



GCDE General Membership Meeting
Friday, May 16, 2025
10:00am-3:00pm

Minutes

10:00 am: Welcome and housekeeping - *Yvonne Bussler White, GCDE Chairperson* (5 min)

- State your name prior to speaking
- Speak slowly and 1 at a time
- Raise your hand to make a comment
- Folks will join with videos off/muted (chat is open to hosts)

10:05 am: Roll call - *Elizabeth Gordon, GCDE Executive Director* (5 min)

- Read thru participants list by category (members, associates, etc.)

Present:

Members: Patti Dailey-Shives, Dave Carl, Steven McCray, Lucas Doelman, Kristin DiBiase, Angie West, Yvonne Bussler-White, Nancy Zellers, Steve Lewis, Marsha Cutting, Lyn Sowdon, Cullynn Foxlee, Autumn Harris, Angela Romeo, Ashley Bray, Daniel Ledgett, Jaida Barrows, Napal Tesfai, Kristina Sawcykyj, Amy Cloud, Brit Nuckles.

Quorum: 12 members met.

Associates: Allison Spector, Brandi Monts, Michael Mackillop, Shelby Satko, Lucy Barefoot, Kim Conner

Emeritus: Damiana Harper

Staff: Emily Spears, Elizabeth Gordon, Elaine Stefanowicz

Guests: Babs Roberts, Sarah Conly, Anna Nepomuceno, Cecelia Black, Kirk Hovenkotter, Heidi Audette, Abuoh Neufville

Accommodations: Connie Church (CART), Kelly Brunson (ASL), Kam Butler (ASL)

10:10 am: Announcements – Yvonne Bussler White, GCDE

Chairperson (10 min)

-Susan Matt has resigned as a member due to other commitments.

10:20 am: Impact panel – Brandi Monts, Developmental Disabilities Council; Anna Nepomuceno, National Alliance on Mental Illness; Babs Roberts, Economic Justice Alliance, Michael Mackillop, Department of Services for the Blind (90 min) [Elizabeth to facilitate, Marsha intro]

Questions:

Q1: Please introduce yourself, your role and tell us a little about your organization

BM: There are 27 members, 67% are in the ID/DD community. 40% are representatives from serving the community (DOH, education, DDA). They make a 5-year plan (staff – 7 total – make sure the goals are reached).

MM: Core partner of WDC thru VR program – funded federally, share VR grant from WA w/ DSHS DVR (82/18%). Focus to work w/ PWD – visual disabilities creating functional limitations towards work/employment (services). Services for youth and families as well (state funded). IL skills grant for older folks 55+ avg age 83 (DVR). 1k clients/DVR 10k (9 mos.to 3-4 years svc. time).

AN: Washington Chapter of Natl. organization. States have own orgs. (21 affiliates). Focus to improve lives of PWD with mental illness (exp, family, support, providers). Education programs/peer support. Reducing stigma. High school programs. Improve state policy/system.

BR: Experts w/ lived exp, comm, tribes, agencies – 10-year plan to dismantle poverty (3 related groups under 1 identity – work first, legislative, advisory council, etc.) Advance policy, funding, changes to meet basic needs, contribute, future generations.

Q2: We have been hearing of various changes to services related to federal directives, funding and changes to grants.

Can you share how implemented federal policies or funding changes have impacted your business?

