

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

Awards subcommittee meeting

February 10, 2023

11 am to 12 noon

Minutes

1. **Welcome** – at 11:02 Yvonne let folks know that we would wait a few more minutes for people to join. Once the interpreters were situated, Yvonne welcomed everyone at 11:05, and said she was excited to share about some of the forward movement we have made in the last month.
2. **Roll Call** – Emily was asked to read the names on the screen. Present were Emily, Ryan, Yvonne, Tammy, Clarence, Cullyn, Damiana, Daniel, Kevin, Matt, Amy, and the interpreter. Mike was excused.
3. **Housekeeping Rules** – people were asked to state their name and raise their hand, because even if we tend to get excited and just chime in, this is an important way to be respectful of others.
4. **Approval on Minutes from January 13, 2023** – everyone was asked if they had a chance to read the minutes, and if they had any changes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as written after a motion from Matt, a second from Kevin, and no oppositions, with all in favor.
5. **Venue Location Update** – Ryan was asked to share an update on this, although Yvonne fears she may have spilled the beans in our last meeting. Ryan confirmed that yes, the venue has been secured, and is accessible. We have chosen the Wenatchee conference center. We felt it was the best option in the area. It has in-house catering and is very spacious, so we have confirmed the booking with them and are still in the midst of the contract process. The event will be on 10/6. There is another event going on locally at another venue that day as well, so space was not available there. The Oktoberfest celebration is moving from Leavenworth to Wenatchee this year due to various safety concerns. Yvonne has attended and would encourage people to check it out that weekend if they have time, there is great food.

6. **Nominations Application Packet Update and Discussion** – Cullynn shared that she, Amy, and Emily have been working on this, and that they sent some suggested updates to Emily so far, which she made the following day. Cullynn said she had not yet looked at the editable Word document version, but in the meantime, shared her screen to show folks their suggested edits to the online survey version in PPT format. Emily said she had made those suggested edits to the online version already, and would also make them to the editable Word document copy as soon as she could get to it, and then send to Amy and Cullynn for additional feedback before the document was shared with the larger subcommittee. It was noted that we will need to ensure that whatever is shared is accessible.
7. **Sponsorship Update and Discussion** – There was a meeting of the small workgroup consisting of Ryan, Matt, Pat, and Clarence on this after last month's meeting to discuss the sponsorship letter and levels as they currently stood after the edits made for last year's program. They made some minor further revisions and Ryan had exciting news to share that he had sent it out to numerous state agencies, and so far, we have received \$2k from DVR, \$2k from ODHH, \$5k from DSB, and \$5k from OFM. So, it is a wonderful start that we have already received a handful of sponsorships back from state agencies totaling \$14k, with more soon to come hopefully. We hope to hear from ESD, DDA, the Office of Equity and others. We will continue to work on this, including reaching out to sponsors from last year and ensure they were thanked for their past participation as well, and send the request to private companies as well. We will also send the letter and an ask to subcommittee members (including any other suggestions they might have about who we should be reaching out to as well).
8. **Program Brochure** – this was tabled for the next meeting because there was not much to say about it, aside from confirming the desired timeline for send out either alongside the nomination in packet in April, or perhaps the month before in March, with the realization that this may not be possible as it is not necessarily a priority project right now and may not be able to be completed by next month alongside all of the edits to the nomination packet needed by April since we are pushing up the overall timeline for all program deliverables now that the event will be held at the beginning of October as opposed to the end. If we make changes to the

names and/or categories (see below agenda item), then those would need to be included as well, and any new sponsors. We will need to get that settled and make some choices in that regard before we can really begin advertising necessarily. It will also need to be made accessible and we will have to reach out to ESD's Communications office for assistance with distribution again this Spring.

9. **Awards Categories Discussion** – Yvonne suggested changing the name of the Direct Support Professional Award to make it clearer and with the times, as well as adding an Award to recognize an outstanding supported employee (as opposed to just the employers hiring the individuals with disabilities). She wanted to pitch the idea now to get people's thoughts on it, and would send an email to those not here today to ensure we get their feedback too. She had some brief initial brainstorming notes that she shared with the team for ideas on this, such as Advocacy Champion, or something similar. Discussion was had about if now is the appropriate time to do this or if we should consider waiting until next year instead, and Yvonne shared that since this idea came up over the summer and was reiterated by various different parties – she would prefer not to wait any longer. Discussion was also had about the need to ensure we are not falling into the trap of just making it another inspirational story about the potential of people with disabilities, but rather honoring the recognized employee for their contributions and empowering them to speak on their own behalf. More discussion can be had around this subject offline if needed and people want to discuss it more via email.
10. **Upcoming meeting dates** – see below
11. **Next steps** – Next steps are as follows: Yvonne will send an email to the subcommittee to follow up on the above discussion regarding the Awards categories (changing the name of the DSP award and adding a new category to recognize an outstanding employee). A proposal was made that we consider meeting with anyone else who might have input or need to be in the know about this sometime next week, and come to a decision about how to proceed at our next subcommittee meeting, and the group agreed.
12. **Next meeting date and time:** Friday, March 10, 2023 at 11am