

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

Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting

March 14, 2023

4:00-5:00pm

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – Meeting called to order at 4:03pm by Marsha, who welcomed all, after a brief period of checking in and confirming that the agenda was received (Ryan said he can resend if needed, and Patti confirmed receipt of the separate email with the minutes and agenda attachments. Amy and Marsha found it eventually).

2: Roll Call – Present were Marsha, Patti, Warren, Amy, and Daniel (joined late) from the subcommittee; Emily and Ryan from staff; and our interpreter Abel.

Nathan was excused due to a work conflict. Marsha asked who else was missing, and believed there to be a couple. Ryan confirmed that Andy did accept the invite, but was not present. Daniel and Matt were also not present at the start, as verified by Marsha, but the group decided to move forward regardless. Damiana could not attend either.

3: Housekeeping rules – Reminder to please speak slowly for the interpreters. Amy added to please identify oneself prior to speaking (and raise your hand). Amy also let us know that she would need to depart at 4:50pm for another work meeting, and Marsha was grateful she let us know.

4: Review the Brainstorming session – Marsha confirmed that people reviewed the brainstorming minutes, and Amy verified, so then Marsha asked for thoughts. Amy said that the notes were very comprehensive, concise, and easy to read. Marsha gave kudos to Emily for that. Ryan asked Amy for the number of pages in the minutes document, and Amy confirmed that it was 10 pages, but that they were well done - especially for condensing a 4-hour meeting. Marsha solicited any other feedback, and Amy thought they were well captured, but was confused about if that was just the opportunity to lay it out and that we'd soon be acting on what we discussed and deciding priorities – or wondered what our next steps were otherwise if not. Marsha shared that Ryan sent her email to the group, and that one of her frustrations with GCDE is that we have short meetings, only an hour today for example - which makes it advisable to operate in a top-down way (which is not necessarily preferable, but perhaps unavoidable). Bearing that in mind, Marsha asked Ryan to share her suggestions for how we might proceed, and said that she can probably recap that more concisely if she can find it. Marsha asked if folks wanted that, and Ryan said that would be fine if folks agreed. Ryan also clarified that the meeting times could be adjusted as desired, and concurs that we may need more time, especially closer to an event in increasing frequency (leadership can discuss this

offline later if needed). One challenge is that folks often can't meet until 4 due to other work commitments, and that staff needs to leave at 5, but Ryan verified that he and Emily can be flexible and can technically stay until 6 within reason. Amy asked Marsha to please go ahead and summarize her email.

5: Adopt a plan to move forward – Marsha shared that she suggested we identify a local group of disability partners to work closely with over a period of several months in the course of planning the next outreach event, in the hopes of that group then becoming the nucleus of an ACAC. Marsha shared that she reviewed the 3 proposed locations, and for reasons which she can go into later if desired, that she felt Ridgefield in Clark County may be the best place to start the conversation and network with partners to share our typical process for site selection and seek their further recommendations. Marsha asked for thoughts on that. Amy shared that she recalled the rationale about choosing a site where we had the best opportunity to find partners, esp. if it's going to be the first time we try something like this, and thought this made a lot of sense. Patti concurred and felt it to be a wonderful assessment. Ryan agreed as well.

Marsha thought we seemed to have buy in from those present today so far, and asked Warren if he had any input. Warren had been multitasking, and asked Marsha to repeat the question. Marsha shared that she had outlined the general plan for how to proceed either in Ridgefield or Clark County generally, and collaborate with local PWD in the process. She had asked for input. Warren said he saw the email from Ryan and doesn't know much about the location specifically, and wasn't sure if a conclusion had been reached about the structure of future outreaches overall, but felt that that working with local organizations generally makes sense and that this had been done via the scouting trips somewhat in the past (but not recently in COVID years virtually). Beyond that, Warren said his reaction in line with his prior comments about incremental change, was that there may be ways to use a similar format to what we've done previously while still trying to bring more folks with disabilities to the LAP - but otherwise, the proposal didn't seem too different to what had been done in the past via the scouting trips for the in-person meetings, necessarily (although felt that it would potentially be easier to do in smaller communities than larger, in order to find community representation overall).

If Warren had to choose among the locations to implement these changes, he would pick the smallest and least complex location among them, thinking that it may be easier to find folks. Marsha wasn't sure if she was on the same page, because she wanted to involve people with disabilities in the planning (not just the leaders, or for the purposes of invites). However, Marsha recognizes that she could be wrong on this, since she did not participate in-person. Her concern with smaller communities is that there may not be enough PWD to join in planning, or possibly band together to create an ACAC upon completion. Warren said he disagreed and thought there had been various participation from community leaders in planning and deciding who to invite in the past, and that it was important to the community, but Damiana (who wasn't present today) might be able to better speak to this.