BM: Feels like a long year, lots going on. Growth opportunity – new tools and resources. DD Council (each state) – www.ddc.wa.gov – setup inside of COM (state govt.) DD Act (Fed.) supposed to watch service systems that watch DD community (not DDA/DSHS). Develop solutions, help understand, create new participation avenues. 1.5 mill./year from HHS (600k state of WA – 2 mill/year). Jan/Feb – 1st time feds. froze \$. 1.5 mill contracted out to comm. (pay contractors like Arc of WA – advocacy days for ID/DD comm. each wed. during session – impacts). From state general fund, reimbursed from feds. (same for staff). Froze 3x. Paying Arc, ODMF, Allies in Advocacy quarterly – 3 months not paid (couldn't reimburse). WA budget deficit (couldn't fill gap – staff either). New. Courts put restraint order against Exec. Fed. Govt. – illegal (reeling). Council only (not direct service – directing funds to community). More on Federal Systems later (Medicaid, education, social security, ACL). HHS system – laws for PWD sit under ACL (monitoring/enforcement). DD Act – three partners – DRW and UW and allies in advocacy. TA/training/legislation inclusion. March – congress has to vote on closures – pulled apart, special education now under ACL (what does it mean?). Then ACL going away. Not planful (concerning). Federal laws for PWD. Partners saw potential to decrease/move orgs. Into IL system recently – watching feds. (increased focus). Negotiating budget (advocacy working – understanding the why - action).

AN: Federal actions affecting them directly are cuts to vista program – allows people to get work exp. (beneficial for org. and participant). Work in different fields, gaining exp./training, program pays them.

Small state non-profit, limited staffing funds, 3-4 vista participants on the team. Depend on work exp. Difficult situations. Passionate about their work (from other locations in the US). Unsure if their part will be cut (already been cuts thru program). Scary – not concerned about losing staff, livelihoods of the participants and their families, work skills (3-year program). Renewed yearly. Unsure if it will happen. Cuts to SAMHSA are huge, and also potential cuts to non-profit threats ('woke'). Same as other non-profits – afraid of losing status due to stance, mission, goals – daunting (small org, each \$ - federal, state, private makes a difference in programming statewide). State budget deficit still included final budget items (relief). At risk of being cut. Federal too. State funding goes to affiliates for programming/staff/facilities for peer support (concerns re closure or program cuts). Potential Medicaid cuts concerning (loss of medical services scary). Affecting mental health (marginalized populations). Funding is vital to supt. communities. Monitoring federally (national).

BR: Cross-entity collaboration is challenging to figure out. The federal impact is varied (EO's, policy, congress, dept.) – volume overwhelming/chaotic – hard to pinpoint. Hearing from comm. – hard. Elimination of grant funding hit comm. orgs. (eliminate programs or close). Providers, service areas, programs gone. State agencies waiting on congress (new policy, HHS guidance, USDA) – increased integrity – immigration intersection. Vague – hard to nail down ask. Reporting req's (justifying spend on fed. Grants). Administrative burden. Delayed ability to get funds (comm. based hard). Watching closely (org. changes too - HHS). ACL disbursed (AAA/disability). Ensured continuity, guidance, expertise. Concern on impacts to speed at guidance comes, consistency. Unsure yet. DOE elimination proposal (k-12/secondary, and post-secondary impacts – low income, disabilities, marginalized). Watch and adjust (waiting game).

MM: Notion is to provide services seamless – not worry about background – have to worry about that now (allows for the services). Educational information. Directly, hard to talk about that alone

(partners). Texas lawsuit – still pending – section 504 of rehab. act. VR program law. Also, potentially impacting ADA. Claims that gender dysphoria is a disability (preamble rec – not eliminated, could change). That's what's talked about, below, it says section 504 is unconstitutional. Stay on trial – may not go forward. Would have drastic impacts. VR grant – DOE – targeted for dismantling (not wholly). Unsure of impacts overtime - congress decisions (moved into DOL, HHS, etc.) Unknown. Move may change regulatory aspects of work. Technical support (technical support – unknown impacts). Funding for rehab programs has been dicey (2024/2025, COLA adjustment for VR programs nationwide took away). Not discretionary funds. Act of congress to change formula grant structure. OMB reinstated. Education happening in April (congressional delegations). 347 m reinstated nationwide to VR programs (surprising). 1.2m at DSB. COLA doesn't rep. increases. 15-20%. Helpful, not resolved. Unsure for 2026. Presume grant will continue, could change. IL for older stayed with DOE (not ACL like other IL grants). If moved to DOL, no alignment (question TBD). Concerning. Funding has been flat funding (not adequate to meet needs for services). Need an increase, unlikely. Rehab act provides tribal VR (5-year cycles, not guaranteed, challenging structure for partners). Programs provide cultural supports. May not be addressed at state level. Schedule A hiring no longer exists (PWD skills in). No pathway for consideration for federal jobs. TA hasn't changed (probation or Schedule A let go). Impacted PWD hired that way. On leave due to attending a DEI training previously. When grants drawn, terms and conditions, unchanged – looking closely – new exp. in managing fed. Grant (not so far – structure is in place). Unknown.

