



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment  
Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Friday, March 20, 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm

## Minutes

**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 10:03am. Welcome to all.

**Members expected: Yvonne Bussler-White, Amy Cloud, Kristin DiBiase, Steve Lewis, Nancy Zellers, Patti Dailey-Shives, Brit Nuckles, Cullynn Foxlee**

**Members absent:** Lucas Doelman, Dave Carl

**Left early:** Steve Lewis, Nancy Zellers, Cullynn Foxlee, Patti Dailey-Shives

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

**Quorum:** 6 (excluding staff) – met.

**Standard housekeeping rules reviewed:** state your name prior to speaking, speak slowly & 1 at a time, raise your hand to make a comment, this is a safe space for ideas (camera welcome).

**10:05: Elevator pitch for GCDE: updates** – Yvonne, all (5 minutes)

Yvonne provided a quick update on the GCDE elevator pitch and next steps. The revised copy was sent out from staff prior to the meeting (Elaine shared onscreen). There are two versions, a 60-90 second and a 30-45 second version (plain language), they were written based on our mission/vision. One suggestion is to make the case that providing a more accessible life and being inclusive benefits everyone. This was part of the longer version (incorporated based on prior feedback). Folks thought they were well done. A question: is it reflected that we are a committee of people with disabilities. This was included in the longer version as well – we could be more specific about % and lived experience (revised accordingly) – folks concurred. Perhaps shift chances with opportunities if still in plain language (should be OK) – add another verb – equal opportunities in life, work, and their communities (we aren't involved in employment services). **We will share the final version (sent out by Emily after the meeting).**

**10:10: Updates: Legislative Session** – Elizabeth Gordon, GCDE Executive Director (10 minutes)

Elizabeth provided a quick update on bills of interest during session. Many may be involved in leg. subcommittee and heard the updates on our top priorities, but to share a few other updates: the spreadsheet on the GCDE website has all of the final status of bills to date (pending Gov's signature on a few – still has time, likely to sign, pending budget; prioritizes current issues). It includes the Tier 1 for 2025. [HB 2092](#) – focused on creating a passenger rail advisory committee (SAIL priority representation). Dead currently – **opp. to work to ensure there is disability voice**. Heat response plan bill is something to **consider working on in interim** ([HB 2183](#), a priority). **Work with partners to ensure there's a broader definition of disability**. Varied bills related to AI – protections in place. [HB 2225](#) – agency request leg. from Gov – chatbots to be transparent about their nature and watermark products accordingly, other controls re: content, resources about risk prone language. **More to come**, NAMI and DEF are discussing it. [HB 2238](#) – statewide food security – Dept. of Ag. work post-pandemic – cont. to monitor farms, supply chain, food banks with partners [passed]. Bill about renaming DD institutions ([HB 2319](#)) died (poss. fiscal note). “School” currently, is a misnomer, services being ramped down – caused confusion – housing, not education, needs alignment. Died but **may come back**. Albuterol in schools ([HB 2360](#)) passed (guardrails, referral to medical svcs). Rep. Bernard – part of DEF – proposed tax break to folks who build housing for vets w/ disabilities ([HB 1106](#) - materials sales tax refunded). Didn't pass (budget). Plans to **bring back – consider expanding** to any accessible housing.

**10:20: Membership update** – Elizabeth Gordon & Dave Carl, Membership Chair (5 mins)

Elizabeth (on behalf of Dave) provided an update to the CC regarding the delay in appointments. Background, typically for GCDE, recruitment starts in late summer and we conduct interviews, then make appt. recs (appts. usually happen in Jan/Feb.) New Gov last year, no changes to B&C at that time. Long time to hear back this year. Gov's office looking at appts. differently. Our process about apps & members interviewing and making recs. is unusual, but appreciated. When they finally met with us, had concerns about recs. Not about quality of folks, but # of state employees. We paid attention to it in the past, lots of openings this year, didn't look at it as much – just interviews. Asked us to go back and screen for # of state employees. Appearance of community involvement and opportunities for voices to be heard – balance. Leadership and staff met to re-review (including alts). Bumped up some alts and revised #'s. Meeting w/ B&C again to get their thoughts – less alternates. Hoping to avoid having to re-recruit and interview – notes were helpful to re-choose. For awareness and transparency – this isn't specific to us, hasn't come up before, **we're still waiting but it's in process**. Grateful for B&C for flagging. Minor hold up unexpectedly. It isn't called out anywhere currently, but there is more scrutiny lately. Typically expected to propose 2x as many people as openings – **could flag for next time** and try to **broadly outreach thru various means – warrants further discussion**. It does go out thru state channels. There has to be a balance. **Stay tuned**.

**10: 25 Integrating annual planning into subcommittees (interactive exercise)** -- all (90 mins)

Elizabeth shared her screen. Yvonne facilitated a discussion to go through the workplan suggestions that were identified by Coordinating Committee & the General Membership (minus a couple from the last CC meeting). The group worked to assign various bodies of work to the existing GCDE subcommittees to give direction to subcommittee work for the remainder of 2026. **Did not have quorum at this point. Elizabeth has the slides with notes.**

**11:55: Overall recap, vision and next steps** – Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair (5 min)

**12:00: Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 11:34.

*Next Coordinating Committee meeting will be from 10am-12pm on Friday, May 29, 2026*