



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Coordinating Committee Meeting
June 27, 2025, 10:03-10:33am
Minutes

10:00: Welcome, call to order, roll call, housekeeping – Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair (5 min)
Meeting called to order by presiding Chair Yvonne Bussler-White at 10:03am (not on camera). Welcome all. Standard housekeeping items reviewed (raise your hand, comment in chat, ID yourself, be respectful).

Present: Emily Spears, Elizabeth Gordon, Elaine Stefanowicz (Staff); Yvonne Bussler-White (Chair); Marsha Cutting, Patti Dailey-Shives, Kristin DiBiase (subcommittee chairs); Amy Cloud, Cullynn Foxlee (MAL)

Absent: Steve Lewis, Nancy Zellers

Quorum: 5 (met)

10:05: Leadership growth/succession planning discussion – all (10 min)

Yvonne led a discussion on succession planning and growing leaders halfway into the program year, many members will be leaving, need to start thinking who's going to replace chairs/vicechairs, what subcommittees will look like, and start recruiting in August – please keep that in mind. Subcommittee report outs are coming. Please be thinking about succession planning and what the next year will look like, we'll discuss more at the July meeting for each subcommittee, alongside a leadership training.

10:15: Roundtable discussion-subcommittee plans for the next 6 months – chairs (30 minutes)

- **Membership – Yvonne Bussler-White/discuss new membership chair (5 min)**
Yvonne reported that we are interviewing two members who are interested in chairing to start the processes for work in the Fall.
- **Employer engagement – Yvonne Bussler-White (5 min)**
Yvonne reported that we met this week and had a brainstorming session about what actions we can perform and how to move forward w/ advocacy and recognizing employers, and supporting associates/partners – gathered suggestions, topics, highlights, ideas – putting together for a follow up meeting in July to review session/topics and narrow down capacity in this area. It was an engaging meeting with lots of ideas, 30 mins went quickly, excited to see where it goes.
- **Youth Empowerment – Kristin DiBiase/Elaine Stefanowicz (5 min)**
Elaine and Kristin reported that the virtual YEP summit is coming up on August 1 at 1pm, it's a pivot from the former event, we're focusing on disability pride/advocacy. There were 61 registrants last week (lots of adults/professionals signing up – not target audience – waiting for guidance from AG. Debrief meeting will happen the week after to discuss improvements for next

time. Future meetings in next 6 months after that will be ramping up and planning for the next version. Membership, 3 new members, great contributions – helpful. Excited about direction. Elaine is great. Found a helpful curriculum from Ombuds office created w/ disabled youth – form the basis of it – helpful content. Reaching out ahead w/ targeted questions to learn who is participating – plan to sequester adults if we can't limit attendance (existing groups already, program focuses on youth w/ disabilities). Sounds like great work, trying to make the most of it, hoping for a wider reach – excited/hopeful (Eastern WA). Yvonne will reshare the flyer w/ the local disability network. Amy and Marsha are happy to share anything locally also – we will reshare. There are 23 youth registrants and 50 professionals (could be registering for youth). Exciting.

- **Accessible Communities– Steve Lewis** (5 min)

Cullyn Foxlee (on behalf of Steve Lewis) reported that we haven't received the funding letter, last fiscal year's funds were spent, no grants awarded in spring – will revisit for the fall after the letter. Since they couldn't give out grants, developed a survey, collected on barriers – pros and cons. Due date is July 1st, coming soon. Will compile results and use them as agenda items for the all-county ACAC meeting on Sept. 3 at 3:30. The October meeting will debrief and allow to plan for the upcoming year. 3 counties want to form a joint ACAC, they meet the requirements, working on paperwork. We appreciate the 1 new member. AC wasn't affected by funding cuts, just already expended. They worked hard on the survey questions.

- **Community Outreach – Marsha Cutting** (5 min)

Marsha reported that we completed the Spokane CO event despite funding changes. Clear that if we hadn't had local former members to attend, it wouldn't have happened. We're backing off from the Benton/Franklin event next spring, and pivoting to do a different way of reaching out to folks. Marsha thinks it's important to connect folks statewide to advocate for themselves. We're working on a list of statewide disability organizations and figuring out their state/regional conventions and when, after that, we'll be asking GCDE members to attend locally since we don't have travel funds and either speak to share about GCDE to share concerns, or perhaps table and share info (materials needed). Thanks, excited for the events in Sept.

- **Legislative – Patti Dailey-Shives** (5 min)

Patti reported that they are taking a summer break in July or August – working on educational tools and presentations. There will be a leadership meeting in early August to discuss training plans and navigating the next session. RTR was a major success, thanks to GCDE members for their advocacy, we can be effective together (similarly to NAUWU). We have 3 new members (Patti has met with 2 of them and asked for feedback). In the fall they plan to update prior trainings to prep for session, ethics, and advocacy. Quorum is a challenge, so they will contact members re: involvement. Kristin apologies for missing the meeting today. Self-care is important.

10:45: **Overall recap, vision and next steps – Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair** (15 min)

Yvonne recapped next steps. She doesn't have any additional thoughts to share, but opened the floor. Thanks for ceding time. Can we have a list of who is cycling off (for next meeting)? Can we expand an outreach plan (for next meeting)? Feel free to share other ideas in advance. Have a good holiday. Bye.

11:00: **Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:33am with thanks to all.

Next Coordinating Committee meeting will be from 10am-12 noon on Friday, July 25, 2025.