Q 3: Can you share about how implemented or proposed federal policies or funding changes are impacting the people that you serve?

BM: Second statements so far. Buckets – ACL direction (special education, ADA, law moved). Implications (student supports). State implementation. Social security – not heard of closures in WA (hours, rules – who and what to apply/be eligible/security/online access).

Please let them know of closures (tracking). Want to share info. Watching special education (implications/needs). Paying attention to Medicaid/health insurance (other side of WA – elected support waning). Waiver programs – ADL's. Supports. Commentary (same as WA institutional closure thru leg.) Undervalued/invisible/disrespected. Community supports requested, not able to close facilities, same time as federal messaging – marathon, not a sprint. Keep resources/energy sustained – towards each other to get thru – mental health (supt. community). More to come.

AN: Monitoring everything – many intersections (housing, food, education, env.) Aggressive policies against immigration (fear). Starting rural outreach program for folks that can't come to them. 2 bilingual staff to agricultural community in Eastern WA and provide resources/listen. Working to expand affiliate programs. Translating into different languages. Grant funded staff are taking programs and modifying to be culturally sensitive. Declining mental health everywhere. Pandemic focus around mental health – funding came to light (BH system progress). Falling behind. Cuts to programs, not as much focus. Educating lawmakers – affecting people in WA mentally – continue to provide/increase svcs. despite threat of loss of federal funding – finding a way. Not only economic impacts. Ensuring support (esp. in youth). 1/5 folks have a mental illness – increase access to treatment despite Medicaid cuts. Domino effect (where are backup healthcare funds coming from – education, PWD, housing, etc.) Connected – trying to keep track (daunting). Keep educating and paying attention to address locally.

BR: Grateful to be here, supports other comments. Fear for people servicing. In many communities in Eastern WA (immigration, etc.) Exacerbates others (stress, mental health, physical). Prevents them from seeking help – fear translates to state govt. also. Intersectionality. Proposals, changes, rhetoric – cross sector (marginalized groups). Focused at othering. Lots of progress in the state in being inclusive/value. Watch – states with similar values are targeted. People

served too.

MM: Uncertainty of funding, services, housing, survival impacts mental health across the board for customers and staff – needing to address and provide supports for folks going thru VR is critical. Comes w/ additional costs (may limit ability to provide services, uncertainty, waiting for services). Messaging heard from various sources about PWD (capability). Takes a toll (impacting employers negatively). Integrated portion under attack (in community). Not with subminimum wage, etc. Can impact individuals (expectations). Day at a time. What we can do/change/impacts – build on. Cut thru the noise – hard to keep track.

Q 4: Are there upcoming concerns about funding or services that you would like us to be aware of? Are there ways that GCDE can come alongside your work or advocacy to support the people that you serve?

BM: Resources in chat. Make lemonade out of lemons (Medicaid matters campaign – services/funding/share stories). Newsletter. Community summit. Now is the time to speak up.

AN: Cuts to SAMHSA – USDOH – vital work for the community (research, resources). Devastating. What they're watching (also Medicaid impacts). Ability to get healthcare. Messaging – stigma for vulnerable communities, narratives, information. Focus on the truth. Education. Do own messaging. Join in coalition for advocacy for impacted folks – louder voices – echoes Eastern WA services (crisis). Webinar.

