 85% of people who could benefit from hearing aids do not have them.

Cost is a key barrier to ownership. Many health insurance providers do not cover the full cost of hearing aids. In some cases, there is simply no coverage; in others the cost is only partially covered.

HLAA recommends that health insurance should cover the full cost of acquiring hearing aids. Currently “hearing aids” are medical devices that are dispensed by medical professionals. As FDA regulation around hearing aids evolves, HLAA will revisit this policy statement, and consider over-the-counter hearing aids and other hearing assistance devices.

Approved by the HLAA board June 2018

- **Consumer Bluetooth/Telecoil Education (SB 5210 Implementation)** – We support the continued implementation of the requirements for hearing aid dispensers and audiologists to notify consumers of telecoil and Bluetooth hearing aid options.

Background: Senate Bill 5210 was passed in 2019 to ensure that consumers understand two key hearing aid features that could help them hear in different settings. The Board of Hearing and Speech is developing regulations pursuant to the bill. HLAA-WA provided input in writing and at the public hearing. The Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) is finalizing consumer education material that HLAA-WA helped develop.

Rationale: Without a telecoil, people with hearing aids can't effectively connect to ADA-mandated public assistive listening systems. These systems, in places such as court rooms, legislative hearing rooms, theaters, classrooms, senior centers, and places of worship, keep people with hearing loss connected and included. Without them, people with hearing loss are disenfranchised.

- **Dementia Action Collaborative** – We support hearing loss education and support the inclusion of hearing assistive technology in dementia planning and care.
- **The Governor's Commission on Disability Employment** – We support including people with hearing loss to serve on this commission and for hearing loss and hearing access to be a key part of ensuring employment and professional growth for people with hearing loss.

The Bigger Picture: Communication Access

- **Healthcare Access** – We support clear masks for healthcare professionals and speech transfer systems with window hearing loops and caption apps in all healthcare settings.

Background: The healthcare industry has been slow to implement hearing access technologies and practices. Hearing loops are still not available in most healthcare settings, clear masks aren't widely available, and caption apps are rarely used.

Rationale: People with hearing loss have additional challenges and barriers to seeking care during the pandemic. Masks make speech reading impossible. Social distancing and plexiglass barriers reduce speech intelligibility for everyone. Without additional communication access, people with hearing loss experience increased stress, reduced understanding of medical advice, and a lowered standard of care.

- **Virtual Meeting Captions** – We support free, universal, easy-to-use captions on all virtual meeting platforms.

Background: Most virtual meeting platforms were not initially designed with captions. Millions of people with hearing loss are now working from home, seeking healthcare, and staying connected to families and communities via Zoom and other platforms.

Rationale: Asking people to purchase, install, and activate captions is an unfair burden for people with hearing loss. And without captions, people with hearing loss are disenfranchised from work meetings, entertainment, volunteer activities, and civic and government proceedings. A lack of captions makes it harder for people with hearing loss, who already face isolation, to stay connected to friends and family.

OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSUMER ADVOCACY

The creation of the statewide Office of Behavioral Health Consumer Advocacy, [HB1086](#), is a critical component in strengthening and providing access to Washington's behavioral health services - at a time when our state needs it now more than ever.

WHAT WILL THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSUMER ADVOCACY DO?

Offer critical services to people using our state's behavioral health system.

- Consolidate ten existing regional offices and provide consumers with a single point of access to allow for easier access and streamlined service across the state while maintaining localized support;
- Advocate for consumers of the publicly funded behavioral health system and offer services such as finding or changing providers, making sure services were paid for, and identifying and resolving complaints;
- Work in cooperation with other statewide agencies representing consumers to promote coordinated services.

Over **1.5 million people** will benefit from the new office

Support individuals during inpatient care.

- Serve as a patient advocate for individuals in psychiatric units in hospitals; ensuring patients receive appropriate treatment, while respecting their legal rights.

Approximately **2,000 people** use hospital inpatient mental health care monthly.

Bolster accountability and improvements within the system.

- Improve independence from the payers to ensure that consumers get the best services;
- Establish a statewide advisory council comprised of people with lived experiences, peers, family members and providers;
- Provide feedback and recommendations on systemic improvements to the governor's office and the legislature.

Integrate existing local offices.

- Retain the current ombuds to ensure a smooth transition of the people they serve;
- Integrate existing regional behavioral health ombuds into the new statewide program - ensuring a local connection to services.

KEY ELEMENTS TO A COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Mental health conditions are common and recovery is possible. And there is a critical and urgent need for our state's behavioral health care system to ensure all Washingtonians can access prevention, early intervention, care, and supports for behavioral health.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Washington recognizes that there have been significant investments and improvements to the state's behavioral health system. However, many Washingtonians still face crises in the face of systemic barriers that impede access to recovery. Change is still critically needed to adequately and effectively fund services; decriminalize mental illness, address the rising rates of homelessness, bolster meaningful accountability, and holistically meet the needs of people with behavioral health conditions. **Again, recovery is possible. This can be achieved by continuing to build a comprehensive system of care.**

NAMI Washington's key elements to a comprehensive behavioral health care system include:

1. INCREASE ACCESS TO A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

- Treatment should be individualized, coordinated, comprehensive, and accessible in each community; inclusive of wrap-around and integrated care.
- Require and expand best evidence-based models, such as [Program for Assertive Community Treatment \(PACT\)](#) programs, and access to practices, like [Assisted Outpatient Treatment \(AOT\)](#), that can reduce hospitalization and criminalization for all counties' community treatment.



2. FULLY FUND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

- Invest in a responsive system with low wait times in accessible locations across the state.
- Require and enforce insurance coverage for behavioral health treatment and insurance coverage parity.



3. PRIORITIZE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

- Provide accessible, early screening for behavioral health conditions with early appropriate, treatment such as in school and university-based services.
- Care should be recovery focused by promoting stable housing, employment, crisis respite, peer support, and empathetic connections to others.
- [Every \\$1 invested in behavioral health prevention and early intervention programs can save the state \\$2 to \\$10.](#)



4. DECRIMINALIZE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

- Ensure effective diversion resources are available statewide.
- Invest in crisis diversion programs and [Designated Crisis Responders \(DCRs\)](#).
- Expand access to [Crisis Intervention Teams \(CIT\)](#) statewide.



NAMI WASHINGTON 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In 2021, NAMI Washington will lead advocacy efforts to improve access to timely and effective behavioral health treatment and supports in the face of racial injustices, an economic downturn, and a global pandemic. NAMI WA will also analyze, position, and advocate as appropriate, introduced legislation that falls within scope of our key elements to a comprehensive behavioral health system document. **NAMI Washington's focused policy priorities for 2021 are to:**

PROTECT FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Advocate for revenue to fully fund critical behavioral health services and supports that help individuals and families meet their basic needs (e.g. funding for the Housing and Essential Need program);
- Support the \$250 million request for the Housing Trust Fund and advocate for housing that serves individuals with behavioral health needs;
- Advocate for \$500,000 continued funding for NAMI support programs for affiliates and the state office.

ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSUMER ADVOCACY

Establishment of this statewide office would: provide consumers with a single phone number and website to access the office's services; advocate for consumers of the publicly funded behavioral health system, serve as a resource for patients in hospital settings, and provide feedback and recommendations on systemic improvements to the governor's office and the legislature.

SUPPORT DECRIMINALIZATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

- \$300,000 is needed to implement the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission the intersection of the criminal justice and behavioral health crisis system; work critical to decriminalizing behavioral health.
- NAMI Washington supports leaders on police accountability and communities of color disproportionately impacted by policing. These systems impact and intersect with behavioral health.

SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 988 NUMBER

NAMI Washington supports efforts to implement the new federal legislation that will establish the 988 behavioral health crisis response number and system as crisis response alternative to 911.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

NAMI Washington also supports:

- Access to culturally responsive services; Mental Health Advanced Directives (MHAD) implementation; Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) expansion; health insurance parity; increased access to telehealth; and increased access to broadband

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NAMI WASHINGTON: AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Washington's local NAMI affiliates offer free peer, family, and caregiver support, education and outreach programs, and engage mental health advocates in their communities.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

NAMI Washington is the NAMI state organization in Washington. NAMI Washington provides educational resources and events, statewide outreach, advocacy and affiliate organizational support. NAMI Washington provides the free trainings that allow NAMI affiliates to provide NAMI programs.

<https://www.namiwa.org/index.php/get-help-support/online-support-groups>

WHAT PROGRAMS DO NAMI AFFILIATES PROVIDE?

Peer-to-Peer:

A recovery education course open to all adults with a serious mental illness emphasizing recovery is possible.

