

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

Awards subcommittee meeting | Thurs., November 14, 2024, | 12:00 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Minutes

1: Welcome

Meeting called to order by Yvonne at 12:02pm. Welcomed all (our team has shrunk). Thank you all for being here, it's appreciated.

2: Roll Call (forthcoming – name, 1 thing they're thankful for)

Present:

Staff – Emily Heike (time off for holidays with family), Elaine Stefanowicz (her team), Elizabeth Gordon (green trees from rain)

Members – Yvonne Bussler White (chair – eval went well), Daniel Ledgett (warm sweaters), Amy Cloud (leaving early, SWV# form submitted, grateful for her work)

Quorum: 5 – not met, staff don't count, only 3 members present (no vote on last minutes, relaxed)

3: Housekeeping rules

State your name before speaking, speak slowly and 1 at a time, raise your hand to be called upon.

4-5: Survey Results Review/Process improvement suggestions for next year

Emily sent the tabulated survey results to the team with the agenda on 11/13 (can also be shared onscreen if needed – Yvonne getting permission – adjusting size). We only received 11 results, but they were largely positive, good comments.

2 negative (disagree) responses about the Lunch (dietary request – problems on getting served on time) and PPT (easy to understand – will discuss more).

There were 3 comments left with other suggestions; 1 noting the long wait and lead in before the main purpose that seemed a bit confused and hurried (for awards), another saying it was a great event and well organized, and a final requesting better instructions and cuing to nominees (such as a map or x – great idea to reduce shuffling - on the floor; Yvonne likes those suggestions).

Additional discussion from the team:

Yvonne wants to address the long lead in and confusion. She talked with leadership and a few others, she'd like for the emcee not to do a presentation, not typical, event is about championing disability employment in NDEAM – focus on employment. He did an amazing job, but took some time, and not as in-scope. Moving forward, would like to focus on champions of employment and NDEAM (brief conversation about NDEAM, proclamation, maybe DSB, etc.) Amy concurs, but appreciated him being there, and understands the situation – maybe clarity of assignment is needed. Might be a good opportunity to shift focus/redesign.

Another confusing point was 1 of the people doing the nominee announcements changed the order and some of the information that was established in the PPT (they had already been organized by the flow, the last-minute change caused issues in flow and confusion with recipients). We will make changes next year in putting things together (Yvonne is thinking, open to input, no changes after 9/30 – done, table for next year, sent PPT out for review but we have final authority). Folks concurred. Elizabeth has a comment. When we have a new staff person in the role, might be helpful to have a more descriptive script (run of show) for the emcee and their role (might be harder for folks who haven't done it before). Agrees with cutoff (bureaucracy, teleworking, difficult to integrate otherwise – other duties, in office to print, etc.) It's easy to forget that, a good reminder. Things come up at the last minute, but Yvonne would like to communicate differently (don't want it to be all on 1 person, tried to have workgroups and take responsibility for pieces, so it's not all on staff). Great learning experience, can continue to build, plenty of opps. for redesign as moving forward. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: Cancel Dec. meeting, use the next 1.5 months to think about what and where we see the potential in the Awards event, and how to elevate it 1 more notch. Please write them down and share them in January, or email her as you think of them as we capture them.

Other thoughts/feedback overall? Amy loved the venue, had a great time at her table, with nominees and a new GCDE member – could thank them 1:1. It's easier at tables than crowds. Food was great, didn't have time to eat because of role, X for photos is good, lineup timing (everything in our control went well). Kudos. Photobooth was great to see, and red carpet! Elizabeth thought it was a great event, we should be proud, were a few things – always are – mostly just us aware. Lots of speakers, variety of voices, sometimes more or less – was powerful. It's worth thinking about speakers for next year strategically – how to bring the business community or Gov's policy office (as we get closer, we may want to hear people's voices with lived experience). Folks were smiling and seemed to be having a good time (positives outweighed negatives, concurred). Transition students had a great time – great to bring in a community vocalist as well – what we represent. Amy added that after we explained what we do, Senator Kauffman came up to her (daughter was on a team that won an Award), didn't know she was such a huge ally, and the event helped, if not – big win (NA). Didn't realize she was there. 1 thing would be helpful is a feedback loop from reg. table so if there are VIP's there, we can recognize them. We didn't always know when some of the nominees were there or not (a bit clunky – maybe assign someone at the table to communicate with the folks onstage). Great to know. Maybe serving in another role. Daniel didn't have anything to add (was missed). It was exhausting and she appreciates everyone's support. Everyone came together, Cullyn did great photos on the red carpet, it came together well and we're excited for next year.