Amy clarified that if she was understanding right (Marsha confirmed) that the community would be more involved in doing the work itself. Warren thought it required more discussion in this case, and was wondering what the purpose of GCDE being there would be then, and that we were used for the purposes of convening power in the past. Aside from providing some input, if it's a local group, why would GCDE be needed in other words (if the local group will be identifying the problems and finding solutions themselves). Marsha backed up and tried to clarify. GCDE, in her proposal, would still serve as a convener - but rather than starting with local leaders to work with on planning and invite, we'd start specifically with local PWD, so their voice was centered throughout the process. We could discuss generally the problems they see, as well as who they think should be at the table. Again, Marsha said she had not been involved in-person, but feels that relatively few PWD were involved virtually as of late - and instead felt service providers were there speaking on their behalf instead. So, we would be working *with* the PWD, and *alongside* them in planning this event instead, in her preference.

Warren understands, and thinks Damiana could speak to this, but noted that there has been a difference between the in person and virtual events. Historically, Warren helped make phone calls and invite folks in person, and because we had 1 member from the location at one of the last in person events for example – that person was involved heavily, and there was an extensive process of specifically reaching out to folks in the disability arena, to create a more extensive and comprehensive invite list. Obviously, not everyone shows up who was invited, and you have to work with those are actually there, but there may not be any real differences from what Marsha had said and what Warren was saying now otherwise. The only real difference, folks thought, is that perhaps in the past we focused on collecting info from leaders and working with staff on planning, and now we want to be collecting info from, partnering with, and involving PWD specifically throughout the whole process in a more concerted effort (although recognizing that some of both – leaders and PWD involvement – will likely exist regardless).

Continuing the conversation, Warren confirmed that there wasn't any intention to exclude folks with disabilities from planning or invites in the past, rather to reach out to those leaders who maybe had a broader view or impact - but doesn't see any reason why we wouldn't contact PWD in the process, and feels that it could come down to some logistics issues in the end, and that PWD who exist locally may not be able to provide the input or solve some of the logistical planning issues that we'll have to tackle as we plan re: the venue to be used, for example. Ryan thanked everyone for the discussion, and said that he supports Marsha's plan and proposal, and making some minor changes to the process. He shared that Damiana was in support too from previous discussions is his understanding, and so we were planning to give it a try and work with the PWD locally specifically in planning as Marsha suggested, and that we could connect with them and try to establish an ACAC nucleus in Ridgefield or Clark County by the conclusion of our next event. He shared that we are trying to start new and take advantage of new opportunities, and that we can always reassess if it doesn't work (and maybe even go back to what was done before), but should at least give it a shot in his view.

6: Agree on a location – See notes above on this, Ridgefield (or elsewhere in Clark County) was tentatively proposed by Marsha as a possible place to start implementing her proposed changes above due to its proximity to the Schools for the Blind and Deaf (among other reasons), but certain members of the group had various differing opinions otherwise on the ease or feasibility of visiting certain smaller locations over other larger ones if possible, for example – so unfortunately, a full unanimous consensus may not have been reached at this time (although perhaps enough of a quorum to move forward).

7: Assign tasks to members – Marsha shared that she discovered one person in Clark County (Lilly Longshore, who Warren doesn't recall), who was a past member that maybe didn't intersect with Warren's term, but was also on the CO subcommittee specifically - and Marsha talked with her this weekend. She (Lilly) is interested in working with us on this, and suggested the name of another person we could also consider reaching out to. Marsha asked if anyone else happened to know PWD in Clark Co. Amy said she did not. Patti said she did; colleagues in different disability organizations in the greater Vancouver area, including those who are deaf or also have ambulatory disabilities, etc. and that she could reach out when appropriate if needed. Marsha thought that was great, and thought that we should probably try to start a meeting of people sooner rather than later, and 1 question that came up was how quickly we could pull something together.

During the planning meeting, a concern was that the early Dec meeting felt like a lot with everything else that was going on last fall and the holidays, and that perhaps it would be better in late Oct or early Nov - but we may be getting close in terms of feasibly getting something together by then. Ryan suggested end of Oct or early Nov could work, actually. Amy agreed with Ryan, and said that some are also working on Awards and that is early Oct, and is a lot of work to get through before then too (early Oct, the 6th). So, that's a concern, that if we try to get it together by then that it may be rushed since folks often have things going on in summer too, etc. But if we decide to put it off until Jan, say, it could leave a long lag time in between that causes a loss of momentum - but perhaps the subcommittee could plan for the subsequent event in the meantime or something.

If we don't solidify the decision until May, and then reassess then to see if we think we can make it happen in late Oct or early Nov. at that time, perhaps this could work. Marsha asked for thoughts, and Ryan suggested after Labor Day potentially as well for the event, and Marsha said that feels really soon to her - but Ryan just wanted to throw out the option for folks to keep in mind.

