



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

Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting | December 9, 2024, | 4:30-5:30 pm

MINUTES

1: Welcome/call to order to the Community Outreach meeting – introduce new partners – Kenny S. & David (EWU – end of quarter/break til Jan. 6 for next meeting– Steven will reach back out), DACNW x2 – Marsha

Meeting called to order by Marsha at 4:32pm. Welcomed all this holiday season, esp. new partners from EWU, H&N Project, and DACNW.

2: Roll Call & intros – any known absences – possible Zoom update? (Quorum = 5, excluding staff) – Marsha

Present – (no co-chairs, missing some regulars)

Staff: Emily Heike (program spec. – Bonney Lake), Elizabeth Gordon (Exec. Dir - Oly), Elaine Stefanowicz (program coord. - Lakewood)

Members: Marsha Cutting (chair – Bainbridge Island), Susan Matt (“new” returning member – Issaquah), Steven McCray (new member - Spokane), Jennifer Simons/Aerius Franklin (DACNW – formerly INDEX – Spokane CIL), Daniel Ledgett (member – Longview) , Kenny Salvini (Here & Now Project in Sumner), Lyn Sowdon (new member - Vancouver), Yunus Butt from EWU adaptive basketball in Spokane

Quorum: 5 (5members present)

3: Housekeeping rules – Marsha

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

Have folks read the last meeting minutes? Hearing none – no motion to approve (Lyn hasn't reviewed). We didn't vote on a lot of stuff, may not need to approve – they were accurate as Marsha recalls.

4: Site selection & partners for the 2025 event (Spokane) – Marsha (what's needed from partners)

The state of WA has a 10b budget deficit. Everyone is asked to tighten their belt. Local arrangements up in the air – not clear if there's money to get GCDE members to Spokane. As of last Monday at 6pm, several immediate requests:

-Freeze hiring for any open positions (i.e. Ryan's position)

-Travel freeze

-Contracting freeze (including equipment)

GCDE is in a unique position, waiting for guidance on interpretation (questions have been posed). Looking like at the least, might have a travel ban, and a limitation around contracting. Will know more in the next few days, will send out a note to GCDE members with more info. Best guess is we'll have some cuts – per Elizabeth.

We're up in the air, it's hard to make decisions when we don't know what the financial situation (Steven muted screen reader).

- a. **Update on venue timing for 4/17-18 – City Council Chambers – Marsha/Steven (member)**
Do we have the city council chambers? Yes, they are secured from 5-9pm on 4/17 and 8:30-12:30pm on 4/18.

- b. **Update on reaching out to new partners** (Gonzaga – Steven reaching out; CIL -> DACNW -> INDEX present; People First – Steven hasn't reached out, maybe Lucas can help; ACAC members [Steven has their info, below]; other ideas i.e. tribes, colleges, hospitals for save the date/partnership) - Marsha/all [EWU AND DACNW ADDED SO FAR, Gonzaga/People First/ACAC members in progress]

Thankfully, we've connected with CIL. Marsha wants to hold the event. We may have to be creative about it. Last one was a hybrid event (GCDE in person, community virtually if unable to attend). Guess is, maybe more locals could attend in-person. Thinking that if we could get strong leadership in Spokane (we have it thru Steve, Jennier, and Aerius who had to jump off but will be here next time). If they're willing, we might have to lean on them more than we normally would in terms of making the meeting actually happen, per Marsha.

Damiana is in Spokane as well and may be able to help (Lyn asked). Steven has the contact info for the new ACAC appointees in Spokane, perhaps we can reach out to them too, Steven will share their emails to invite to planning (clarification) meetings (critical per Marsha). Steven is working to get the ACAC in Spokane up and running. It was defunct until the recent appointments. One of our hopes for this Spokane event is to get more functional members for that committee – for grants and a united voice.

EDITOR'S NOTE: NEXT TIME, EXPLAIN WHAT ACAC IS AND OVERVIEW THE TYPICAL CO EVENT/FORMAT FOR NEW PARTNERS?

Dr. Ryan Parrey (Disability Studies at EWU, has a lot of connections)
rparrey@ewu.edu

Alicia Lauth
alijoanlauth@gmail.com
509-768-9202

MARSHA TO REACH OUT?

- c. **Davenport Grand still available w/ room block on our dates 4/17-18? – Damiana**

Hotel, restaurant, and breakfast are up in the air – not sure if we can expend funds on that yet or not, per Elizabeth. Lots of agenda items are up in the air.

d. Update on beginning to draft written materials (save-the-dates)? – Marsha/staff

We should start working on the written materials (save-the-date). Do we have the city council chambers? Yes, they are secured from 5-9pm on 4/17 and 8:30-12:30pm on 4/18. Marsha should do that with Emily or Elaine. Elaine can help, Emily is busy but willing to review.