6: Awards Event 2025 Date

Team's suggestions:

We looked at dates for the following year at our last wrap up meeting. We chose the 18th last year (mid-month). Is that still the best time? There may have been other events going on (on the heels of the OOE's event). Maybe reaching out to find out. People First convention, our event, then Equity event (before). Day after was the CSVAR for DSB/DVR (too much going on). We should find out when those other conferences are happening. What about earlier? We could look at that. Elaine liked the hotel and center (right next door, access, folks concurred). Made for easy loading/unloading as well (Elaine agrees about the photobooth and student greeters, recognizing VIP's – great event). Do we know where we

want to have it? Great question. Originally had talked about a 3-year plan and going back & forth (Spokane 3rd), but we also talked about having a new governor next year, so in Jan. we'd talked about the Olympia area or Spokane (both have centers). Unsure if Olympia has one tied to a hotel. Outreach will be in Spokane in April 2025. The other thing Elizabeth would say, in Olympia, we've used the Lacey Community Center that's accessible (and folks have stayed at hotels in Olympia, she doesn't know which ones, but Emily might). Wouldn't be people staying at the same place, but would be an accessible event space. We've had catering there (it's the one on the water). Boxed lunches at our meeting there, and there was a taco bar delivered at the last HR staff meeting. Amy likes the idea of Olympia. Red Lion is on the water in Olympia (folks may not be familiar – it has stairs – historical buildings can be a problem for accessibility, but we'd scout first). Yvonne concurs about Olympia – no excuses for the Governor (may be a possibility). Is there a way we could look at calendars for agencies that hold events in October (Elizabeth will reach out to Megan M. about OOE and the community calendar, and Krista at People First, Yvonne could ask DVR). There may be some budget issues this year (DVR may not have a conference). We've got good tentative plans in place. What about Oct 10 or 17th – 2nd or 3rd Fridays might be good, Elizabeth will check. OOE convening is 10/17, could piggyback our event, or hold on 10/10 so as not to conflict.

7: Resignation

Announcement: Clarence has resigned from GCDE for personal reasons, unfortunately, maybe he'll change his mind (a real asset). It's hard to lose him. Could other members reach out to him? Damiana was going to do so (specific reasoning, would he reconsider, etc.) He's involved in a lot, might want to put his energy elsewhere (NAACP, etc.) – could be a strategic decision, but she was going to have a conversation. Matt resigned as well – he's been dealing with some health issues and a new job – needed to step back and focus on his personal life right now.

8: Next Meeting Date and Time

Group's suggestions:

Moving to January. Do we want to continue Thursdays at noon? Is there a different time that would work better? Yvonne can say that the 3rd Wed, Thu, and Friday are out for her (travel to Olympia). Any suggestions? Should we just schedule the next one for Jan. 9 and decide then? Amy thinks the travel days for Yvonne are out, most importantly, beyond that – she likes noon – on break at work. Yvonne wanted to create that flexibility, it's hard to find those time frames. Could we send out a Poll asking about meeting times? We may have done that before. We could do that, we might want to narrow it down, though. We could suggest 2nd Thursday of the month at noon, could look at 2nd Tuesday at noon, or 3 or 4pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month (Amy votes noon on Wed or Thurs, Yvonne too). We'll send out a poll on those dates with a response deadline of December 2nd (2 weeks). We'll go with the majority and send out the invite(s) after that.

If no other talking points, meeting adjourned until Jan, have a great holiday season/day and looking forward to next year – thanks and bye, all!