Family-to-Family:

A course for families, partners and friends of individuals with serious mental illness focusing on emotional responses.

Basics:

A course developed specifically for parents and other family caregivers of someone with a serious mental illness or who is experiencing symptoms.

Homefront:

A course for families, caregivers and friends of active duty military members and veterans with mental health conditions.

In Our Own Voice:

A public education presentation that offers insight into the hope and recovery possible for people living with mental illness.

Ending the Silence:

Classroom presentations for middle and high school students to raise awareness and help them to understand mental health conditions.

Multiple Support Groups:

Most affiliates hold weekly groups led by peers for individuals with mental health diagnoses, families, and veterans.

Other Programs:

Affiliates also offer a variety of services such as connection to resources, Crisis Intervention Training, Club House programs, and more!

Contact: Melanie Smith, Lobbyist,
smith.melaniej@gmail.com

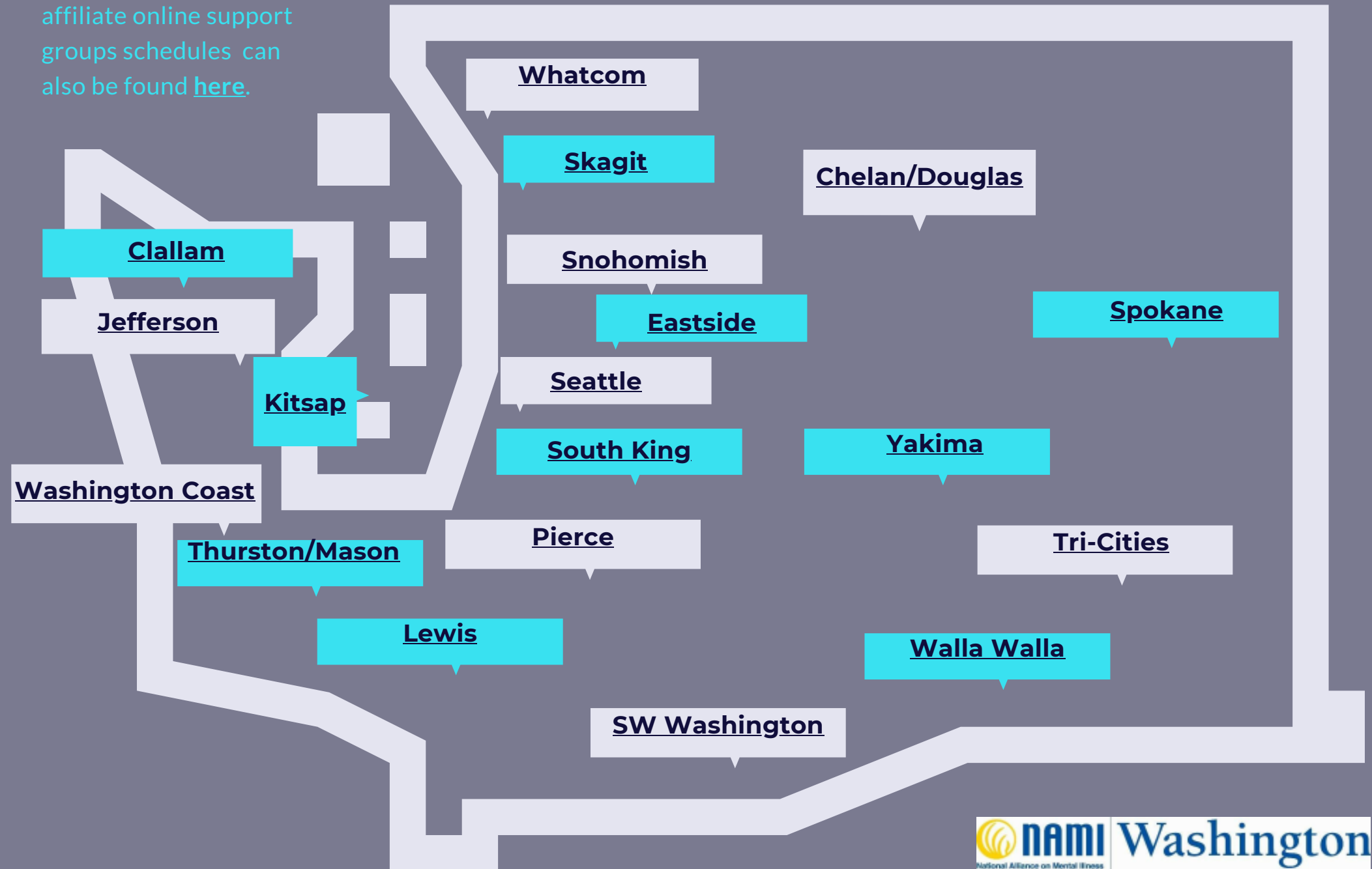
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LOCAL NAMI AFFILIATE WEBSITES

Click on the local NAMI affiliate to learn about support and resources in your area.

All NAMI Washington affiliate online support groups schedules can also be found [here](#).



Workers with disabilities are part of Washington's economic recovery.

EQUALITY does not mean EQUAL when it comes to budget cuts that support services for individuals with disabilities: Prior to COVID-19, the disability community was already disproportionately impacted by poverty factors such as low employment rates and difficulty finding affordable housing, food, health care, and other essentials. Washington has historically been 38th in the nation for developmental disability funding. Cutting employment and other services to people with disabilities means reducing their ability to build a more equitable livelihood for themselves and their families. The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) opposes additional cuts to current and future employment services.

- **Washington State must protect and preserve DD funding for critical supports and services.** The proposed funding and eligibility cuts to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) would cause devastating and irreparable harm. The developmental disabilities community was already in crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 14,000 eligible people waiting for much needed services, additional proposed cuts will put over 8,000 previously eligible individuals out of service in a time when those services are needed most.
- **Maintain Investment in students with disabilities transitioning from school to adult life.** Washington State has demonstrated that when system partnerships exist, 74% of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have a job within a year of exiting school. Unfortunately, there is not a statewide collaboration on school-to-work transitions, so service access is not equitable. Too many students are being left behind without an opportunity to become employed. Preserve current Medicaid Waiver eligibility levels, support DDA budget request for 878 students with disabilities exiting high school and adopt the recommendations from the Transition Collaborative Report to improve outcomes for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **End subminimum wage in Washington State for people with disabilities.** To date, there have been two companion bills introduced: HB 1706 and SB 5753. Both outline a process for ending the practice of subminimum wages for people with disabilities. For Washington State Employers to be successful we feel that adding a 2-year transition period to these bills will allow for success for all parties involved. In this two year period, the provisions authorizing the director of Labor and Industries to issue special certificates for the employment of individuals impaired by age, injury, or physical or mental deficiency, at wages lower than minimum wage would be removed.

Washington State must protect and preserve DD funding for critical supports and services.

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) proposed funding cuts and eligibility changes would cause devastating and irreparable harm to people with developmental disabilities and those that support them. The developmental disabilities community was already in crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 14,000 eligible people waiting for much needed services, additional proposed cuts will put over 8,000 previously eligible individuals out of service in a time when those services are needed most. Washington currently ranks 38th among states in per capita spending on people with developmental disabilities, putting the well-being of people with disabilities in a precarious position without cuts.

Supported Employment increases independence for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and decreases the cost of DSHS support.

Supported Employment (SE) services create lasting positive economic impacts for individuals. Businesses rely on these services to develop and diversify their workforce. People with disabilities rely on these services for economic, physical, and mental health. When people are working, reliance on other expensive public services decreases and contribution to the economy as producers and consumers increases.

- In 2019, Washingtonians with developmental disabilities earned \$61.5M, paid taxes, and reduced their reliance on public supports ¹.
- June 2020 data shows 32% of DDA's employed clients are essential workers who maintained employment during COVID-19. ² Supported Employment agencies continue to support IWD's to return to work and help displaced workers find new paths to employment.

Changing ICF/IDD Medicaid eligibility puts jobs at risk and increases demands for other human services

Losing supported employment services will cause people currently relying on job coaching to lose the supports needed to maintain their employment, affecting both the individual and their employer.

A report from the Foundational Community Support program indicates people in SE services find employment at a higher rate, earn more money, and work more hours. Supported Housing helps individuals transition out of homelessness and thereby reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations. (Danielson, Mancuso, & Felver, 2020) ³

Reducing DVR Funding hinders our economic recovery and negatively impacts people with ID/DD

\$3.2M cuts impact services to 622 DVR clients. DVR states 6,000 people are currently on their wait list and if the state match is not available, they will lose \$4 in Federal for each \$1 of state funds not available. Our state will incur long term penalties if we do not meet our Maintenance of Effort extending the harmful impacts on services.

