



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

*Coordinating Committee (CC) Meeting | January 24, 2025, 10:03 am-11:44 am*

### **Minutes:**

**10:00: Welcome and housekeeping** – *Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair*

Meeting called to order by Yvonne at 10:03am. Welcomed all, thanks for being here. Standard housekeeping items reviewed. The agenda has gone out and been received, **one addition heard – planning for General Membership. Motion to amend moved unanimously.**

**10:05: Roll call** – *Elizabeth Gordon, GCDE Executive Director*

**Members present:** Yvonne Bussler-White (GCDE Chair), Patti Dailey-Shives (Legislative Chair), Marsha Cutting (Community Outreach Chair), Cullyn Foxlee (Accessible Communities Vice-Chair), Kristin DiBiase (YLF Chair)

**Staff present:** Elizabeth Gordon (Executive Director), Emily Heike (Program Specialist), Elaine Stefanowicz (Program Coordinator)

**Quorum:** 3 (Met - no absences)

**10:10: 2025 Members at Large** – *Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair*

Yvonne recapped the role (general members who support CC on behalf of GCDE), information on nominations, top 3 – all accepted, and opened the floor for discussion. Quorum was met for a vote.

### **Top 3 nominations by # of votes:**

1: Nancy Zellars (5 times), 2: Cullyn Foxlee (4 times), 3: Amy Cloud (4 times). **No discussion heard.**

The group unanimously moved to appoint **Cullyn, Nancy, and Amy as 2025 MAL's. They will need to be notified and added to the rest of the CC Meeting invites for the year [Emily has done so].**

**10:25: Statewide budget spending restrictions—overview and GCDE impacts** – *Elizabeth Gordon, GCDE Executive Director*

**Discuss:** Impact of current budget freeze for GCDE. How to plan our work going forward for this year.

Elizabeth shared a [PowerPoint](#) on the budget freeze (as folks are likely aware), and how it affects each subcommittee, and our work overall. An end date has not been determined. Open to questions.

Marsha noted that members could travel at their own expense, but we can't ask them to in our role as GCDE (we can't plan for that). Cullyn asked about the status of the proposal Elizabeth submitted on AI.

After questions about travel, & AI proposal, the group moved on to start planning our work for 2025.

**10:30: Discussion on work over the next year within the budget limitations – Facilitated by Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair, and discussion with all members**

We will revisit our why, and how to move forward in this climate of limited resources, limited staff, and limited funding. Apologies for any issues with the [PPT](#) (Elizabeth sharing on screen).

Yvonne asked the group how we can better support subcommittee work with limited resources, and what partnerships or strategies we could explore to amplify our impact. She thanked everyone for embracing the challenges of this year while moving toward our vision.

Quorum was met/chairs present for decisions (see action items).

#### **Agenda item added: Planning for next month's General Membership Meeting**

The group discussed ideas for the February 28, 2025 General Membership meeting (see action items).

**11:45: Recap and next steps – Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair**

#### **-MALs appointed (let know and invite to future meetings - done):**

-Cullyn Foxlee (Yvonne meeting with her on Monday), Nancy Zellars, and Amy Cloud

#### **-Work decided to pause, change, or move forward with as planned (consid. reduced staffing):**

-YLF as a half day virtual event on 8/1/25 from 1-5pm with 3 main goals.

-CO as a hybrid event in late April/early May with the goal of involving locals in planning and as the nucleus of an ACAC for Spokane/Stevens Co. Marsha and Cullyn will connect for partnership opps. We may need to find help with OWL tech to use. Maybe local former GCDE members can help too.

-AC – Cullyn will work with Steve to do an assessment of work and come back to the group with a process. Maybe a dedicated subcommittee member could be tasked to work on outreach efforts.

-Awards: Yvonne and Elizabeth will lead a small workgroup with Patti, Cullyn, Kristin, and Marsha to analyze process improvement strategies and make connections with partners in employment field.

-Membership: Consider having Yvonne, her vice-chair (TBD), and a couple volunteers to lead work and schedule New Member Orientation, setup mentors. Elizabeth will share info with Yvonne about the past process for NMO, and work to get it scheduled for a good time.

-Legislative: Develop 1-pager on priorities to share out, include in Orientation, and at GM.

-Revisit translation services/needs.

-Revisit Associate Member follow up after session.

#### **General Membership:**

-Send an invite to DIN to participate as an Associate Member (Elizabeth).

-Share the Accessible Parking Guide with Yvonne to include (Emily – done).

**-Patti's Legislative Advocacy presentation.**

**-Cross disability presentation on Deaf/Hard of Hearing issues.**

**-Chair report outs.**

**-Restructure agenda (1 section for members only, 1 section for public).**

**12:00: Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 11:44pm. Yvonne is grateful for support as she becomes Chair. She wants to build upon the work we started last year & is excited to see where we go in 25.

*Next GM meeting will be on Fri, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10am-3pm. The invite should be on calendars.*

*Next CC meeting will be on Fri, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 from 10-12pm. The invite should be on calendars.*