BR: Lots we know is intersectional. Proposed impacts – cumulatively – devastating impacts (such as Medicaid). Add changes to SNAP, TANF, LIHEAP, AAA, etc. Marginalized communities – disproportionately impacted by poverty, more reliant on programs to meet needs.

Onerous processes for people – falling thru the cracks for benefits (work requirements). Medicaid and SNAP – states absorbing costs – lots of funding. Watching/analyze to be ready after session/prep – advice and decisions. Seconds Michael (advocacy) and Brandi (Eastern WA). Letters to congress – share w/ partners – fact sheets on impacts. Help needed (passing on info).

MM: Complex funding – talking book and braille library cut. Access to

services impacted. May have been restored. Education and advocacy can have impact – COLA example – needed across the board. Don't feel hopeless, do act.

Q&A. Chat isn't accessible – could staff share resources in email for advocacy? Contact legislators and delegation. Yes.

Can we forward fact sheets to GCDE members for contacting representatives? Yes.

Is there a way to find out about state cuts? OFM website in chat (Gov's budget – fiscal.wa.gov). Agency by agency (cuts and adds). Not always clear (agency websites possibly). Recording?

Insurance question for state employees. Rules change annually. BenefitU.org is a great resource to look at benefits received/maximization/services/questions/counseling (free).

11:55 am: Break (10 min) *Please return promptly at 12:05. This is a break for accommodations too.*

12:05 pm: Associate spotlight - Allison Spector, Dept of Transportation (30 min) [Cullyn]

Prompt:

The GCDE has many associate members, representing various agencies. These members are valued in our work, and we so appreciate their partnership. At each General Membership (GM) meeting, we'd like to highlight one of our Associate Members, to learn more about your work and how it impacts people with disabilities in Washington state. Please share what you are working on, your goals and their impacts for people with disabilities in WA, and your thoughts on ways we can partner together in this work.

AS: Shared a PPT on the DOT ADA program. Responsibilities, details on collection of ADA transition plans, and an example of utilization to access community resources.

- Enforces DOT ADA civil rights ADA program externally (HR internal). Receives accessibility complaints – investigation/resolution (facilities/services). Maximum extent feasible requirements. Monitoring of subrecipient.
- Recipient of federal funds – dispense funding locally (city/county, etc.) Requires ADA compliance – duty – resp. of oversight. Degree TBD (negotiate).
- Nov. 2024 monitoring – ADA transition plan copies requested (assess/feedback). Part of req's (self-inventory, deficiencies, plan to comply). 77 provided, 33 in development.
- Required with >50 employees. Less than – still need to evaluate, no plan. Title II – address discrimination access to all programs.
- Outline how they will ensure access to PWD. Public commitment. Proactively addressing.
- Required components: ADA coord. (**ind.**), complaint **process** (alt.), design standards, public **involvement**, access **barriers**, plan to remove, **schedule** to re-evaluate.
- Categories evaluated. Methods. Statement.
- Feedback provided; results analyzed to gauge compliance/ID patterns.
- sharing a plan (Lynwood website – self eval. and plan – mayor letter). Good example. Folks cities should have one (websites). Should be accessible (i.e. tables, maps).
- Consider working on the local level up – advocate for PWD/yourself. See if your city has one, is taking steps to make sure infrastructure, programs, facilities, are accessible. Public commitment – go to city council or govt. – accountability. Look at priorities – complaint based. Check when it was updated, on track.

Q&A:

Do all cities have to do it, how often? If receiving federal funds, required to abide by federal laws – likely yes. Is it an entity w/ over 50 employees (including PT?) Mostly, yes. If under, need to do an evaluation. Largely yes. How often – no guidelines – activism commitment, regular schedule (i.e. 2-year public commitment).

Thanks for bringing forward – depends on engagement. Advocacy needed.