Washington State leads the nation in employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities

Employment Data shows that 85 % of people with ID/DD in Washington who are employed, participate in competitive employment; more than four times the national average 19% (UCP 2019 Report). Washington has nationally recognized employment service providers and technical assistance infrastructure ready to help people with disabilities find new jobs for the approximately 70% who were laid off due to COVID.

Workers with disabilities are part of Washington's economic recovery.

Do not cut their opportunity to contribute. See how meaningful employment is to their life!

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=302276360917664>

¹ ESD, FY2018, DDA FY 2019)

² DSHS Request ID #202007-PRR-350

³ <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/fcs-preliminary-report-one-pager.pdf#page=1>

Washington State must ensure students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) will exit school with a plan to engage in the workforce and post-secondary options.

- Only 51% of eligible students are connected to employment services one year after exiting high school.
- Only 29% of eligible students are employed nine months after exitⁱ.

CEA's goal is to increase the number of young adults with IDD engaged with employment services and working one year after exiting school by 3% in 5 years.

Washington State has demonstrated that when systems partnerships exist, students with IDD are 3.9 times more likely to have a job when they exit schoolⁱⁱ. Unfortunately, there is not a statewide collaboration on school to work transitions, so service access is not equitable. Too many students are missing job pathways.

Maintain Investment in Students Transitioning Out of School

Preserve current DDA eligibility as the proposed eligibility changes would eliminate services to approximately 8,100 DDA clients, not including exiting students that will also be disqualified. (August OFM budget proposal)

Support DDA Budget Request to fund 878 students with disabilities exiting high school to help them get a job and other services needed for a safe, productive, and meaningful quality life after graduation.

Invest in the Transition Collaborative's Recommendations to the Legislatureⁱⁱⁱ

Funding for Statewide School to Work: Invest in statewide access to School to Work for students with developmental disabilities. Currently, School to Work is only available in 7 counties. According to DDA, there are 872 students estimated to exit in 2021, based on a 3% increase in enrollment. DDA's potential investment in the first year of exiting students, in partnership with DVR, would be \$4,360,000 or \$5,000 per student plus administrative program management.

Regional Interagency Transition Networks: Support new and existing regional interagency transition networks. With an investment of \$72,000, WA can establish common guidelines across regional networks, to ensure equitable access and participation while maintaining local context, autonomy, and flexibility. Networks would outline their mission, priorities, agreements, and measurable goals relating to regional transition data and needs.

Data Share Agreements and System Navigation Supports: Streamline collaboration and navigation support to help local communities increase student goals and employment outcomes.

ⁱ Employment Outcomes Monitoring Report, DSHS, Yearly Cohorts of Individuals Turning 21, Data Current through March 2020

ⁱⁱ Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration data 2015-2018.

ⁱⁱⁱ [The Transition Collaborative Summative Report](#) was the result of proviso language from Senate Bill 6032, Sec. 501 [57] and Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6168 Sec. 501 (3)(c).



The Community Employment Alliance requests that Washington State end subminimum wage for people with disabilities. To date, there have been two companion bills introduced: **HB 1706** and **SB 5753**. Both outlines end the practice of subminimum wage for people with disabilities. For Washington State Employers to be successful we feel that adding a 2-year transition period to the bills will allow for the greatest success for all parties involved. In this two-year period, the provisions authorizing the Department of Labor and Industries to issue special certificates for the employment of individuals impaired by age, physical or mental deficiency, or injury at wages lower than minimum wage would be removed.

The Community Employment Alliance encourages Washington State to align with fellow states who have successfully eliminated subminimum wage.

- As January 2020, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont have no 14(c) certificates. Oregon, Texas, Alaska, and Virginia are phasing certificates out. This creates an opportunity to be one of the frontrunners to help lead this movement (3). In Washington, we lead the nation with an 87 percent employment rate of people with developmental disabilities who receive employment services.

The Community Employment sees a pathway for success to expedite the process:

- There are less than 400 certificates statewide.
- Many of the 400 have already or will be transitioning to minimum wage jobs or higher each year.
- Technical assistance is available from employers and agencies that have made the transition away from Sub-Minimum wage use.

Eliminating Sub-Minimum Wage aligns with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and self-advocacy groups

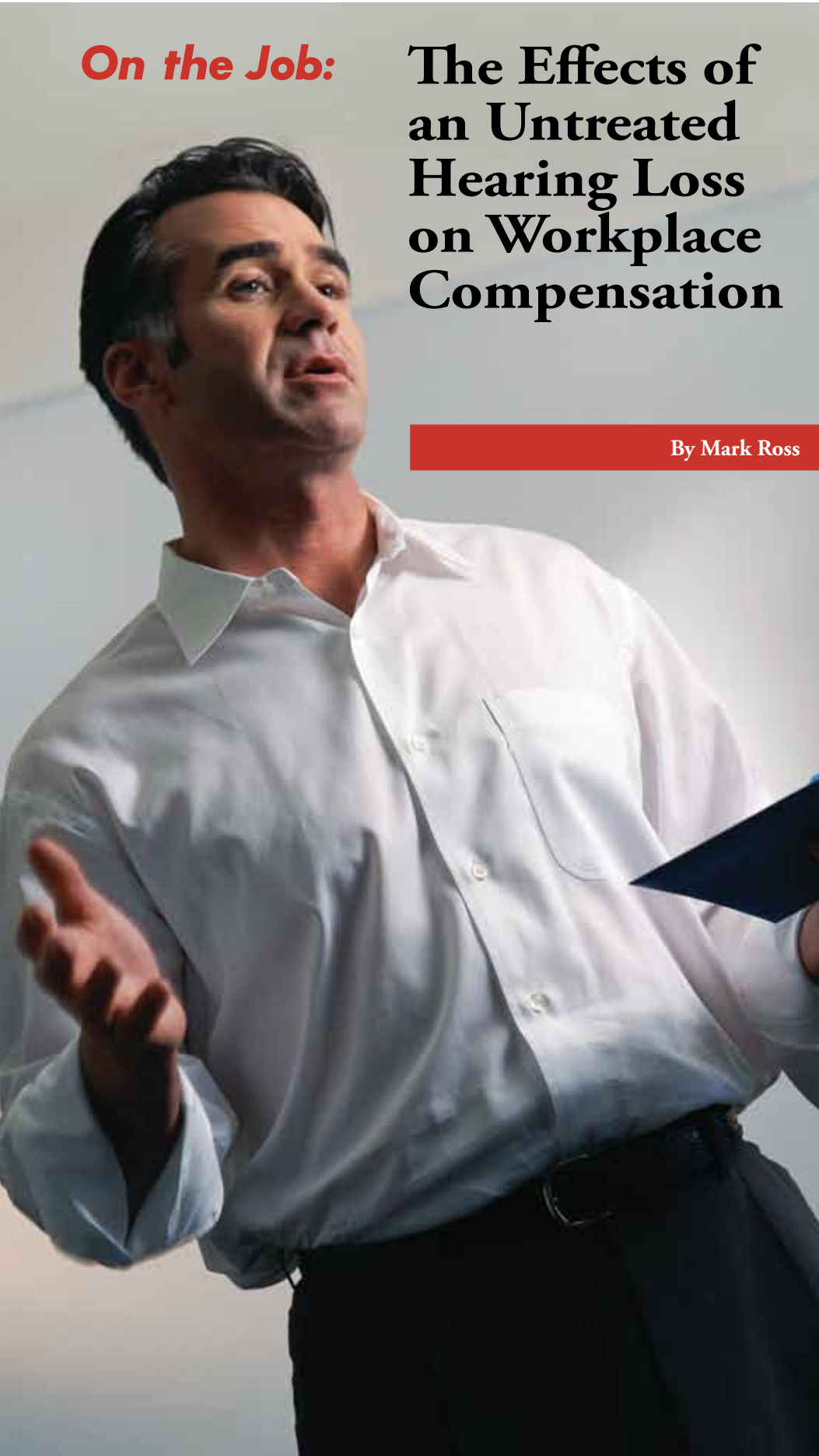
- In September of 2020, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights declared the need to end subminimum wage, providing the following findings, “[I]n sum, the state transitions from 14(c) evaluated by the Commission seem promising and illustrate that it is possible to pay persons with disabilities at least minimum wage.”
- ARC, APSE, Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, the Washington Chapter of APSE, Disabilities Rights Washington all support this effort and we will work alongside our allies to ensure eliminating sub-minimum wage happens.

