

**Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment**



**Legislative Workgroup (LWG)**

**Meeting Notes**

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

**9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

Topic: Legislative Workgroup

Time: September 22, 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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**AGENDA**

- 1) Welcome; Call to Order and Attendance; Attendance: Amy Cloud, LWG Chair, Marsha Cutting, Lucas Doelman, Clarence Eskridge, Damiana Harper, GCDE chair; Patti Daily-Shives, LWG Vice Chair; and Angie West. Staff: Elizabeth Gordon and Elaine Stefanowicz.

Amy gave a reminder of meeting courtesies such as saying your name before you speak and reading your chat comment aloud, so it is accessible to everyone. Official Legislative Subcommittee appointments need to be made and Elizabeth will talk with Damiana about it.

- 2) Legislative committee status – leadership, new member introductions, reminder of new status and role. There was a discussion about changing the name of the subcommittee since it is no longer a workgroup.

- 3) Review and prioritize training ideas and areas of GCDE focus for the future (based on last meeting's brainstorm).

Amy asked for votes on making the following issues a priority for the Legislative Subcommittee:

- a. Expand beyond legislative to local government, including school boards – and engage pre-election as well as with those in-office. Amy asked if we want to go with a pre-election focus or build alliances with those legislators who are already serving?

Discussion: GCDE is non-partisan.

**One (1) subcommittee member chose this as a priority.**

- b. Review language used (primer on word choice, for ex: educate versus lobby) and develop a “cheat sheet” for to help guide effective legislator visits (take a leave-behind, have key messages and personal input distilled, send a follow-up Thank You note reminding legislator of topics discussed, our promise and timeline).

Discussion: We need to create a spreadsheet of legislators and their aides.

**Five (5) subcommittee members chose this as a priority.**

- c. Develop a database of (all GCDE) members' expertise and capabilities relative to government engagement (for ex: Patti's history and expertise, Clarence's technical capability, Amy's strategic communications skill).

Discussion: Damiana said we could use a hybrid option of utilizing Survey Monkey and contacting GCDE members to ask them about their connection with their legislators. There was a discussion about a “wall of fame” for organizations who are doing well with ADA accessibility. Elaine mentioned that the Thurston County Ballot Processing Center has offered a tour of their facility after the next election. Contact her if you are interested in attending.

**Five (5) subcommittee members chose this as a priority.**

- d. Reflect the needs and desires of those we serve, i.e., model civility in all discourse, find points of agreement, work on consensus.

Discussion: Amy said we need to listen and find points of commonality. Our role is education. Amy wrote a letter of introduction to her legislators and is happy to share it with the group as a template. Members should clarify that they are speaking on their own behalf and not GCDE. Damiana said it's most important to identify yourself as a constituent of the legislator. Amy offered her help if anyone is preparing to give testimony about legislation.

**This was agreed to be standard practice and no vote was needed.**

- e. Create a Civics 101 guide (for all GCDE members, but specific for this sub-committee's members) that could include: what happens at each level of government; how to search for a bill; how to advocate for a bill; how can political action intersect with disability advocacy. And?).

Discussion: Amy said we could do training that is videotaped and available on demand. Marsha said that Disability Rights Washington has some training already completed.

**Two (2) subcommittee members chose this as a priority.**

- f. Develop a training schedule (for all GCDE members, but specific for this sub-committee's members) that could include
  - i. Effective communication (in general + with electeds)
  - ii. Media relations: Amy has done this training.
  - iii. How to "educate" (lobby/advocate) effectively
  - iv. How to come up-to-speed on an issue or bill
  - v. How to engage at the local level
  - vi. Other?

Discussion: Lucas asked if the legislature is doing in-person sessions? Elizabeth said she is seeing hybrid meetings and some in-person. It hasn't been decided if the next Legislation Reception will be in-person. She will reach out to a few people to see if they know. She hopes they will continue to allow people to give testimony remotely, so it remains equitable for all.

**Five (5) subcommittee members chose this as a priority.**

- 4) Next Meeting: Friday, October 3, 2023.
- 5) Public Comment (If necessary).
- 6) Adjournment.