



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)
Employment Workgroup Meeting | Oct. 14th, 2025, | 9:02-9:40am

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 9:02am (pulling up agenda), welcomed all, excited to continue the work. Folks are doing well, about to be doing some travelling.

2: Roll Call – Yvonne Bussler-White

- a. **Members present:** Yvonne Bussler White, Ivyanne Van Der Peet, Jaida Barrows, Marsha Cutting, Brit Nuckles [quorum not needed]
- b. **Members absent:** Amy Cloud, Steven McCray
- c. **Staff:** Emily Spears, Elizabeth Gordon present (Elaine Stefanowicz absent)

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 – cameras welcome in this small group. This is a safe space for ideas.

4: Planning activities – Yvonne/all

- a. **Recap of actions/assignments proposed at last meeting:**
 - **Review of CEA flyer:** Thank you to Amy for reviewing the CEA flyer. **Please note**, as it did not originate from GCDE, we cannot suggest edits. We just wanted to know whether to share it out with our list – can we decide now? **Folks agree, Elizabeth will let CEA know.**
 - **Reaching out to HRC in support:** for possible request legislation or a decision package if desired, and inviting them to join a meeting? Elizabeth reached out about something else and didn't hear back, **she will follow up. Note:** Agencies have been looking at cuts and not additional funding.
 - **Resource guide/Eastern WA:** Steven, Brit, and Yvonne had not connected as of when agenda was drafted due to bandwidth issues for Yvonne, she did research, but couldn't find addtl. resources for Eastern WA (difficult). Brit pulled up the guide they & Steven had been working, on and explained the categories for statewide and local resources. Amy had a suggestion for Whatcom Co. We could **consider adding County Bar Associations** (list), which includes addtl. Eastern WA counties ([link](#)). Please **review for any additions, then we can send to staff for review** of next steps.

- **NDEAM blurbs:** Thank you to Amy for reviewing. They have started going out weekly on the GCDE Facebook page as of 10/1, and are receiving engagement (likes, shares). **Will continue.**
- **Federal impacts: We need to keep abreast of federal impacts.** DVR and DSB are advocating in congress for protections around cuts to special education, birth to 3 programs, RSA services/priority wait lists and pulldown funding/budget ramifications – etc. We might need to **consider focusing on all services for PWD, not just employment.** DOH discussed WIC cuts recently (no allotment prior to shut down, funding may run out start of next week). Could be ongoing/intentional. Will affect DD, BH, CRPs etc. We may need to **mention at GM.** Elizabeth will **ask for more info on Medicaid waivers impact.** We'll learn more in the next few weeks – **reach out with any new info** to guide next steps.

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

- a. Does the current timeframe (Tuesday at 9am) work going forward?
- b. Should we meet again in a couple weeks (still during NDEAM) as opposed to a month?

Thank you for the discussion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40am. **Next meeting date to be decided.**

ACTIONS:

- **CEA flyer:** We cannot make edits as it did not originate from us, but folks agree with sharing it out, so Elizabeth will let CEA know and ensure we have the latest copy.
- **HRC:** Elizabeth reached out about something else and didn't hear back, so will follow up. Note that agencies may be looking at cuts rather than addtl. funding currently.
- **Resource guide:** We will consider adding the county bar associations (list on link), to include addtl. Eastern WA resources, then share w/ staff for review/next steps.
- **NDEAM blurbs:** Thanks for review. These have been going out weekly on Facebook (Wednesday's at noon), receiving engagement, and will continue (Oct.)
- **Federal impacts:** We need to keep abreast of these changes. We may consider focusing on all svcs. for PWD, not just employment, and possibly mention at GM. Elizabeth will ask for more info on impacts to Medicaid waivers. All, please reach out with any new info to guide next steps.
- **Next meeting date:** To be decided. Do Tuesdays at 9am still work? Do we want to meet again in a couple of weeks (Oct. during NDEAM) instead of waiting a month?