1. <https://apse.org/washington-state-looks-to-end-subminimum-wage/>

2. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=5753&Year=2019&initiative=>

3. <https://www.usccr.gov/files/2020-09-17-Subminimum-Wages-Report.pdf> (pg.13)

4. Nat'l Council on Disability, National Disability Employment Policy, From the New Deal to the Real Deal: Joining the Industries of the Future pp. 61-98 (2018)



On the Job:

The Effects of an Untreated Hearing Loss on Workplace Compensation

By Mark Ross

Anyone who has any degree of hearing loss deals with a number of unknown issues and faces many anxieties when it comes to finding a job or being successful on the job. This article offers in-depth explanations of the findings of a related study which can help readers put issues they face in perspective.

It has long been recognized that a hearing loss can have a pervasive and profound impact on the lives of both the affected individual and his or her family. In addition to making oral communication interactions more challenging, a hearing loss can also impact upon such diverse dimensions of the human condition as mental, emotional and physical well being, social skills, self-esteem, family relationships, as well as work and school performance.

While not as obvious as communication problems, research studies and personal experiences over the years have amply demonstrated these other possible consequences of a hearing loss. We also know that many of these problems can be ameliorated with personal amplification—hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. This was convincingly demonstrated a few years ago in a classic study involving thousands of people commissioned by the National Council on the Aging.

The study showed that people with treated hearing loss (i.e., hearing aids) were less socially isolated and more emotionally secure than a comparable group with untreated hearing losses. Further, these positive effects were not only felt by the person with a hearing loss, but were also apparent to family members while easing family tensions—demonstrating once again that a hearing loss is truly a family affair.

Employment Obstacles

In addition to its effect on psychosocial status and interpersonal communication, a hearing loss may also influence a person's employment status. Most jobs in our society require some degree of interactive verbal communication; one must be able to communicate effectively with co-workers, the public, and most important, one's supervisors. Any

hindrance in that ability may interfere with the efficiency and accuracy of these communication exchanges and thus affect how well a job is performed. This, in turn, may well influence the compensation that a person receives for the job he or she is doing. It can, for example, help determine how much people with a hearing loss are paid for a job or, indeed, whether they have a job at all.

While there has been much written on this overall topic over the years—we already know, for example, that deaf people are too often underemployed and underpaid—but because of changing technology, social attitudes, and public law the situation is ever-evolving. It is helpful, therefore, to systematically update our information on the topic. Most importantly, it is necessary to determine if the use of amplification can mitigate the consequences of a hearing loss in the workplace. In a recent publication, Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D., executive director of the Better Hearing Institute, addressed this question.

A Study of Amplification in the Workplace

Before proceeding, it is worth noting that this study focused on people currently in the workforce. This refutes the common stereotype that hearing loss affects only elderly people, or those whose working days are long behind them. In point of fact, fully 60 percent of the people with hearing loss are either in the workforce or in educational settings. The study's findings, therefore, are relevant to the majority of people with hearing loss who are presently employed, or who will soon be looking for a job (good luck!).

The study examined the workplace compensation of three groups of people, those wearing aids (about 1,800 of them), those with hearing losses (about 3,000) but who were unamplified, and a large cohort of normal hearing people as controls. To ease the analysis, the respondents with hearing loss were broken into ten groups (termed deciles) depending upon severity of hearing loss. Great care was taken to ensure

The study showed that people with treated hearing loss (i.e. hearing aids) were less socially isolated and more emotionally secure than a comparable group with untreated hearing losses.

a representative demographic sample from all areas of the country. Thus, the results present the best and most current knowledge we have regarding the economic status of people with hearing loss in the workforce.

General Findings

One basic finding of the survey was the not unexpected observation that employment income is related to the degree of hearing loss. While the people with the mildest hearing losses show little or no drop in income compared to their normal hearing peers, as the hearing loss increases, so does the reduction in compensation.

This decline is the most rapid and most apparent for the groups with the more severe hearing losses. The income level of the worst group (the tenth decile) was about \$14,000 less than that earned by the group with the mildest hearing losses. This figure does not consider whether or not the person used hearing aids, just the effects of the hearing loss itself was taken into account. For an “invisible” disability, it’s clear that a hearing loss can have some very “visible” consequences.

Economic Consequences

The key question in this study, however, was whether this effect can be ameliorated with amplification. The short answer is a resounding “yes”—ameliorated, but not completely overcome.

The study compared the salary differential by degree of hearing loss for both the aided and unaided groups compared to those with normal hearing. The results clearly demonstrate the economic advantages of a person with a hearing loss in using amplification on the job. While no advantage of amplification is seen for the decile with the mildest hearing loss, as the hearing loss increased so does the income gap

between the groups. This gap between the groups widens with increasing hearing loss.

Finally, for the group with the most severe hearing losses (10 percent of the total), the income differential between the aided and unaided groups reaches the rather astounding figure of \$31,000 a year! This is how much less people with the most severe, unaided hearing loss make compared to a comparable group of hearing aid users. This is clearly a horrendous and discouraging figure.

Even for hearing aid users, it’s not as if the hearing loss has no effect. The results indicate that even with amplification, the group with the most severe hearing losses (10 percent of the total) still earns about \$11,000 less than their normal hearing peers. While the gap can be narrowed with hearing aids, it was not completely overcome.

What we have learned so far is that a hearing loss has economic consequences, but that a hearing aid can ameliorate, but not completely overcome, these consequences. This is hardly a surprise, though one that is important to document as this study has. We’ve always known that a hearing aid does not replace normal hearing. Indeed, one of the myths we’ve had to confront over the years, probably from the time the first electronic hearing aid was used, was the myth that a hearing aid would “correct” a hearing loss in a somewhat comparable way that eye-glasses correct visual problems. Unfortunately, it just isn’t so. Particularly for the people with the most severe hearing loss, residual listening problems are still manifested in some circumstances. In short, a hearing aid is an aid—and one to be grateful for—but it is not a replacement for a normal ear.

Fairness in Compensation

The survey asked the respondents a number of additional questions regarding their experiences in the workplace. These questions concerned such topics as their perception of compensation compared to their normal hearing peers of comparable training and education

continued on page 28

Hearing Aids *cont. from page 27*

and whether they feel they have been passed over for a promotion because of their hearing loss. It turns out that only in the middle age unaided group (ages 45-64) did the respondents feel that they were being treated differently than their normal hearing peers (specifically regarding compensation equity). This was not the case for those people of the same age group who wore hearing aids, offering additional evidence that hearing aids do help. We should keep in mind that these are general conclusions; anecdotally, we know of many individual exceptions.

Fairness in Finding Employment

In terms of employment status, the survey found that the unaided groups were unemployed at a higher rate than their aided peers, and that in agreement with other results from the study, the disparity in employment status increased as the hearing loss became more severe. Unfortunately, this result does accord with numerous observations formed over the years; it does seem clear that people with severe hearing loss have extra difficulty in finding (but not necessarily holding) a job.

Other Factors

It should not be concluded from the foregoing, however, that hearing aids are some sort of magic pill, a panacea that will produce full employment equity with people with normal hearing. They are simply the first step, but a crucial one. If somebody with more than a mild hearing loss denies themselves the potential benefits of personal amplification on the job, then as we have seen, their wage status will likely be less than their aided peers. But as crucial as personal

We've always known that a hearing aid does not replace normal hearing. Indeed, one of the myths we've had to confront over the years, probably from the time the first electronic hearing aid was used, was the myth that a hearing aid would "correct" a hearing loss in a somewhat comparable way that eyeglasses correct visual problems. Unfortunately, it just isn't so.

amplification is, it is often not enough. A particular job or function may make communication demands that exceed the capabilities of conventional hearing aids. Other forms of hearing assistive technologies (HAT) are often needed to meet this challenge.

Each workplace makes its own communication demands, and these may be different for each person, with or without a hearing loss. Thus, the first step in selecting what specific hearing assistive technology can be helpful is analyzing the nature of the communication interactions on the job, and to isolate those that are proving difficult for the person with the hearing loss. Solutions can only follow an accurate analysis of the problems. Such solutions can vary from something as simple as moving a desk away from a noisy hallway, to reversing one's desk to keep the sun out of one's eyes.

One major challenge confronting people with hearing loss on the job is the need to communicate effectively on the telephone. Fortunately, in this and for many other job requirements, there are hearing assistive technologies that can be brought to bear. Help is available, but must be actively sought. An audiologist can be helpful in isolating specific

job related hearing needs and in identifying specific devices for specific needs. In many states, Vocational Rehabilitation offices, or State Commissions of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can help people with hearing loss in securing such devices.

