



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

Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting | June 16th, 2025, | 4:31-5:15 pm

Minutes (taken by Emily Spears, GCDE Program Specialist II)

1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – call to order – Marsha Cutting

Meeting called to order by presiding Chair Marsha Cutting at 4:31pm.

2: Roll Call – any known absences? (Quorum = 5, excluding staff) – Marsha Cutting

Present:

Staff present: Emily Spears, Elaine Stefanowicz

Staff absent: Elizabeth Gordon

Members present: Steven McCray, Dave Carl, Marsha Cutting, Daniel Ledgett, Lyn Sowdon

Members absent: Patti Dailey-Shives (excused), Ivyanne Van Der Peet

Associates absent: Lucy Barefoot

Quorum of 5 members met.

3: Housekeeping rules & approve last meeting minutes – Marsha Cutting

Standard housekeeping rules reviewed (speak slowly and state your name).

Motion called by Marsha to approve last meeting minutes – quorum met. Dave moves, Steven seconds, minutes approved with no objections.

4: Closeout for the 2025 event (Spokane), next steps – Marsha Cutting

a. Update on Spokane Town Hall findings report – Marsha/all

Marsha would like folks to read the report after the meeting, and let us know if you have any concerns about it, by COB on Wed.

b. Discussing how to move forward: next steps – Marsha/all

a. Visiting state and regional conventions/meetings – Marsha/all

Marsha proposes we cancel the proposed outreach in Benton/Franklin (she will let Matt know so he can cancel the reservation) and focus on visiting state and regional conventions and conferences.

She hopes we can do the legwork behind the scenes to make that happen, and call upon the members of GCDE to help us do that, since we won't have any travel funds. Marsha knows of the People First conference in Spokane – she is still trying to find out more about the organization (she believes it is focused on the DD/ID community, but isn't limited to that – she isn't sure or whether it's cross-disability, perhaps we can find out more by attending). That might be a question for the WA State CIL (Marsha also asked Elizabeth). Marsha may be able to attend it – is Steven available? What is the date? In October, mid-week...Steven won't know those class schedules for a while yet (still scheduling master's classes). October 28-30 – Tue.-Th.

Dave is on a board that partners with People First – one of the other member's main jobs is to work with People First in his area. He can pursue more information about them if needed.

Elaine looked on their website of members, Lucas Doelman, a GCDE member is part of it (as is Kyle Matteson from CDAN – they may also be able to provide more info).

Marsha has a sense that People First would like to broaden their membership – she's willing to work with them on that and attend the convention if possible to listen and share info on our behalf. That raises the question of having info to share, but it's not until October, so hopefully we could pull something together (Marsha is willing to make copies).

The national and American federations for the blind have statewide conferences in the Fall and Spring (unsure which is which, or where they will be held). We have a reasonably good representation of members statewide Marsha believes, so if we can track down when the conferences are, perhaps we can arrange to get people there.

She believes the first step in that is developing a list of disability organizations. To that end, the list of disability organizations that Emily just sent out on the reminder – that's the one we're looking at. Elaine can share her screen.

Marsha would ask folks to take a look at the link. Marsha hoped to split the alphabet into 4 groups. Steven, Dave, Lyn, and Marsha – with Marsha taking the first six letters A-F, G-L for Dave, M-S for Lyn, T-Z for Steven.

Marsha would like folks to look from the list now and see what organizations they think are likely to have state or regional conventions that we could attend (example based on service area). Arc or BIA of WA may have one. We are looking for statewide organizations. Please work on your lists and let Marsha know when you've gotten the lists together (done during meeting).

There are chat limits – Steven will send his list in separate messages.

Steven's list:

- 1: The Arc of Washington State
- 2: WA State Independent Living Council (WASILC)

- 3: Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy
- 4: Washington State Parent to Parent Support Programs
- 5: Volunteers of America Western Washington
- 6: Washington Federation of the Blind

Lyn's list:

- 1: NAMI
- 2: Office of DD Ombudsman
- 3: PAVE
- 4: Spina Bifida Advocates

Dave's list: Mentioned NWAF (we're looking for associations of PWD)

- 1: Lions Camp Horizon Foundation

Marsha's list:

- 1: The Arc
- 2: Ashley House (?)
- 3: The Centers for Independence
- 4: The Coffin-Lowry Syndrome Foundation
- 5: Easter Seals (?)
- 6: Down Syndrome Community
- 7: Families for Effective Autism Treatment
- 8: Fetal Alcoholism Spectrum Disorders

Dave has 1 (others have 1 or several counties, but not all), Lyn has 4. Marsha has 8, Steven has 6.

Lyn sent her 4 to Elaine (Marsha can't post hers in chat at the moment). Marsha would like to take the list and split it up amongst those of us who are here. Steven knows of 1 organization not on the list (WCB) that he's a part of. There are two other blind orgs Marsha mentioned earlier. What about MS or MD orgs? Not listed. GCDE isn't listed either.

Marsha isn't convinced that it's critical that we get everyone, but a representative group. Once Marsha types hers into an email to Elaine, Marsha wants us to use the Word document and split it up between the 5 of us (including Daniel) – we have a list of 20.

That would be 4 organizations each to research prior to our next meeting for whether they have a state/regional convention, and when/where it is.

Marsha will send her list to Elaine tonight, so we can divide it up into 4 a piece, and send out assignments to people (Elaine can do so). Marsha will email Daniel separately about the assignment.

That's all for today. Thank you all. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm without objections. Farewell and have a good day.

5: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence– subcommittee members – currently 2nd Mondays at 4:30pm.

Marsha thinks monthly meetings will be sufficient. Our next meeting would be July 14th at 4:30pm. Lyn isn't available, but could provide a report out on her 4 organizations with the information in hand.

ACTIONS:

-All: Review the Town Hall Findings Report by COB on Wednesday and let us know of any concerns.

-Marsha to let Matt Nash know we are cancelling the proposed Benton/Franklin CO event in 2026.

-Dave or Elaine can help put Marsha in contact with others to learn more about People First if needed.

-Marsha will see about attending the October People First Convention in Spokane, and Steven will let us know if he is available pending his class schedule.

-Marsha is willing to make copies of materials related to GCDE to bring to the Spokane People First conference, if we can pull something together by then.

-Marsha will research when the state, national, and American federation for the blind conferences are.

-We may want to consider adding MS and MD organizations to our list (GCDE wasn't on the DOH list either, nor WFB).

-Marsha, Lyn, Dave, Steven, and Daniel will each take 4 organizations from the full list (Marsha will email hers to Elaine, who will send out assignments) to find out when/where their state conventions are (if any). Marsha will email Daniel about the assignment separately.

-RSVP to the next meeting on July 14th at 4:30pm (calendar invite from Emily).

-Lyn will send the information about her 4 assigned organizations in advance of the next meeting. Others should bring their information to the next meeting.