e. Update from transit authority board re: shuttle? – Steven

We will still need the transit authority regardless of what happens with GCDE members, for transport to the meeting locally. Steven spoke to them, clients of paratransit in WA can use it in Spokane, or add guests for folks who aren't clients to use the same shuttle. Dave Carl isn't here. When we met in Clark Co., they were willing to run a special shuttle for folks (1-time deal). Maybe someone from GCDE could contact them, when Steven contracted them, they (manager) said you have to be an approved client of paratransit in WA to use services. Pending budget cuts, the people attending in person would likely be locals. Thank you Steven for the work – is there another GCDE member in the Spokane area that's a client and could add guests (Steven or Damiana maybe?)

f. Update on Sodexo catering – still available? – Steven

Hotel, restaurant, and breakfast are up in the air – not sure if we can expend funds on that yet or not, per Elizabeth. Lots of agenda items are up in the air.

g. Any restaurant updates for debrief dinner? – Marsha/all

Hotel, restaurant, and breakfast are up in the air – not sure if we can expend funds on that yet or not, per Elizabeth. Lots of agenda items are up in the air.

h. Matt has resigned – no update on 2026 Benton/Franklin event

5: Compiling a list of disability organizations with conventions we could attend – any updates on list, other ideas (i.e. MS and Deaf/HoH groups?) - Marsha/Patti

Patti is still working on the list of state organizations, hasn't heard from her (did reach out), not much we can do there. Might be a short meeting. Emily has saved the chat.

6: Reaching out to other GCDE members who might be able to attend conventions with us (tabled last meeting until list above is completed) – Marsha

Continues to be tabled until list (agenda item #5 above) is completed.

7: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence to be decided – all – currently 2nd Monday at 4:30pm in December (12/9 at 4:30 – Jan. 13 next meeting, college partners may not join til Feb., Steven reaching out - SAVE THE DATE FLYER MIGHT HELP, WITH DATE/VENUE). Do we want to change or increase in the new year/invite more partners?

We may have done what we can do for today, although if we change the meeting from the 6th to the 13th, would that work for folks here? Any objections? It won't work for Lyn, but don't pause on her account. Steven and Jennifer could. If not a lot of objections, we should probably change it, since the school folks won't be back on the 6th. Unless there is anything to add, Marsha can give us back some time in our day. She's excited about the local partners, it's a strong group, and thinks we could still move forward even if we can't travel. Have a happy holidays, see you on Mon. Jan. 13 at 4:30pm – thanks for being here. Thanks and happy holidays (Elizabeth will update Marsha on the status ASAP). Take care all, bye. Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

8: Action items – to be captured in minutes with any pertinent links

1: **Reaching out to partners:** Steven will reach back out to the Gonzaga team partners (working thru head of Intramural sports – on break until Jan. 6). Perhaps Lucas can help put us in touch with People First. Steven has provided the contact info for the 2 new ACAC appts. in Spokane – Marsha to reach out? Steven is working to get the ACAC up and running again, and adding new folks is one of the event goals.

2: **Approving minutes:** As folks did not have a chance to review, motion to approve not needed, no votes conducted and seemed accurate per Marsha's review.

3: **Governor's directive:** Everyone is being asked to tighten their belts. Local arrangements (travel, hotel, restaurant, breakfast catering) are up in the air – it's not clear if there are funds to get GCDE members to Spokane. Possible impacts: Hiring freeze (including Ryan's position), travel freeze, and contracting/equipment freeze. Elizabeth has posed questions re: interpretation and is awaiting guidance. We should know more in the next few days, then Elizabeth will send a note to Marsha/members ASAP with info. In the meantime, we should anticipate cuts (travel, contracting, etc.) We recognize that this makes planning difficult for the time being.

4: **Venue:** The City Council Chambers have been secured from 5-9pm on 4/17, and 8:30a-12:30p on 4/18.

5: **Editor's note (for next time):** Consider explaining what ACAC's are, and recapping the overall typical CO event/process for new partners.

6: **Overall takeaways currently:** Marsha would still like to hold the event if possible. We may have to be creative about it. Last time, we held a hybrid event. It's likely that more locals may be able to attend in-person this time. If we can get strong local partnership in Spokane (in-progress: Aerius will be back next time), we may have to lean on them more than we typically would to actually make the event happen. Damiana is in Spokane and may still be able to help as well.

7: **Save-the-date flyer:** We can begin drafting this now that we have the dates/venue. Steven thinks it will help in inviting partners. Elaine will help Marsha with this (Emily is busy, but is happy to review).

8: **Shuttle (transit auth.):** We will still need to explore this option for local [attendee] transport, regardless of what happens with GCDE member travel. Per Steven, clients of paratransit anywhere in WA can use it in Spokane, and bring guests. Perhaps he and/or Damiana can help with that. GCDE may be able to reach out about getting a dedicated shuttle (Dave Carl helped with this last time).

9: **List of dis. Orgs/conven.:** Patti is still working on the list. Marsha has reached out (hasn't heard). There isn't much we can do on this for now. We will revisit the conventions topic once the list is completed. Chat saved.

10: **Next meeting:** The next meeting will be at 4:30 on Mon. Jan. 13 (Emily has sent an invite). Lyn can't attend, but it should work for Steven and Jennifer. Elaine, Aeries, Marsha, Patti, Ivy, and Daniel have also accepted. Thank you to everyone who attended today, and happy holidays.