But this kind of outcome just doesn't happen because there is a need; on the contrary, it is the involved individuals who have to take the lead. In this, as in so many other areas concerning hearing loss, passivity is not an option. But the first step, as this article by Kochkin demonstrates, is for the person with a hearing loss to acquire and use hearing aids. ■■■

Mark Ross, Ph.D., is an audiologist and associate at the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) at Gallaudet University. He was awarded the HLAA Lifetime Achievement Award. He and his wife, Helen, live in Storrs, Connecticut. To find more Dr. Ross articles, go to www.hearingloss.org and www.hearingresearch.org.



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Need an Employment Toolkit?

HLAA provides information on applying for jobs, interviewing, communication tips, and more. Go to <http://bit.ly/hW8va>

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The HLAA e-News gives you continuing updates along with breaking news and legislative actions in which you can participate. There's no cost and no obligation! Sign up on our website today at

www.hearingloss.org

Accessible Communities Subcommittee
Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment

Subcommittee Report
General Membership Meeting
January 20, 2021

Accessible Communities (AC) Subcommittee Members:

Megan Mason-Todd, Chair; Larry Gorton; Clarence Eskridge; Reg George; Damiana Harper; Warren Weissman; Lucy Barefoot; Zahid Chaudhry and Jason Ritchie.

Staff: Elaine Stefanowicz, Program Coordinator

1. AC Operations Manual, developing a table of contents in the next couple of weeks. Once completed, we will distribute the manual on the AC website and invite county ACACs to review it and give us their feedback.
2. Megan is sending an email to all county ACACs to introduce herself and discuss an upcoming All-County ACAC meeting in April 2021.
3. The AC website is continually evolving. Clarence and Emily have met to work on the content and accessibility.
3. Megan and Elaine are using the AC Operations Manual when reviewing grant proposals. They are in the process of reviewing a proposal from Island County and it is their first attempt to use these procedures.
4. The AC Subcommittee created an AC vision statement:

Supporting counties in improving accessibility and inclusivity for people experiencing disabilities by promoting equal access to opportunities.

5. The AC subcommittee is going to do some cross-disability etiquette training. They are going to do a pilot within the AC subcommittee in February and, if it works, they will open it up to the whole GCDE Committee if anyone wants to participate.
6. Megan is sharing training opportunities with AC subcommittee members per their request made during the AC subcommittee strategic planning meeting.

7. AC Grants awarded for the last two fiscal years:

July 2019-June 2020 (Last Fiscal Year)

- Island County Mental Health Brochures \$1,000
- Jefferson County \$41,139.74
- Walla Walla SonBridge Accessible Door \$2,984.86
- Spokane County (customer service for people with disabilities classes, business accessibility reviews and community engagement presentations regarding the Spokane ACAC) \$4,238.49.
- Pierce County Equestrian Ramp \$4,946.47

\$54,309.56 Total

July 2020-June 2021 (Current Fiscal Year)

- Island County (18 Additional Accessible Seats for Bus Stops) \$16,167.66
- Kitsap County (two all-terrain chairs that can be used on the beach and for emergency evacuations) \$9,878

AC Funds Available	
Beginning	\$155,351.00
Grants Awarded 2020	\$26,046
Currently Obligated	\$16,167.66
Obligated from 2019	\$35,464.83
Interpreter services current	\$4,890.74
Interpreter services projected	\$3,816.00
Total current expenses	\$86,385
Funds remaining	\$68,966.11

8. The attached map lists the counties having current and pending Accessible Communities Advisory Committees.

9. The AC subcommittee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 4pm.

Governor's Employer Awards Subcommittee Report

January 20, 2021

2020 Governor's Employer Awards Program

Our Awards Program was presented virtually this year and was held on Tuesday, October 27th. Despite the challenges of using a different format this year, it was a very successful event. Approximately 118 individuals participated in the event. We recognized 23 nominees for their innovative methods of supporting individuals with disabilities, and their inclusive hiring practices. We awarded 7 employers for their outstanding use of best practices and illustrations of excellence in leadership.

Three individual awards were presented; the Direct Support Professional, the Governor's Trophy *in Memory of Carolyn Blair-Brown* and we presented our inaugural recipient, Mike Hatch, with the Toby Olson Lifetime Impact Award. These individuals were commended for their unfaltering contributions to advance equity, opportunity, and inclusion for people with disabilities. A full list of the award winners is included at the end of this report.

Following the awards ceremony, the subcommittee met to discuss strengths and suggested areas of improvement. We received numerous positive comments about the content of the event and the format. It appears, having a mix of both live presentations as well as those pre-recorded was received favorably. The subcommittee is recommending a virtual component be included with the next in-person awards ceremony. The new marketing tool of using weekly teasers highlighting employers and individuals nominees was very positive and recommended for future events.

In our last meeting, we had lots of discussion on the possibility of doing a similar virtual platform next year, or whether a possible in-person event might be doable. There was much agreement to maintain components of the virtual program and process we used this year moving forward, whether it is a live or virtual event. Incorporating employer and individual teasers were positive marketing tools and easily adaptable for both virtual and in-person gatherings.

Vision Statement

The subcommittee met to create its own vision statement. The following language was sent to the Coordinating Committee for approval:

“Increase opportunities, accessibility, employment and career development for people experiencing disabilities through an annual event recognizing employers who are leading the way toward inclusion for all.”

Subcommittee Chair

Janet Bruckshen completed her second term in December. Clarence Eskridge was asked and accepted the Chair position. A vice-chair will be selected later.

Meeting Dates

The subcommittee has set its 2021 meeting calendar. The meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th and the link to join the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82639668150?pwd=SUhRYlVnMkREZzZjVm13aGNUaVpjUT09>

2020 Governor's Employer Awards Program Recipients

Toby Olson Lifetime Impact Award

Mike Hatch, Retired Executive Director, Work Opportunities, Lynnwood (Nominated by Phil McConnell, Snohomish)

Governor's Trophy in Memory of Carolyn Blair-Brown

Dave Reynolds, Arc of Spokane, (Nominated by Larry Gorton, Spokane)

Direct Support Professional of the Year Award

Debra Tan, Northwest Center, Renton (Nominated by Lindsay Fisher and the Employment Services Division of Northwest Center, Renton)

Small Non-Profit Employer of the Year Award

Community Seeds / Calico Cat Café, Zillah (Nominated by Jessica Moreno, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Sunnyside)

Public Employer of the Year Award

King County Road Services Division, Renton (Nominated by Alexa Curson, Trillium Employment Services, Renton)

Small Private Employer of the Year Award

Papa Murphy's, Lake Forest Park (Nominated by Lupe Alejandre, Washington Vocational Services, Seattle)

Medium Private Employer of the Year Award

Safeway Store #1448, Sequim (Nominated by Karla Richardson, Morningside, Port Angeles)

Large Private Employer of the Year Award

MOD Pizza, Washington, Issaquah (Nominated by Cody Ryckman, Northwest Center, Renton)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

GCDE General Membership Meeting

January 20, 2021

- **As it has been for so many, this year has been very challenging for Community Outreach. The subcommittee has not been able to hold an event since February 2020. Attending an outreach event is the best way for new subcommittee members to truly understand our work.**
- **Member participation continues to be strong. There remains to be a disconnect for new members on the impact an outreach event has on a community.**
- **Furthermore, much of the work the subcommittee did this year has centered around previous events where new members were not involved, again failing to generate the same excitement that has occurred in past years.**
- **Bill Kinyon continues to lead a workgroup exploring the possibility of a virtual outreach. Based on that group's work, the experience and success of the Employer Awards subcommittee and a projected continuation of health restrictions related to COVID-19, Community Outreach is planning to hold a virtual outreach meeting for Camano/Stanwood in May of 2021. This location was previously selected for an event in late 2020 and is optimal for a virtual event because of its high levels of**

broadband internet availability. The May timeframe was selected to allow time to adjust our methodology to an online platform and to develop the technical skills to execute the event successfully.

- **The subcommittee agrees that a hybrid in-person and virtual event would have the highest impact once the current health restrictions are no longer a concern. Moving forward, a hybrid model for the Town Hall meeting will be incorporated in the normal planning process.**
- **The subcommittee is also exploring other types of outreach and different definitions of “community”. In this subcommittee chair’s experience, “community” has been a geographic term. At the beginning of 2019, the subcommittee made Native American groups an outreach priority, but there are also disability communities and other cultural communities that could benefit from GCDE outreach.**
- **Laurie Schindler also led a workgroup to develop some post-event follow-up. This has included surveys and personal phone calls to community leaders who made commitments of action during the Leadership Breakfast.**
- **The subcommittee set their monthly Zoom meeting calendar for 2021. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month at 12 Noon. Additional meetings**

may be scheduled to address the planning for outreach events.