8: Next Action Steps – Next steps are as follows:

- Marsha shared that per the planning meeting, Ryan was potentially going to reach out to some contacts that he had in the Ridgefield area. Ryan shared that he had been waiting for agreement from the team about how to proceed, and then could move forward from there.

- Marsha's next step was to gather a list of folks with disabilities locally in Clark Co. for an initial meeting, and decide if in person or via Zoom. She feels a preference within the overall disability community of meeting via zoom due to transport challenges, etc. Amy clarified if she was asking about the event, or the initial planning meeting. Marsha confirmed that it was the initial planning meeting with the local folks with PWD that would be on Zoom, but perhaps not the whole event.

- Marsha wanted a reminder of why virtual was chosen for PO, against the original plan. Ryan clarified that it wasn't a state mandate as Marsha thought, but an internal issue that prevented everyone getting together in person (Marsha thought that it was the LAP that was switched at the last minute). Marsha recalls that fairly early on, we were told that Thursday night needed to be virtual, which was not the original plan either. Does anyone remember the reasoning for that, Marsha asked. Marsha confirmed her statement again at Ryan's request. Warren said that he recalled that the initial intent was to have the TH in person, but Damiana decided that it got too complex to find an appropriate location and manage the logistics in putting it together, and Elizabeth concurred that it was a bigger challenge and felt that it would be better at whatever point that was to switch to virtual to avoid any logistics that solutions were not readily available for. Ryan thought the TH was always virtual, but the LAP was going to be in person, and that Damiana and Elizabeth then decided on virtual for the LAP too (but that the TH was never decided to be in person). Warren thought Ryan was correct, and the TH was always virtual, and it was LAP that was going to be in person. TH was always virtual, due to the number of people, and COVID. Marsha recalled differently that the TH was potentially going to be in person, and then not due to COVID. Regardless, Marsha would like to see the whole event in person this time, if possible, because it lends itself towards a different event in-person.

- Ryan requested clarification of Marsha's statements, and she confirmed that he was following. Prior to the pandemic, we would not have even thought of doing an initial meeting virtually, because that wasn't even an option before now (and Ryan concurred). Ryan prefers the planning sessions to be virtual so that he can participate, as it is much more convenient and accessible to him that way, due to transportation and other logistics. The event would ideally be in person, but of course, that will also be contingent on transport and logistics (and we could perhaps consider hybrid).

- Patti shared that one problem with hybrid is duplication of services (like separate CART services virtually and in person, since they can't both happen on the zoom screen simultaneously), and that you'd also need the infrastructure like the OWL system, as well as a projector and screen, so that those in the room can see the online participants, etc. It can be done, but can be logistically difficult, esp. in the case of PWD with accommodation needs. She has been involved in a meeting where the Zoom captions were usable, and they did not need separate CART virtually, but it can be difficult. She concurs that there is a disconnect when virtual, and that the impact and energy and emotion etc. is bigger in person when sharing stories, needs, and items of importance (zoom is less personal in other words, so she agrees the

event in person would be much more fulfilling, and likely have larger participation). Marsha wondered what resources might be available for the schools for the blind and the deaf locally, that may have a leg up on the technology piece, so maybe we can add it to our list to explore.

- Ryan said that we hope to purchase an OWL for sure he believes, but don't know when that would be, and that we'd need to be trained on it - but that we can try to make it work.

- With 12 minutes remaining, Marsha wondered how soon we could pull together a first meeting of local PWD (if it could happen before our next subcommittee team meeting, if possible, that would be ideal).

- If you have contacts there, get Marsha names and emails so that we can do a doodle poll, to see when people are available to meet. Patti will put out a request for her folks to get in contact with her, and share their personal info if comfortable, and will get it to Marsha ASAP. Marsha will reach out to Lilly's other contact. Marsha asked Ryan to make his contacts fairly soon too, so we can get a meeting setup between the local PWD and the subcommittee. Ryan said we can talk about that more offline. Daniel joined late, and was asked for contacts. Hearing none from Warren and Emily, Daniel said he could reach out to some folks in that area. Ryan asked if he could be included on the contacts emails, so he can organize them in a spreadsheet for mail merge purposes, as needed. Amy had to leave. Marsha asked if Ryan wanted to send out the poll to folks to setup the initial meeting with the local PWD to start involving them in the planning then, and Ryan clarified, and said that they could work together on that.

- There were 8 minutes left. Marsha did not have any other agenda items for the day, and felt we had done what we needed to do. Hearing no other thoughts from people, Marsha motioned we adjourn otherwise. Ryan asked for a summary of next steps, but said that we can review the notes. Marsha will await names from folks, and we'll set up and send the poll, and hopefully have a meeting with the local PWD before our next subcommittee meeting (and then possibly combine the two going forward, depending). Ryan wanted to confirm the next meeting date and time, of April 11 from 4-5, before departure. Folks were given back 5 minutes of their day to enjoy the nice weather, and thanked for their participation.

9: Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11, from 4-5 p.m.