



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Coordinating Committee Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm

Zoom link: <https://esd-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/83663749139?pwd=TCsgrYmbkAiOAQY1MMsQ6t2XwgYrtc.1>

Agenda

10:00am: 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 **10:04am**. **Welcome** to all and congratulations to Lucas on his recent graduation. Some folks are missing, we hoped to work on leadership items between chairs and vice-chairs, may need to flex – we'll see.

Present: Emily Spears, Elizabeth Gordon, Elaine Stefanowicz (staff)

Members: Yvonne Bussler-White (Chair), Steve Lewis (AC Chair), Brit Nuckles (EWG Chair), Nancy Zellers (MAL), Lucas Doelman (MAL/YEP Co-Vice), Autumn Harris (YEP Vice), Amy Cloud (MAL – in & out)

Absent: Kristin DiBiase (YEP Chair), Patti Dailey-Shives (Leg. Chair – leaving early) , Dave Carl (CO/MS Chair), Cullyn Foxlee (Vice-Chair)

Quorum: 6 met [not including vice-chairs]

Standard housekeeping rules reviewed: This is a safe space for ideas, camera use is welcome.

10:05: Whiteboard training updates TBD – Cullyn Foxlee, GCDE Vice-Chair (5 minutes)

Cullyn to revisit this if desired, otherwise the time can be ceded elsewhere (not present today).

10:10: Elevator pitch for GCDE updates – staff/all (5 minutes)

Yvonne provided a quick update on where we left this last – she was to make the edits suggested at last meeting and send for a vote. It may not have gone out – we will check. **Yvonne would like to resend from staff (she will get it to us). Please review, edit, and provide feedback [DL pending]** so we can get it moved forward as another tool to have at our disposal as we do our work.

10:15: Members at Large and incoming chairs - welcome - all (5 mins)

Welcome to: Amy Cloud & Nancy Zellers (returning), and Lucas Doleman (new) – **MAL**; and Brit Nuckles (**EWG**) and Dave Carl (**CO** – not present) Chairs. Anything to share? Brit is excited for the employment workgroup, the resource focus and responsiveness to the current moment is important to them. Amy is glad to still be here and appreciates the broader view of what's going on/perspectives. Nancy is excited to be a part of this group and to learn and share her experiences and others for the benefit of all. Yvonne is excited for the year as well. Autumn is passionate about the role and working with the leadership team, alongside her role (and recent award) with the City of Seattle ADA Title II Coordination team.

10:20: Updates: Legislative Subcommittee - Patti Dailey-Shives, Legislative Subcommittee Chair (10)

Nancy for Patti (not present today) provided updates about the leg. subcommittee work – 13 bills were narrowed down from dozens by the subcommittee from each member’s top 3; a vote will be conducted after this meeting to select 8-10 final top priorities from that list. Elizabeth’s workbook (updated/posted on the website Friday’s – link in chat) is shared every session – Tier 1 bills directly affect the disability community. A goal is to promote them. Another is for training (Leg. 101 done, Advocacy 101 forthcoming). Subcommittee members will give further input on other desired topics. Nancy and Patti endeavor to work together. Trainings should be open to all – setting dates, times, invites is something staff need to figure out. Elaine will let the GM know when they will be (monthly during meetings – poll forthcoming to the subcommittee on topics). **Could we consider adding trainings to the GM meetings** (or record them) if there is space on the agenda vs asking folks to attend an extra meeting? Nancy concurs. That would also encompass the public and Associates. **It’s an idea for the 2/27 meeting.**

10:25: Break – all (15 minutes)

Be back at 10:40 to plan for 2026.

10:45: Membership update – Dave Carl, Membership Chair (5 mins)

Staff for Dave provided a Membership update: recommendations for 9 vacancies from 2025 were submitted out 35 applications reviewed by 6 GCDE members via 25 interviews considering diversity late last month to B&C with a slate of 9 recommended new members and 8 alternates for 2026, awaiting their decision to schedule NMO & mentors. No update yet (in-progress as of a couple weeks ago).

10:50: Planning for 2026: focus on action – Yvonne, all (60 mins)

Review prompts creatively together as an interactive activity as follows on the theme of visibility and action – goal is to get out of planning mode [see PPT – Elizabeth onscreen/taking notes]:

Actions captured (accomplishments/successes) from last year:

- Due to no Awards program, we created the employment workgroup (resource/info sharing for PWD)
- AC handed out several grants (Thuston voting center walkway, Kitsap aquarium auto doors), all-county ACAC mtg. attended by at least 12/14 counties with established ACAC’s
- YEP pivoted to a virtual online format this summer – ADA and disability rights focused training – great materials/foundation developed as a group, interactive forum with breaks despite lower than anticipated attendance
- We had a Community Outreach event in Spokane – planned in-person, had a team on the ground with partners, pivoted hybrid event to meet the needs of staff
- Legislative group planned and organized for the 2026 session, continuing to meet, laying the foundation for Tier 1 bills, and communicating towards implementing training/advocacy/legislative engagement goals (Right to Repair bill)
- We were resilient this year to move forward on behalf of those we serve despite challenges

What we want to do this year:

- Reinventing YEP with committee focus – Jr. GCDE council idea (school year) vs summer event, consider sharing more about pre-ETS during youth programming (partnership/resources), other youth engagers

- Delegating more to vice-chairs/training
- Advocate for career ladders for PWD to help folks advance (EWG focus), opinions and culture education about capacity & value of employing PWD
- Reach out to businesses and PWD about WLAD proactively [education] – EWG & CO focus
- AC – another all-county meeting in October, distribute 100k worth of grants (Feb. 13 deadline to consider in Spring), establish a new ACACs in various areas
- Legislative trainings and promoting priority bills

General ideas –

- Promote language access bill and EO responsibilities for state agencies/counties (captioning/ASL in required trainings and press conferences)
- Digital equity focus
- Developing an overarching communications plan for consistency & effectiveness, aligning subcommittees (Amy has a template)
- Formalize a training series to train and empower both our members and the disability community – how to have our voices heard in these times?
- Create more spaces to ensure self-determination and rights/privacy are honored through education and advocacy (resources) – center intersectionality to ensure no disparate impacts (focusing on vulnerable communities).
- Cross disability presentations at GM meetings for increased exposure and education (allyship)

STEPPED AWAY HERE

Resource allocation

-

Action items

-

Staff/Yvonne will review the ideas to see where they might fall within our existing work, and whether any further consideration needs to be given to new ideas or resource allocation, and report back with any action items at the next meeting in March.

2026 GCDE calendar will be posted to the website.

11:50: Overall recap, vision and next steps – Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair (10 min)

Yvonne recapped next steps as follows:

12:00: Adjourn.

Next Coordinating Committee meeting will be from 10am-12pm on Friday, March 20, 2026.