GCDE Membership Subcommittee

General Membership
Meeting Report 1/20/21

Subcommittee Report

Current Membership of the Subcommittee:

William Kinyon
Megan Mason-Todd
Laurie Schindler
Warren Weissman, Chair
Elaine Stefanowicz, Program Coordinator

GCDE Membership Status

	Current Members	Expected Members
Beginning Members as of 12/2020	24	
First term ending 12/2020 (Harper, Harris, Weissman)	(3)	
Second term ending 12/2020 (Bruckshen, Crandall, Peddy, Wheeler)	(4)	
Reappointments (Harper, Weissman)		2
New Appointments by the Governor as of January 11, 2021		6
Ending Members, after Appointments and Reappointments		25*

*The Governor's Boards & Commissions Office has advised that 2 membership slots will be held open until further notice.

New Member Application and Screening Process

- The GCDE call for applications occurred between September 1 and September 15.



GCDE Membership Subcommittee

General Membership
Meeting Report 1/20/21

- Outreach efforts:
 - Email to the GCDE Listserv, containing more than 14,000 addresses.
 - Press release through the ESD Communications Manager.
 - Announcement on the GCDE Facebook page and website.
 - Announcement via the Twitter account of GCDE Executive Director Elizabeth Gordon.
 - Individual outreach, requesting assistance to the leaders of relevant State boards and commissions.
 - Email to all current GCDE members requesting that they forward the announcement within their organizations and to their networks.
 - Email to all GCDE Associate Members, representing State agencies and disability-related organizations, requesting that they forward the announcement within their organizations and to their networks.
 - Email to WA tribal leaders and vocational rehabilitation professionals associated with tribes.
 - Email to the Disability Support Services Council of the WA State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
 - Follow up with community members who have attended past GCDE Community Outreach events around the State and have expressed interest in GCDE membership.

- The deadline for applications was October 15. More than 40 inquiries were received but only 26 completed applications were submitted.

- Screening Process:
 - Chair emeritus Mandeep Kaundal joined the Subcommittee for the screening of applicants and development of a recommendation to the Boards & Commissions Office.
 - Subcommittee members reviewed each applicants B&C application, GCDE Supplemental Questionnaire and CV (if submitted).
 - Phone/Zoom interviews were conducted with 14 applicants by teams of two Subcommittee members. The applicants selected for interviews were those rated most highly in the initial review process.
 - The Subcommittee also reviewed geographic and demographic information (Relationship to the Disability Community, Type of Disability, Ethnicity, Age Range, Sexual Orientation (if self-disclosed), Veteran Status, Community and Region of Residence)



GCDE Membership Subcommittee

General Membership
Meeting Report 1/20/21

- Geographic/demographic information resulted in limited modifications to the applicant ranking that derived from the review of information in applications and from the interviews.
- A recommendation package was submitted to the Boards & Commissions office on November 23, 2020.

****Other 2021 Plans and Activities****

- Review of participation logs (ongoing)
- Outreach to specific members about lack of engagement (ongoing)



Youth Leadership Forum

Subcommittee Report

General Membership Meeting

January 20, 2021

We have held our monthly YLF subcommittee meetings. We last met on Friday, January 15, 2021.

Staff or Chair has attended the DVR Lunch & Learn Webinars, as schedules have allowed.

YLF had been scheduled for August 15-20, 2021 at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way. We have recently made the decision to cancel the in-person event and will not attempt to pursue an online YLF.

The committee is in the process of discussing next steps for 2021 after the agreed upon cancellation of this year's YLF.

Julie and Linea met weekly via Zoom through the end of 2020 transition leadership. They discontinued weekly meetings and plan to touch base as necessary.

Pat, Elizabeth, and Linea met via phone to discuss the future of YLF and whether it has run its course. With a wide array of Pre-ETS options, the YLF enrollment has decreased over the years.

Linea, with the help of the committee, discussed and compiled a list of similar Pre-ETS programs to determine where YLF fits within Washington state's extensive list of program options. We are working to ensure YLF serves an important niche and does not duplicate services offered in other programs.



**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ISSUES AND
EMPLOYMENT (GCDE)**

January 2021

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER



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**Accessible Communities
Community Outreach
Coordinating
Governor's Employer Awards
Youth Leadership Forum, Membership**

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021

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**GCDE Co-Vice Chair; Accessible Communities
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MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**



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Member-At-Large**

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MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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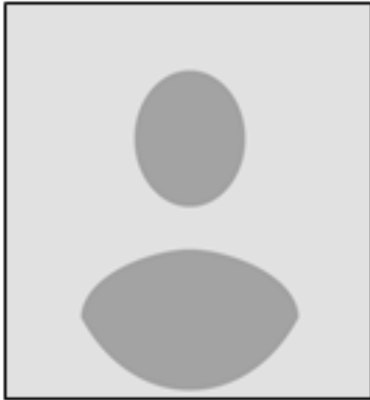


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MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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**Community Outreach
Youth Leadership Forum**

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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Accessible Communities
Governor's Employer Awards, Chair

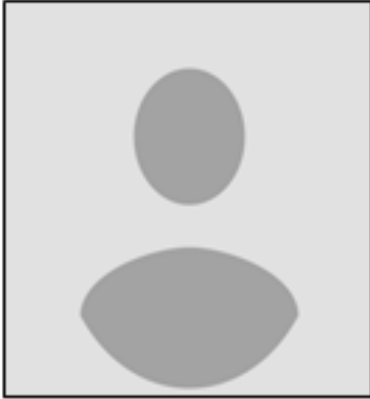


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Governor's Employer Awards
Youth Leadership Forum

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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Community Outreach
Governor's Employer Awards



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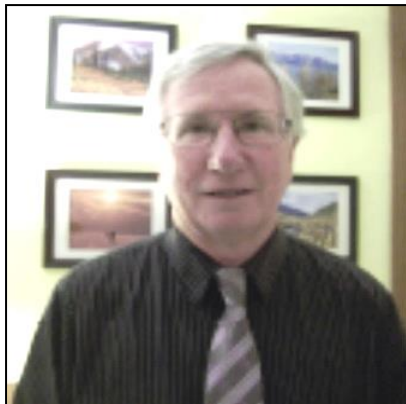
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MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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Community Outreach

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021



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Community Outreach
Governor's Employer Awards

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Community Outreach
Governor's Employer Awards

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
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Community Outreach, Vice-Chair

Governor's Employer Awards

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**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**



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Subcommittee Assignment TBD

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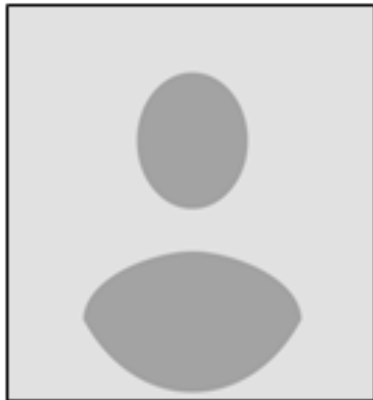
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**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
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GOVERNOR’S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT (GCDE)

January 2021

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MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**

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GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT (GCDE)

January 2021

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

CHAIR



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**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**



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**Governor's Employer Awards
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Email: busslyv@dshs.wa.gov

Subcommittee Assignment TBD



James Carlone
11308 8th NE, Apt B
Seattle, WA 98125
King County
1st Term Ends: 2023
LD: 46, CD: 7
Phone: (617) 777-2624

Email: jcarlone13@gmail.com

Subcommittee Assignment TBD



Zahid Chaudhry
2420 Angela St SE
Lacey, WA 98503
Thurston County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 22, CD: 10
Phone: (360) 529-1109

Email: a2zoly@yahoo.com

**Accessible Communities
Governor's Employer
Awards**



Marsha Cutting, Ph.D.
953 Curtis Loop NE
Bainbridge Island, WA
98110
Kitsap County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 23, CD: 6
Phone: (518) 312-9088

Email: mcutting@gmail.com

**Community Outreach
Youth Leadership Forum**



Patti Dailey-Shives
12503 114th Ave E
Puyallup, WA 98374
Pierce County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 25, CD: 10
Phone: (253) 678-0029

Email: pattidailey28@gmail.com

Subcommittee Assignment TBD

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**



Candace Dickson
520 Occidental Ave S
Unit 606
Seattle, WA 98104
King County
1st Term Ends: 2023
LD: 37, CD: 7
Phone: (314) 584-9692

Email: cdickson1973@gmail.com

Subcommittee Assignment TBD



Clarence Eskridge
8503 148th St Ct East
Puyallup, WA 98375
Pierce County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 2, CD: 10
Phone: (253) 256-1804

