



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)
Employment Workgroup Meeting | March 26, 2026, | 9:00-9:45am

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Employment workgroup meeting – call to order – Brit N.

2: Roll Call –Brit N.

- i. Members expected: ~~Ivyanne Van Der Peet~~, Amy Cloud, Brit Nuckles, Yvonne Bussler White
- ii. Staff: Elaine Stefanowicz & ~~Elizabeth Gordon~~ (Emily Spears absent)

3: Housekeeping rules –Brit N.

- a. Please state your name prior to speaking, raise your hand to make a comment, and speak slowly & 1 at a time. This is a safe space for ideas.

4: Recruitment discussion – Brit/all

- **This is a small group. We will need to build up membership for 2026 once new members are appointed**, and could consider asking folks (i.e., Lucas, Cullyn) who participated in the Employer Awards program formerly. **Discuss recruitment (new members update, messaging to GM)**. They had leadership meeting and talked and we're waiting for new members to be appointed to build up subcommittee. Should we ask people who previously participated in Employer Awards program? Yvonne: when we formed workgroup, sent email to all GCDE members, we should do that again. Brit: put in ideas that we're thinking about in the workgroup. Ways we're thinking about doing the work. Should we do it in a different way. Yvonne: There are several people who would like to focus on working on employment issues (career ladders, employment, lunch and learns). Yvonne attended a training and a lunch and learn turned into a workgroup. Brit: change mindset of hiring PWD. Have to follow WA State law against discrimination and the ADA. Amy: Teaser. Look at ways to acknowledge employers who are hiring PWDs. They need some encouragement. Brit: ask people from the employment equity realm and the positive they've had and misconceptions. Brit: good way to bring in Employer Awards former members. Yvonne was chair of Employer Awards. Do we want to give more general ideas of what we want to do and maybe one example of an activity we have related to that. A goal and then an action. Yvonne: projects we're working on. Lunch and learns. Specific activities we want to work with community agencies/partner agencies. Invite other to work with us. Now or wait till new members join GCDE? Brit: during GM meeting, intro of workgroup. Yvonne: New member orientation, each subcommittee/workgroup does a presentation and invites new members to attend meetings to tryout different subcommittees. Brit: include initial ideas of

what we want to do and direction we're going. This isn't permanent, come join us. Yvonne: encourage having some of the employment program managers DVR DDCS (formerly DDA) DSB ODHHS HCLA talk about their hiring and how we can partner. Yvonne will reach out to get contact people for each group. Find out what is going in disability hiring. Partner and promote their activities. Brit: job coaches in isolated areas, hard to get employers to have any interest in their clients. Amy: one advantage of working remotely, easier to get expertise. Hear from folks and what they're doing in their small community. Brit: not a lot of resources in isolate/rural communities. Amy: acronyms in different agencies get confusing. Brit: remind us if we're using acronyms to avoid confusion. Does Brit need to do anything? Yvonne will email Jeanine Chandler for agency contact info. A meeting invitation would come from Brit. Brit: send out invitation to GCDE members now to join EWG. Would like to get a draft of an email. Brit will send draft to Amy, Emily and Yvonne to review. Brit busy for the next couple of weeks. We will discuss when we send out email and hopefully before we meet again in April. Amy: invite members to visit our meeting when robust agenda and action items. Discuss outreach email. April meeting will be a good meeting for them to attend if partner agencies can visit. Useful for everyone even if they don't end up joining EWG. April meeting: Presentation on getting info about how they can connect with employers if we connect with other orgs. Doing new member outreach. Talk about activities in 2026 and any new updates.

5: Planning activities –Brit/all

a. Status update on member assignments

- a. Staff has reviewed (TBD) the **resource guide**. **Should we target send out in early 2026? Revisit public posting/announcement to general membership.**

b. Recap of actions proposed at last meeting – *pick one to start work on while we await new members*

a. Ideas for 2026 activities: we will revisit these ideas when new members are appointed to get buy-in before proceeding. Need to get interest/support/responsible person.

- i. Lunch and learns focused on disability employment (supported employment) – *folks were interested in this idea last meeting [discrimination, resources, advocacy, law, possible recording – possible audience specific format]*
- ii. Brainstorming on actionable strategies for transportation & employment (PWD)
 1. Host a statewide meeting on transportation? *[not discussed last meeting]*
- iii. Training on reasonable accommodation for job interviews *[see item #1]*
- iv. Resource sharing on tax incentives/benefits for hiring PWD (include WLAD info) – *not discussed last meeting*
- v. Hosting ADA trainings in partnership with the NW ADA Center – *not discussed last meeting*
- vi. Partnering with the statewide EO 24-05 employment consortium workgroup – *not discussed last meeting*

5: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence– reminder –

- a. Our next meeting will be on **Thu., Apr. 23 at 9am**. Members should have received a calendar invite for the 2026 meeting series (**4th Thurs. at 9am**) from Emily.