Running a bit late – put questions in writing, can Allison get back to us? Transportation panel after lunch (speakers). Happy to. Transportation always comes up. We'll submit questions, could invite back.

12:35 pm: Lunch (30 min) *Please return promptly at 1:05. This is a break for accommodations too.*

1:05 pm: Transportation advocacy - legislative session 2025: *Kirk Hovenkotter, Transportation Choices Coalition, Cecelia Black, Disability Rights Washington (40 min) [Elizabeth]*

Questions:

Q1. We just finished up a busy legislative session. What were the highlights from your perspectives? Any high notes? Anything we should be aware of?

CB: Works on the disability mobility initiative – non-driver PWD on transportation issues (housing, zoning, land use). Hear impacts re: transportation barriers often – lens. Major bill finally passed – adding transit rider rep to transit agencies. Car focused – DOT/leg. PWD exclusion (leadership). Adds 2 voting positions to 2 board (transit rider and community org). PTBA – 31 statewide – 21 are those. Leg. dictates

structure, until now, board members mixture of elected officials (weren't able to add even if desired). Optional, not required. Sometimes advisory committee feedback is accepted, sometimes not, no alternative – tough decisions, funding cuts, need for increases - transit riders can speak to priorities/services. Next hurdle is making sure it's implemented. Fall training/conference. How to engage folks, work with them, encourage changed structured. Big win hopefully will see impacts to transit services for PWD.

KH: State's non-profit advocate for transportation (30-year years). Work in legislature, organization, ballot measures (light rail, levies in Seattle). DRW had huge wins – slides or verbally? Slides are OK. Big initiative in leg. – megaproject for safety (6 major priorities on agenda). Challenging session – passing of some key members – deficits, funding challenges in face of federal cuts. Climate commitment (2117, cut, move ahead package for free youth transit, streets, trails, transit investments funding), were looking at using funding elsewhere. Safety project – roadway danger (Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma – busy – buildings/transit). 150m/year (got 100m in 27-29). Sidewalks, crosswalks, medians. Expanding inner city bus program. 12m (got 5m this biennium to start - map). Fixing infrastructure before expanding (gas tax increase, no new projects added, still continuing others). Road usage charge – new funding source – preservation/maintenance (assessment for other options). Didn't move, will continue. Safe transit – bus stops, etc. Didn't invest, will continue. Mix of success/opportunities.

Q2. What steps are being taken to improve the accessibility of public transit across Washington, particularly in rural areas? How can policymakers ensure reliable and equitable transportation options for people with disabilities?

CB: Funding is a big deal, had to defend CCA to not use needed funding for sustainable projects/impacted communities for expanding highways – ongoing issue to address in transit for PWD in rural areas. WA mapped out non-drivers in 2023 across WA in a study – showed...think of urban centers w/ options, rural areas had higher percentage.

Reminder: transit can't just be in urban areas, not everyone has that access. Transit cuts in rural areas (lines, services) – paratransit stops may affect eligibility. Need to be taken seriously, rider impacts.

KH: Too many rural communities, bus doesn't run often, or not there.

Big change in 2022 when state started funding transit opps – want to continue to make that case (connect to opportunities, appts., lives).

Push on inner city transit connections – travel WA model (new connections not existing – for non-drivers so they don't have to rely on others). Survey – 49% of respondents relied on rides in rural Thurston co. (non-drivers). W/o investment, not another option. Voices – not listened to/given access – Chat: Snoqualmie valley hope link on rural transport 101 – how to do testimony to make the case for better investments/transit.

Q3. With emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles and high-speed rail, what policies should Washington implement to guarantee these innovations are designed with accessibility in mind, ensuring people with disabilities are not left behind?