Email: c.eskridge-gcdewa@outlook.com

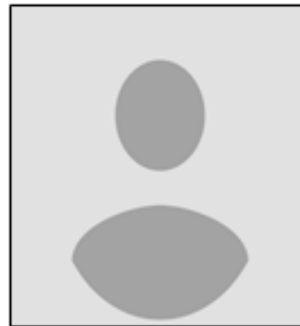
**Accessible Communities
Governor's Employer Awards, Chair**



**Kevin Frankeberger,
Ph.D.** 1271 E St Andrews
Dr N Shelton, WA 98584
Mason County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 35, CD: 6
Phone: (360) 426-8389

Email: K_Frankeberger@yahoo.com

**Governor's Employer Awards
Youth Leadership Forum**



Reginald George
110 Plum Ln #1
Yakima, WA 98908
Yakima County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 14, CD: 4
Phone: (816) 721-3145

Email: reggeorge@gmail.com

**Accessible Communities
Youth Leadership Forum**



Larry Gorton
3807 S Latawah St
Spokane, WA 99203
Spokane County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 6, CD: 5
Phone: (509) 315-2122

Email: lajagort@comcast.net

**Accessible Communities
Community Outreach**



Deana Harris
4707 224th St SE
Bothell, WA 98021
Snohomish County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 1, CD: 1
Phone: (206) 200-0899

Email: deanaharris63@yahoo.com

**Community Outreach
Governor's Employer
Awards**

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**



Christa Hewitt
607 Times Ave
Bremerton, WA 98312
Kitsap County
1st Term Ends: 2023
LD: 26, CD: 6
Phone: (360) 551-8486

Email: hewittchrista@gmail.com

Subcommittee Assignment TBD



Linea Johnson
1901 N Washington St
Tacoma, WA 98406
Pierce County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 27, CD: 6
Phone:(425) 785-5310

Email: linea@lineajohnson.com

**Community Outreach, Coordinating
Youth Leadership Forum, Chair**



James Kenney
11340 SE 211th Ln #54
Kent, WA 98031
King County
2nd Term Ends: 2022
LD: 11, CD: 9
Phone: (253) 850-0834 (H)
(206) 799-9143 (C)
(253) 573-6792 (W)

Email: jfkenney75@gmail.com

Community Outreach



William Kinyon
1311 W 6th Avenue Apt B
Spokane, WA 99204
Spokane County
2nd Term Ends: 2022
LD: 3, CD: 5
Phone: (509) 499-9092 (C)
(509) 532-3006 (W)

Email: william.kinyon@yahoo.com

**Community Outreach
Governor's Employer Awards
Legislative Workgroup Lead
Coordinating Member-at-Large**



Daniel Ledgett
611 23rd Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
Cowlitz County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 19, CD: 3
Phone: (360) 431-8958 (C)

Email: d_ledgett@hotmail.com

**Community Outreach
Governor's Employer Awards**



Megan Mason-Todd
4525 Auto Center Way
Bremerton, WA 98312
Jefferson County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 35, CD: 6
Phone: (360) 328-9954 (C)

Email: mmason-todd@skookum.org

**Accessible Communities, Chair
Coordinating
Membership**

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**



Matt Nash
802 N Irby
Kennewick, WA 99336
Benton County
1st Term Ends: 2022
LD: 8, CD: 4
Phone: (509) 947-3428

Email: mn73102000@gmail.com

**Community Outreach
Governor's Employer**



Laurie Schindler
PO Box 6144
Olympia, WA 98507
Thurston County
2nd Term Ends: 2022
LD: 22, CD: 10
Phone: (360) 561-2764

Email: theschindlers@comcast.net

**Community Outreach, Vice-Chair
Governor's Employer Awards
Coordinating Member-at-Large
Membership**



Andy Song
4118 S 224th Pl
Kent, WA 98032
King County
1st Term Ends: 2023
LD:33, CD: 9
Phone: (253) 970-3771

Email: andysong544@gmail.com

Subcommittee Assignment TBD

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBERS JANUARY 2021**

GCDE Emeritus (Former Chairs)



Chris Carnell
12557 35th Avenue NE
Unit B
Seattle, WA 98125
King County
LD: 46, CD: 7
Phone: (206) 909-3692 (C)

Email: ccarnell@hotmail.com



Dan Eberle
1101 S Yakima Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98405
Pierce County
LD: 28, CD: 10
Phone: (253) 680-7010 (W)

Email: deberle@batestech.edu



Mandeep Kaundal
6200 Fair Oaks Rd SE #9
Olympia, WA 98513
Thurston County
LD: 22, CD: 10
Phone: (206) 491-2220 (C)
(360) 999-9395 (W)

Email: Mandeep.Kaundal@gov.wa.gov



Paul Wysocki

LD: 19, CD: 3
Phone: (425) 742-5313

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
ASSOCIATES JANUARY 2021**

<p>Mark Adreon, Program/Partnership Development WA State Department of Services for the Blind 3411 S Alaska St Seattle, WA 98118</p> <p>Phone: (206) 906-5502 (W) Email: mark.adreon@dsb.wa.gov Website: www.dsb.wa.gov</p>	<p>Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Director WA State Department of Veterans Affairs P.O. Box 41150 Olympia, WA 98504-1150</p> <p>Phone: (360) 725-2155 (W) Email: alfie@dva.wa.gov Website: www.dva.wa.gov</p>
<p>Imelda Ang, Inclusion, Learning & Development Mgr. WA State Department of Labor and Industries P.O. Box 4514 Tumwater, WA 98501-5414</p> <p>Phone: (360) 902-6946 (W) Email: angi235@LNI.wa.gov</p>	<p>Lucy Barefoot, Voter Education & Outreach Specialist Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division P.O. Box 40220 Olympia, WA 98504-0220</p> <p>Phone: (360) 902-4174 (W) Email: lucy.barefoot@sos.wa.gov</p>
<p>Kimberly Conner, Executive Director WA State Independent Living Council P.O. Box 45340 Olympia, WA 98504-5340</p> <p>Phone: (360) 725-3695 (W) Email: connekb@dshs.wa.gov Website: www.wasilc.org</p>	<p>Gina Donahue, Special Education Specialist Special Education Coalition 3846 SE 248th Pl Maple Valley, WA 98038</p> <p>Phone: (425) 233-0561 (W) Email: gina.donahue@comcast.net Website: http://www.wssec.org/</p>
<p>Darya Farivar, Director of Public Policy Disability Rights Washington 315 9th Avenue S #850 Seattle, WA 98104</p> <p>Phone: (206) 471-9425 (C) Email: daryaf@dr-wa.org Website: www.disabilityrightswa.org</p>	<p>Glenna Gallo, Asst. Superintendent, Special Ed OSPI P.O. Box 47200 Olympia, WA 98504-7200</p> <p>Phone: (360) 725-6075 (W) Email: Glenna.Gallo@k12.wa.us Website: http://www.k12.wa.us/</p>






**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
ASSOCIATES JANUARY 2021**

<p>Rick Hauan, Executive Director WA State Center for Childhood Deafness 611 Grand Blvd Vancouver, WA 98661</p> <p>Phone: (360) 418-0400 (W) Email: rick.hauan@cdhl.wa.gov Website: http://www.wsd.wa.gov/</p>	<p>Jerry Johnsen, Director Client Assistance Program 2531 Rainier Avenue S Seattle, WA 98144</p> <p>Phone: (206) 849-2939 (C) Email: capjerryj@gmail.com Website: www.washingtoncap.org</p>
<p>Scott McCallum, Superintendent WA State School for the Blind 2214 E 13th St Vancouver, WA 98661</p> <p>Phone: (360) 696-6321 (W) Email: scott.mccallum@wssb.wa.gov Website: www.wssb.wa.gov</p>	<p>Kimberly Meck, Executive Director Alliance of People with disAbilities 1120 E Terrace St Ste 100 Seattle, WA 98122-5349</p> <p>Phone: (206) 545-7055 (W) Email: Kimberly@disabilitypride.org Website: www.disabilitypride.org</p>
<p>Danielle Miller, Director WA Talking Book & Braille Library 2021 9th Avenue Seattle, WA 98121</p> <p>Phone: (206) 615-1588 (W) Email: danielle.miller@sos.wa.gov Website: http://www.wtbbl.org/</p>	<p>Jeremy Norden-Paul, Executive Director Developmental Disabilities Council P.O. Box 48314 Olympia, WA 98504-8314</p> <p>Phone: (360) 725-2870 (W) Email: jeremy.norden-paul@ddc.wa.gov Website: www.ddc.wa.gov</p>
<p>Sharon Ortiz, Director WA State Human Rights Commission P.O. Box 42490 Olympia, WA 98504-2490</p> <p>Phone: (360) 753-2558 (W) (800) 233-3247 (T) Email: sortiz@hum.wa.gov Website: www.hum.wa.gov</p>	<p>Deborah O'Willow, Director Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, DSHS P.O. Box 45300 Olympia, WA 98504-5300</p> <p>Phone: (360) 529-5754 TTY (360) 529-5794 (V/VP) Email: owillmd@dshs.wa.gov Website: www.dshs.wa.gov/hrsa/odhh/</p>

