



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)
Employment Workgroup Kickoff Meeting | June 24th, 2025, | 9:00-9:30am

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Employment workgroup meeting – call to order – Yvonne Bussler-White

Meeting called to order by presiding chair Yvonne Bussler-White at 9:01am (videos on), welcomed all, glad to be here to discuss this topic and new direction. Recapped history and purpose of meeting.

2: Roll Call/intros – Yvonne Bussler-White

- a. Members present: **Yvonne Bussler White, Ivyanne Van Der Peet, Jaida Barrows, Marsha Cutting, Amy Cloud, Steven McCray,**
- b. Members absent: Brit Nuckles
- c. Staff present: **Emily Spears, (Elaine Stefanowicz excused & Elizabeth Gordon)**

3: Housekeeping rules – Yvonne Bussler-White

- a. Please state your name prior to speaking, raise your hand to make a comment, and speak slowly & 1 at a time. This is a safe space to discuss and engage.

4: Brainstorming on possible activities – Yvonne/all

- a. What other ideas do folks have?
- Transportation/hours is a barrier heard at CO – focus on advocacy if this is the issue (esp. rurally and on the east side)
 - Consider advocacy around ensuring the driver's license requirement removal on job application is enforced once in effect
 - Think further on how we can focus this issue and bring it to an actionable level – possibly create a 1-pager infographic that could be used as a script or talking piece for meetings on the topic
 - We may be able to pilot it in one county (such as Kitsap) to use as a model statewide
- Recognizing employers doing well promotes advocacy – consider a monthly social media spotlight (work w/ partners and Associates)
- Possible lunch and learn sessions with associates/partners to provide employers info on hiring PWD
 - Perhaps past Awards recipients could present as peers/answer questions
- Digital equity is also a barrier that should be considered – remote options not always available, affordable, or accessible
 - Amy will share the education/outreach plan she drafted last year on this topic

5: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence— workgroup members –

- a. Does the current timeframe (4th Tuesday at 9am) work going forward? (works for Yvonne)
- b. The group will come back next month after ideas/info are compiled/shared, and talk about how to build an action plan. Thank you for the ideas. See you next month.