CB: Folks often haven't figured out how to secure wheelchairs before launch or in pilot programs – look at priorities – advantageous to include PWD. They could provide new options for PWD, people who are blind, etc. could make a difference. WA done a good job about not making blanket permits to allow AV's to come to WA – how do we bring safe and responsive options (crosswalks, signals, curbs, sidewalks, etc.) Investments are needed in those items too (streets). Dis. Comm. needs to be active and vocal – promising hope, making sure they're in planning.

Q&A. Re: vanpool. WA state is home to some of largest public agency fleets, a lot in urban areas (community). Challenge for rural agencies. Kirk will follow up with Cully after/make a connection.

Any advocacy to improve paratransit (boards), local transit policymakers – paratransit rider participation? Different among

counties. DRW is statewide – knows it's a barrier – transit rider rep. bill – use as a way to build momentum, connect advocates, organize community. King County extending/renewing contracts w/ paratransit. Opp. to advocate for contract renewals – serve folks. DRW brings up in conversations with metro, hope link partners, more advocacy needed (needs to be on boards, service expansion, cuts). Threat of Medicare funds, lots go to paratransit services (means less on the ground – concerning).

Timing of transit – in between rural and urban (growing but doesn't have access to services). Commuter hours are OK, shift jobs not as much (can't get there w/o driving). Impacts PWD (entry level jobs, promotion). Solution to permit folks to get to/from work/school outside of commuter hours. Most national transit systems are stereotypically designed (not healthcare, school, errands). Should be. Commute is only 20% of trips during the week (if working). Need to make it work for the other 4/5 of other trips (not during commute).

Taxing more per mile bill – challenge can be that it's expensive, but where jobs are (live outside in more affordable communities, 40 mi RT to get to a job that pays barely over min. wage – losing business). Impacts of legislation. Want it to be fair/equitable. Don't ask the question about the gas tax today (more miles, more paid). Land use, transport, two sides of the same coin. More affordable to live in communities, housing near transit, sidewalks. Gas tax increase, luxury tax on cars based on values. Transit oriented development bill passed – challenge to PWD community – not a strong movement on housing. Advocates passing bills, voices aren't there. Details of leg. being passed w/o us – transit development, expand accessible housing req's near transit for non-drivers, rent burden, multifamily housing – only 5% WC accessible (not availability). Exciting opp., future wise partners, others there – could have strong advocate support/negotiate stronger housing req's, housing dev. Future wise trying to increase in Spokane. Tour for

partners – IDD community housing project at angle lake station.
Exciting opp. to ensure policies have options for PWD.

Final thoughts?

Not w/l env. orgs, car-centric leg., sustainable polices (EV's, buses) vs service. Keep pushing, telling stories. Expanding service is best solution for climate, easier for PWD to travel, applies to everyone – easier to switch from driving to transit (lot of room in climate change space – leg – push for expanded service/advocacy). Addressing needs as a solution. Making up for lost time and ground. Playing catch up for transit, crosswalks, curbs, etc. – not as car-centric. 30% can't drive, cut out otherwise, long struggle to let leaders know – more transit is needed. Transpoortationchoices.org (newsletter). Spokane, Piece, Seattle ballot measures – increased transit funding, watch, get involved, follow us. DRW sharing out more info on fall training – hoping that folks who can include transit riders on board will get involved, stay tuned. Thanks.

1:50pm: Break (10 min) *Please return promptly at 2:00. This is a break for accommodations too.*

2:00 pm: Subcommittee report outs – [Elizabeth to facilitate]

Community Outreach – *Marsha Cutting, Chairperson* (15 min)
Marsha discussed the former model and the change to involve partners. It went well in Clark Co. Spokane event had barriers with travel freeze (hybrid Town Hall). It was in April instead of Nov. Tried to ease workload for staff – fall bandwidth – overlaps with leg. session. Folks involved. Learning opps. Still figuring out LAP – not able to do morning after town hall, city/county commissioners had a conflict. Future wise has been doing work on housing – top issue. Figuring out how to support work, structure. Timing TBD. Session was difficult. Maybe we can shift it somehow. Need to be careful about using partners. Shelter access also came up, as well as other facilities. Drivers licenses on job apps – addressed by

legislature. Rural transport/paratransit access issues also. Contracting wasn't allowed either (accommodations OK, not translation). City of Spokane let us use their venue/helped.