**GOVERNOR’S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
ASSOCIATES JANUARY 2021**

<p>Evelyn Perez, Director Developmental Disabilities Administration WA State Dept. of Social & Health Services P.O. Box 45310 Olympia, WA 98504-5310</p> <p>Phone: (360) 407-1564 Email: evelyn.perez@dshs.wa.gov Website: www.dshs.wa.gov/dda</p>	<p>Terry Redmon, Interim Director Division of Vocational Rehabilitation WA State Dept. of Social & Health Services P.O. Box 45340 Olympia, WA 98504-5340</p> <p>Phone: (360) 878-0600 (C) Email: terry.redmon@dshs.wa.gov Website: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr</p>
<p>Shelby Satko, Director WA State Rehabilitation Council P.O. Box 45343 Olympia, WA 98504-5343</p> <p>Phone: (360) 725-3690 (W) Email: Shelby.Satko@ds.wa.gov Website: http://wsrewa.org/</p>	<p>Vacant, Chief of Diversity WA State Department of Health 101 Israel Rd SE Tumwater, WA 98501-7890</p> <p>Phone: To be determined Email: To be determined Website: https://www.doh.wa.gov/</p>
<p>Larry Watkinson, Deputy Director, Equal Opportunity WA State Department of Transportation P.O. Box 47316 Olympia, WA 98504-7316</p> <p>Phone: (360) 705-7097 (C) Email: watkinsl@wsdot.wa.gov Website: www.dot.wa.gov</p>	

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
STAFF JANUARY 2021**

<p><u>GCDE OLYMPIA OFFICE</u> P.O. Box 9046, MS: 6000 Olympia, WA 98507-9046 Phone: (360) 890-3778 (Main) (844) 935-3531 (FAX – toll free) Physical Address: 212 Maple Park Avenue SE Olympia, WA 98501</p> <p>Accessible Communities Website: http://accessiblecommunities.wa.gov GCDE Website: www.esd.wa.gov/gcde GCDE Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/govdisabilitycommitteewa</p>	 <p>Emily Heike Program Specialist Area of Responsibility: GCDE Support; GCDE Website/Facebook, & Travel Coordinator Phone: (360) 890-3776 (W) (360) 819-3772 (C)</p> <p>Email: eheike@esd.wa.gov</p>
 <p>Melinda Johnson Program Coordinator Area of Responsibility: Community Outreach; Coordinating; General Membership; Governor's Employer Awards Phone: (509) 482-3854 (W) (509) 557-2504 (C)</p> <p>Email: msjohnson@esd.wa.gov</p>	 <p>Hillary Rossi Program Coordinator Area of Responsibility: Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) grant Phone: (360) 890-3782 (W) (360) 870-6527 (C)</p> <p>Email: hrossi@esd.wa.gov</p>
 <p>Elaine Stefanowicz Program Coordinator Area of Responsibility: Accessible Communities; General Membership; Legislative Reception; Membership; Youth Leadership Forum Phone: (360) 890-3774 (W) (360) 706-3671 (C)</p> <p>Email: estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov</p>	 <p>Amanda Stephens Program Specialist Area of Responsibility: RETAIN (Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network) grant Phone: (360) 350-6442 (W)</p> <p>Email: astephens@esd.wa.gov</p>

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

January 2021

January 1	<i>GCDE office closed for New Year's Holiday</i>	
January 8	<u>Coordinating Committee Meeting</u>	10:00am-3:00pm
January 13	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
January 15	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
January 18	<i>GCDE office closed for MLK, Jr. Holiday</i>	
January 20	<u>General Membership Meeting</u>	12:30pm-3:00pm
January 22	<u>Community Outreach Annual Planning</u>	9:30am-12:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

January 27	<u>Virtual Legislative Reception</u>	5:30pm-7:00pm
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February 2021

February 8	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
February 9	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
February 15	<i>GCDE office closed for President's Day Holiday</i>	
February 17	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
February 19	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
February 26	<u>General Membership Meeting</u>	10:00am-3:30pm

March 2021

March 8	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
March 9	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

March 17	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
March 19	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm

April 2021

April 2	<u>Coordinating Committee Meeting</u>	10:00am-3:00pm
April 12	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
April 13	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
April 16	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
April 21	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm

May 2021

May 10	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
May 11	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
May 14	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

May 19	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
May 21	<u>General Membership Meeting</u>	10:00am-3:30pm
May 31	<i>GCDE office closed for Memorial Day Holiday</i>	

June 2021		
June 8	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
June 11	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
June 14	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
June 16	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
June 25	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm

July 2021		
July 5	<i>GCDE office closed for Independence Day Holiday</i>	
July 12	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

July 13	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
July 16	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
July 21	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
July 27	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
July 30	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm

August 2021

August 3	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
August 9	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
August 10	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
August 13	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
August 17	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
August 18	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
August 27	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

August 15-20	Youth Leadership Forum at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way, WA	All Week
August 24	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
August 31	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm

September 2021		
September 6	<i>GCDE office closed for Labor Day Holiday</i>	
September 7	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
September 10	<u>Coordinating Committee</u>	10:00am-3:00pm
September 13	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
September 14	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
September 15	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00-5:00pm
September 17	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

September 20	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
September 28	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
September 30	GCDE New Member Applications Due	Until Close of Business

October 2021

October 5	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
October 11	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
October 12	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
October 15	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
October 19	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
October 20	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
October 26	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
October 29	<u>General Membership Meeting</u>	10:00am-3:30pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

November 2021

November 8	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
November 9	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm
November 11	<i>GCDE office closed for Veteran's Day Holiday</i>	
November 17	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
November 19	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
November 25-26	<i>GCDE office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	

December 2021

TBD	Coordinating Committee Meeting	TBD
December 13	<u>Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting</u>	12:00pm-1:00pm
December 14	<u>Awards Subcommittee Meeting</u>	11:00am-12:00pm

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees

Click the link in the title of each meeting to connect to the Zoom

December 15	<u>Accessible Communities Subcommittee Meeting</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm
December 17	<u>YLF Subcommittee Meeting</u>	10:00am-12:00pm
December 24	<i>GCDE office closed for Christmas Holiday</i>	
December 31	<i>GCDE office closed for New Year's Holiday</i>	

Contact: Melinda Johnson (msjohnson@esd.wa.gov or 509-482-3854) for Coordinating Committee, General Membership, Awards and Outreach Subcommittees

Elaine Stefanowicz (estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov or 360-890-3774 for Accessible Communities, Membership, and Youth Leadership Forum Subcommittees



*Offer assistance, listen for response,
and follow any specific directions.*

**Join us for the Accessible Communities
Subcommittee's
Cross-Disability Etiquette
Roundtable Discussion**

Who: Accessible Communities Subcommittee

**What: Vision Disabilities with Reg George and
Damiana Harper**

Where: Zoom Link Below

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81985695401?
pwd=bld3VHlvZG4zU0VhUW1CZ3kyL2po
QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81985695401?pwd=bld3VHlvZG4zU0VhUW1CZ3kyL2poQT09)**

When: Wednesday, February 3rd at 4:00 pm

**Why: To learn about other disabilities and how
we can advocate for each other**

**40th Annual
Statewide Disability
Legislative Reception
January 27, 2021
5:30—7:00 pm**



**Zooming in on Disability:
Funding & 40 years of Advocacy**

Please join us for a time where people with disabilities and the organizations that represent them meet with legislators from across the state to discuss issues of critical importance to people with disabilities: Transportation, Affordable Housing, Employment, Residential Supports, Community Access, Mental Health & Personal Care.

Although the pandemic has curtailed in-person meetings, we can still get together on Zoom and hear from the disability community.

**Community of People with Disabilities
Statewide Legislative Reception**

Hosted by:

- * Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
- * The Arc of Washington State
- * Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
- * Washington State Rehabilitation Council
- * Washington State Independent Living Council
- * Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- * Community Employment Alliance
- * Self-Advocates in Leadership
- * Allies in Advocacy
- * People First of Washington

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register!

Questions about the reception?
Email Shelby Satko wsrc@dshs.wa.gov

CART and ASL interpreting will be provided during the event, if you need additional accommodations please contact—Emily Heike by January 6th, 2021
360-890-3776 or EHeike@esd.wa.gov