

**Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Legislative Workgroup (LWG)**



**Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 1, 2023
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

Topic: Legislative Workgroup

Time: September 1, 2023, 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83538636654?pwd=VnNtTUVxa0l5NjljOXhJSHRhd2JvQT09>

Meeting ID: 835 3863 6654

Passcode: 275530

One tap mobile

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MINUTES

- 1) Welcome; Call to Order and Attendance. Amy Cloud, Patti Dailey-Shives, Kristin DiBiase, Clarence Eskridge, Dr. Kevin Frankeberger, and Damiana Harper.
- 2) Get (re)acquainted with who's on the LWG now, via member introductions including what they hope to gain and contribute.

Amy said she has volunteered on campaigns and covered the legislature as a reporter. She sees the need for citizen advocacy. She is interested in learning how to be a better and more effective advocate. She is bringing passion for how the system works. Kevin would like to use the word “education” instead of lobby. He said legislative staff are really important because they drive the ship.

After meeting with a legislator, write a letter within 24 hours stating:
(1) This is what we discussed; (2) Here's what we're going to do it and
(3) when it will be done.

Clarence said he has always fascinated with government. In school, he was in ASB (Associated Student Body) leadership. He wants more people of color as advocates. He believes we have more similarities than differences. He would like to know more about state government.

Patti said she is a former legislative district chair, and currently on the executive board and chair of the disability issues caucus for one of the political parties. She has 20 years of experience in these roles. She is very interested in the political process and people with disabilities—who are a less visible component of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). She knows 80% of politicians on one side of the aisle and has a lot of contacts. She has worked with Marsha Cutting to develop a disability and accessibility pledge for politicians. The pledge is to commit that every event they put on, must be accessible. This is required or they won't get our support. They must follow the ADA.

Damiana has been serving on GCDE for almost six years. She does not consider herself a political person. She has felt separate from the political workings living on the east side of Washington. She knows this is important to our members and she wants to be supportive. She would like to see a return to civility in politics and is tired of people being mean to each other.

Amy thanked Kristin for her work at LWG chairperson and acknowledged the tremendous value and leadership as our chair and NAUWU resource.

Kristin said that being chair of two committees is tough. She is looking forward to Amy's leadership and taking GCDE's advocacy further. She thanked Amy for taking leadership as the new LWG chairperson.

Amy would like for us to better share our personal and professional capabilities in our roles on this committee. We can do this with training opportunities that can bring us to the same level.

Kristin said she worked with Sunshine from DRW to create a document template to help people go on the state website and give their opinion about a vote (pro or con).

Elaine asked if we could create a Legislative 101 training and how to use lobby.gov. Amy said she would like *all* GCDE members to be empowered by this legislative training and be an advocate as they are able. Damiana suggested we could offer training during the GM meetings. Or do training during one of the LWG subcommittee meetings but invite general membership to attend.

Patti suggested Civics 101. How to search for a bill; how to lobby for a bill; how can political action intersect with disability advocacy? Amy suggested training about effective (and non-effective) ways to promote change locally.

Kristin suggested Patti as vice chair of LWG and Patti said she was interested.

Other discussion: Geographic diversity in LWG. Share local political climate. Are there trends? Hyper focus on an area and their specific needs. Amy will ask members who aren't here today, for their contributions and ideas for training.

Clarence is interested in learning what is important in other communities and working with each county on accessibility issues. Patti said some of this work would intersect with county ACACs.

- 3) Talk about changes, specifically LWG now an official subcommittee and possible restructure (at a high level?)

Kevin asked how the LWG became an official subcommittee. Damiana said, at the beginning of the year, she reached out to all GCDE members. Working with legislators was a main reason people wanted to join GCDE. Damiana brought this up to the Coordinating Committee. The Committee voted LWG to be a subcommittee because it was good use of staff time and they wanted to pursue the interests GCDE members.

- 4) Go over the list of training ideas and requests (from LWG members sent in response to Elaine)
 - **DRW “How To” Series** (included: how to lobby, how to give testimony, how to be an advocate?) – this was great! I want to do it again.
 - **Legislature 101** – could include: how to find a bill, how a bill is written, what is a prime sponsor, legal ways to lobby, how to be an effective advocate (during off-session, maybe having local legislators and/or their AA’s share their Do/Don’t list?)
 - **Effective Communication** – in writing, in person, in testimony
 - **Media Relations**
- 5) Brainstorm expanding our focus beyond legislative to include local government

Patti said we want to pay attention to local elections. They have more influence on accessibility, etc. School board elections are also really important. We should develop a plan looking at local candidates with disability-related lens. The next election is in 2025. Kevin asked if we can we create a prioritized task list and break down to action steps and delegate.

- 6) Prioritize - either at the meeting or via follow-up survey - top three training topics
- 7) Next Meeting: Friday, September 22, 2023.
- 8) Public Comment (If necessary).
- 9) Adjournment.