Wrap up for Legislative – *Patti Dailey Shives, Chairperson* (15 min)
Work on leg. issues for PWD, education, advocacy. Worked to pass nothing about us without us. Work within state system. Welcome new members. Trainings on leg. 101, leg.wa.gov, advocacy, talking with legislators and other elected officials. Non-partisan. Elizabeth creates a workbook of bills related to PWD (priorities)/impacts. Rescuing from vehicles. Hate crimes. % for disabled vets property tax rates. Overpayments on ABD programs. Special ed. Thru school year when they turn 22. Transitioning out of institutions. Prosthetics health plans. Removing DL req's from state jobs. Right to repair (bill signing on Monday in Olympia at 2:30). Let them know. Track leg/what's important - share (apprised of updates, opportunities to speak). All are welcome to join the group. Send ideas for trainings.

Youth Empowerment Program – *Kristin DiBiase, Chairperson* (15)
Welcome new members. Lots of great interactions and contribution. Direct links to young folks – target age group for messaging is helpful/how. Pilot – half day virtual event (HS w/ disabilities) – Fri. Aug. 1 from 1-4pm. Looking at hybrid, due to cuts, fully virtual. Best ways to be interactive/involved with the format in progress. Working in monthly and workgroup calls to do some of the work together vs homework – great collaboration. Elaine amazing. Program planning/outline is helpful – on track w/ pieces. Sharing flyer skipped – ESD Comms (streamlined). Turned into shareable images and captions for social media. Comms workgroup created messaging – sharing w/ for registration. Not as linked to DVR requirements – grows audience for reach (ages). Hopefully a good turnout. Agenda will be on registration. We

received 1 so far. Focused on disability awareness, ableism, pride, disability history, advocacy, ways to get involved. 2 keynotes (DRW), and former delegate. Next steps are assigning folks – they have a great group. Can members attend? Yes. If you want to get involved (facilitation, etc.) let them know too – will have a training. Do they reach out at transition fairs? Typically. COVID impacts (local members). Will be sent to DVR contacts. Adaptive sports too (mapping contacts). Materials will be shared.

Accessible Communities - Steve Lewis, Chairperson (15 min)

Works with 14 ACAC's, funds applications for accessibility projects. Setup committees and help. 4 projects, 3 counties – automatic doors, ferry sticker, and fairground/voting center. Also new ACAC in Clark Co. – no funds (already expended from last year). Focused on helping current groups – survey. Forming more. Focusing on grant process also. Is money not coming in? State budget issues? Couldn't give out because the awards fell into the fiscal year. When grants come in (x amount per year). End of last year falls into this fiscal year – already awarded (limit to how much we can give annually, already obligated at the end of last year, will have more next year despite budget issues – updates TBD).

2:50 pm: Reminder: Story sharing—your advocacy matters! - *Yvonne Bussler White, GCDE Chairperson (5 min)*

We heard that from partners at DRW (transportation boards), Michael (DSB – funding), DSHS – sharing out facts so people have tangible ideas of how things happen in WA amidst noise at federal level is helpful. Working on fact sheet about federal change impacts – can share – time for us to share our voice locally and educate. DDC impacts of rhetoric – time to do that. Will be sharing out resources (sorry for tech issues). Let us know of ideas for upcoming meetings. Send to staff/Yvonne.

2:55 pm: Closing wrap up & Next steps - *Yvonne Bussler White, GCDE Chairperson* (5 min)

Share anything else you want us to know. Have a great afternoon, thanks.

3:00 pm – Adjourn.

Next GCDE General Membership Meeting will be on Fri. October 31, 2025, from 10am-3pm