



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)  
Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting | March 9, 2026, | 4:30-5:30 pm

## Minutes

### 1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – call to order – Dave Carl

Meeting called to order by presiding Chair Dave Carl at **4:30pm**. This is our first meeting of 2026.

### 2: Roll Call – any absences? (Check quorum, excluding staff) – Dave Carl

**Members Present:** Dave Carl, ASL interpreter Karen Carlson (dismissed), Lyn Sowdon

**Members Absent:** Ivyanne Van Der Peet, Patti Dailey Shives, Napal Tesfai, Lucy Barefoot (Associate)

**Staff present:** Emily Spears, Elizabeth Gordon

**Staff absent:** Elaine Stefanowicz

### Membership Update from Elizabeth:

**-3 members missing today**

**-Issue with new member appts:**

- New gov. admin. working w/ B&C (screening for # of state employees)
- Our prior recs. list had a # of state employees
- Staff/leadership met last week, meeting again this week to discuss next steps
- Will review interviewees and find a balance, held up for now
- Appts. may not happen until mid-April as a result

**Minute approval:** Quorum of 4 members **unmet** [for votes only]. Motion **held** to approve last (Nov.) meeting minutes.

### 4: Planning for the future, next steps – Dave Carl

- a. **Discussing how to move forward:** next steps (revisit ideas from last time) – Dave/all
  - **Idea:** Hold a possible statewide listening session on issues PWD are encountering

**Discussion:** Members asked to discuss if this were still something they would like to move forward with. **Comments included** [see below]:

### Ideas from last year [recap]:

- Attending other groups meetings** – *this may not be feasible due to the budget freeze.*
- Involving community partners in planning** – *we want to go to places where we're wanted, connections & citizen involvement is important (thru ACAC's, partners, or otherwise).*
- Focusing on creating ACAC's** – *ACAC's have different ways of sharing info/working with counties, not every county has one. We had mixed success with this for various reasons (Clark Co. vs Spokane).*
- Topics for a listening session:** wheelchair transport in emergencies, ADA accessible housing, transport to employment for after-hours commuters, concerns of the times. *We'd want to ensure any chosen topics are cross-disability, not assume every area is facing the same issues/serving the same demographic, or have too narrow a scope.*

### Questions from group:

- Is a listening session the same as a Town Hall?** *Yes and no. Similar, more open (space to talk about issues i.e., Medicaid, cuts to healthcare, etc. & bring forth to govt. Collect info/share out short report [action oriented] vs. resource sharing in community).*
- Are we still in a budget freeze?** *Yes. It would have to be a virtual event, we can't travel.*

### Group ideas:

- Could we consider bi-annual listening sessions? Repurpose invites?
- Could ACAC's serve as a model for citizen engagement with local issues?

### Overall goal (2026):

- Engage the community visibly this year (share resources, etc.)

### Role [CO]:

- Not just to let people know about GCDE, about reaching out to the community (CO used to be called the rural concerns subcommittee).

### Original intent [listening sessions]:

- Go & find out what is happening for folks (forum for concerns). Came out of Coordinating Committee. Utilize a wider audience than a General Membership meeting.

### Possible format [listening session]:

- Virtual, statewide** (instead of bringing to a specific community). Focus in on a few important issues, **or** have an open discussion (common practice in state govt., per other commission directors). **Example:** NCD has listening sessions as part of their regular meetings, one upcoming on youth/young adults in nursing homes, disasters, etc.
- Partnerships:** If a specific topic was selected, and there are orgs working in that space, we could invite those folks to participate. Would need to decide who to invite if topic-oriented (relevant partners/regionally/needs-based). We could consider partnering with the AC & Legislative subcommittees in advocacy once the goal is clearer as well.

### **Actions/next steps:**

**-Consider revising meeting cadence:** 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday worked for those present, with the exception of staff: Emily (conflict until 4:30, may be able to shorten that meeting).

**-Reach out to those not present:** check about their continued involvement. We will have a better sense on new member appts. in the next couple of weeks.

**-Before the next meeting:** share these notes with the group and ask for ideas of what could work. **Note:** folks should bring ideas to the next meeting, or send ideas to staff only (not reply all) to compile and share out, as emails constituting a quorum violate OPMA, since deliberations must be held publicly.

### **5: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence- reminder – currently 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 4:30pm.**

Members should have received a calendar invite from Emily for the 2026 meeting series so far (pending revision of time).

Thanks for being here. **Meeting adjourned 5:25** by those present.