



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT
Employment Security Department ■ P.O. Box 9046 ■ MS: 6000 ■ Olympia, Washington ■ 98507-9046
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Youth Empowerment Program Agenda

Friday, March 6, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Attendees: Kristin DiBiase, Chair; Lucas Doelman, Co-Vice Chair; Autumn Harris, Co-Vice Chair; Lyn Sowdon, and Nancy Zellers. Staff: Elizabeth Gordon and Elaine Stefanowicz.

1. Approve agenda and minutes. Minutes: Lucas made a motion to approve the minutes and Lyn seconded the motion. None opposed. Minutes approved as written. Agenda: Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda and Lyn seconded the motion. None opposed. Agenda approved as written.
2. Junior GCDE Council Workplan (Yvonne Bussler-White, GCDE Chair). Yvonne couldn't attend the meeting, so Kristin discussed the workplan.

Junior GCDE Council Vote: Nancy made a motion to approve a junior GCDE council and Lucas seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed.

Items to consider with the Junior GCDE Council:

- How will we recruit? Advertise to GCDE website? How are others recruiting youth?
- How many youth participants (10-12 people)? Start with possibly 7 youth.
- What is time commitment (term for members)? Possibly a one- or two-year term. We need to keep youth engaged. People are struggling with long-term commitments.
- Create a Teams channel to keep in touch virtually will more likely create community.
- We need to create action steps.

Application Workgroup: A workgroup was formed to review the previous YLF application and adapt it to the new program: Kristin, Lyn and Nancy volunteered to be on this workgroup. Elaine will email them the YLF applications.

Mission Statement Vote:

Lucas made a motion to accept the following as the new Junior GCDE Council's mission statement and Nancy seconded the motion. None were opposed. Motion passed.

Mission Statement: The Junior Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment's (GCDE) Council supports youth's pride in being members of the disability community and supports leadership and advocacy skills.

Staff To-Do Items:

- Elaine will invite Lucas and Autumn to meetings with Kristin.
 - Spell out YEP (Youth Empowerment Program) in all materials.
 - We will look at other youth councils and how long they serve.
 - Draft one pager: concept of this program. What project does; shorter workplan more plain talk and user friendly. GCDE staff will research the Structure of Youth Council (how many seats, responsibilities, terms, etc.). "YEP meets 3 times per year, this is the focus for the first year."
3. Youth Focus Group (action item from January 2025 meeting). Tabled until next meeting.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2026