

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)

Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting

October 11, 2022

4:00-5:00pm

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – meeting called to order by Damiana at 4:05pm after it was verified that Ryan and an interpreter had joined us and captions were turned on, apologized for the delay as there was a mix up with the interpreter situation.

The meeting was started with approval of the September minutes, if people had a chance to review them and didn't have any corrections.

Amy moved to approve, and Patti seconded. Larry asked that his absence be excused due to COVID. All were in favor, none were opposed, and the minutes were approved as written with the addition of Larry's absence having been excused.

2: Roll Call - Laurie did roll call and asked people to announce themselves as she called their names. Present were: Patti, Larry, Bill, Daniel, Marsha (who will be attending the upcoming outreach as a community member), Warren, Lucy, Nathan, Amy, Emily, Damiana, and Ryan.

Absent were: Pat (on vacation), Reg (excused), Matt (excused), and Andy.

3: Housekeeping rules – folks were reminded to please speak clearly and slowly and allow enough time for interpretation, as well as raise their hand to be called upon so as not to speak over one another. It was noted in the chat that we need to be equitable in enforcing this.

4: Any additions to the agenda - none heard

5: Colville Community Outreach Update – Larry and Bill contacted the couple of individuals who had filled out commitment statements for follow-up. Larry reported that he followed up with Erin, who shared that she is only in the office on Wednesdays, and was waiting to hear back from Danny Holmes. Danny shared his contact info at the meeting and was to be responsible for talking about the formation of a Stevens County ACAC with Commissioner Greg Young. They did bring it up to the board at the July quarterly meeting and will be meeting again this month.

Bill shared that he followed up with Rob Thompson, who is the DDA case manager in Colville, and had committed to continue to network with DVR and the county mental health agency, New Alliance, among others. They continue to meet virtually and coordinate plans. One thing he shared was that they used to have an Employability Day, which was one day a month where CRPs, stakeholders, people with disabilities, and employers met to showcase their services similar to an employment fair, but this has not happened since COVID. Rob would like to get this back up and running. Bill will continue to follow up and is hopeful that this will be possible with the state of emergency ending.

Bill and Damiana will talk more about this offline and wondered if the local Work Source was involved. Bill shared that it was a partnership between People First and DDA. He also mentioned that some folks

who used to be involved have since retired from their roles, which tends to have an impact in a small community.

6: Town Hall Meeting Logistics Discussion – This meeting will be held virtually, but we are still in the process of trying to find a place with internet for those participating in the local Outreach team in Port Orchard who have travelled to be able to connect to and run the meeting. We are unsure whether the wifi available at local hotels will be sufficient. We have been in contact with GCDE member Megan Mason-Todd to see if her agency, Skookum, has room available. Since it is after hours, she had to check with her leadership, and we have not heard back yet. We will follow up for an update and would welcome any other suggestions folks might have.

Ryan shared that there are two local hotels in Port Orchard, a Red Lion and a Comfort Inn. The Comfort Inn has a meeting room that will hold up to 10 people and wifi, but has advised us that video quality is not great. The Red Lion does not have a meeting room. It was also suggested we check the local library, however, they are only open until 5pm so that is not an option. We have also gotten in contact with the local WorkSource and are awaiting a response.

Ryan suggested that if none of the above work out, we may consider going to and staying at a hotel in Bremerton instead, as he knows there is a nice Hilton as well as a Hampton Inn that has a meeting room, and that options that can meet our needs are likely more limited in Port Orchard.

The group discussed the distance between the two cities and whether this was feasible as we have to be in Port Orchard early on Friday morning to setup for the breakfast. It was shared that it is only about 5 miles difference between the two and that everything kind of runs together, with Port Orchard being the county seat, Bremerton being where a lot of folks reside, and Silverdale being where some activities such as the fair or mall are.

It was also suggested we check with the local school district, which is South Kitsap. We have worked with local school districts in the past, and if we could get the special education department on board, this may be doable. While we may have to pay a nominal fee to have the custodial or security staff clean or lock up after us if they are not already present for a school event, it may be worth asking.

7: In person Leadership Action Planning Breakfast Location Update – Marsha was thanked for her work in securing the County Commissioners Chambers for our meeting. Elizabeth has approved the use of Panera catering for the breakfast, which will make the logistics on the day of a lot easier than if we had to provide it ourselves.

8: Team volunteers discussion – We asked at the last meeting and when sending out today's agenda if folks were interested in participating in the local team that will travel to Port Orchard and attend, and folks were asked to let us know if they are not currently on the list but would like to be on it.

So far we have Bill (who reiterated his commitment so long as there is budget for travel), Pat Bauccio, Amy has not yet received approval for the vacation day but will let Damiana know by early November at the latest, Laurie would need to participate virtually, Reg has said he would volunteer if needed for a role, and Patti is interested and available (has put the dates in her calendar). Nathan also volunteered, but will need to get the time off approved.

Damiana shared that we need to fill out the team with at least 8 people so is in favor of having people travel if needed and we cannot get enough local volunteers. The 8 people could include staff, but this wouldn't be ideal, although it is likely that they will be present. We also have interpreters and CART booked and will need two facilitators, and likely 6 tables with one volunteer at each. It would also be good to have someone available who can be a runner in case something is forgotten or missing and needs to be obtained.

9: Next Action Steps - we plan to get the invites out in late October or early November, although it is a very busy time for staff right now, with Awards and General Membership upcoming. After that point, we will need a few volunteers to make follow up calls using a script in mid-November. Folks were asked to look at their calendars to see if this is something they can help with before the holidays.

10: Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25th at 4pm to 5pm since we will be meeting more frequently as we get closer to the event.