



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

Employment Workgroup Meeting | Nov. 18th, 2025, | 9:00-9:30am

Minutes

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

2: Roll Call – Yvonne Bussler-White

- a. Attendance: Yvonne Bussler White, Ilyanne Van Der Peet, Jaida Barrows, Marsha Cutting, and Brit Nuckles.
- b. Staff: Elaine Stefanowicz & 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 for ideas.

4: Planning activities – Yvonne/all

- a. Recap of actions proposed at last meeting
- b. Status update on member assignments

Brit shared the Employer Resource Guide. Elizabeth and Emily will review it and hopefully send it to everyone in December.

Yvonne discussed having lunch and learns to talk about employment for people with disabilities. She suggested partnering with other agencies that provide supported employment across the state. Yvonne welcomes ideas from the Workgroup. One topic suggested: creative strategies for transportation and employment for people with disabilities.

Marsha shared that one thing she learned during Community Outreach events is that transportation during off-commuter hours is a major impediment for people with disabilities searching for employment. Marsha spoke with former GCDE member Megan Mason-Todd and her local representative about this issue, and they will have a meeting in the future. Marsha was appointed to the Community Advisory Committee for Kitsap Transit to work on these issues. She would like to use Kitsap as pilot project to address transportation issues. Brit said they have run into similar problems with no transportation options in rural areas.

Yvonne said her local area has a grant process to create transportation options. This has allowed an expanded bus schedule that runs six days a week. The problem is that rural routes only run twice a day. Creative problem solving has also worked in her area. DVR can pay for family members to drive people with disabilities to work until they are able to afford it themselves. DVR has also paid for bicycles and electric bikes. She mentioned Ubers and taxis are expensive and cost prohibitive for most.

Other ideas: reasonable accommodations for job interviews; tax incentives and other benefits of hiring people with disabilities; inviting the NW ADA Center for ADA trainings; Executive Order 24-05.

Marsha suggested that GCDE host a statewide meeting on transportation.

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

- a. Does the current timeframe (Tuesday at 9am) work going forward?

The fourth Thursday of the month works for the group except Yvonne has a conflict in February. The next meeting is January 9, 2026, at 10:00 am. There is no Employment Workgroup meeting in December.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2026, at 10:00 am