



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)  
Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting | April 13, 2026, | **4:00-5:00 pm**

## Minutes

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

Meeting called to order by presiding Chair Dave Carl at **4:00pm**. This is our second meeting of 2026.

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

**Members Present:** Dave Carl, Lyn Sowdon, Patti Dailey-Shives

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

**Quorum:** 3 members (**met**); Associate members don't count towards quorum.

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

This is a small group. We will need to build up membership for 2026 once new members are appointed.

#### **Membership update from Elizabeth:**

This isn't the only small subcommittee. It is hard to move work forward, **she will discuss with leadership**. B&C approved of our revised proposal last week for the 9 new members and are beginning their vetting process. **We can expect them to be appointed in about a month.**

### 3: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence – reminder – currently 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 4:00pm [moved]. Does this time work better for folks? **Should we do a poll to decide on day/time?**

### 4: Housekeeping rules & approve last meeting minutes – Dave Carl

**Standard housekeeping items:** state your name, raise your hand, speak slowly & 1 at a time.

**If quorum is met (3), motion for approval** of last meeting minutes (3/9). **Quorum: met.** Patti moves to approve the minutes from last time, Lyn seconds, all in favor – **minutes approved (agenda approved** as well with a motion from Patti and a second from Lyn, all in favor).

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

- a. Discussing how to move forward: next steps (**revisit ideas from last time**) – Dave/all

- a. Holding a possible statewide listening session on the issues PWD are encountering (Spring 2026 after session). **Review and discuss items from last meeting.** We have some ideas from Coordinating and will review the minutes.

At our last CC, we took the items from 2026 that people wanted to work on, and broke them down into existing subcommittees for capacity. Elizabeth reviewed the PPT onscreen.

**One idea: Formalize a training series to empower both our members and the disability community – this could be a CO partnership** (new work). **Another idea: Creating fact sheets and 1-pagers could be a community outreach activity as well** (see PPT language: “Creating more spaces to ensure self-determination and rights, as well as privacy, are honored through education and advocacy. Keeping intersectionality at the center of the discussion to ensure no disparate impacts. Focusing on vulnerable communities”). **There might be opportunities to partner with others, such as the Employment workgroup** (also a small group). These are some ideas until we get new members seated.

Lyn likes these ideas and feels there is room for collaboration, **such as jointly developing questions to ask during a listening session to hear what others have to say.**

Dave knows there was talk, for example, **with the all-county ACAC meeting – possible partnership there as well. Could we hear their concerns?**

Patti has been thinking about **developing a template for underserved communities to use on how to get more resources for PWD to use in their community, or develop an ACAC** (things to look into, groups to reach out to, ways to connect). Lyn and Dave like this idea.

Lyn wonders about **sharing the benefits of having an ACAC.** Such as knowing people where you live that have disabilities, the issues they encounter, and how to support one another.

Did Patti see the notes from last time? They gave an idea of what we discussed. Yes. PWD can operate in silos. The more voices at the table, the more folks can listen and help. **Basic inclusion for PWD is a resource idea – what is inclusivity and how to increase it** (may not always be widely known).

Anything else important to know as we re-establish a plan for the new year during the budget freeze? We can **be thinking about how to engage with the community so we’re listening to people, providing resources, and engaging with the community.**

Per Dave – we could focus on (even during the lack of funding) – **if we want to branch out attending other group’s meetings, lots of things are online these days, as opposed to in-person.** This is something we talked about last year. **CC is working on an elevator pitch we could use to share more about GCDE if we attended other events. Goal: Find out what other groups are doing and how can we support and learn more. WASILC may be a good partner related to emergency planning. Cross-disability** in topics is important.

Lyn feels we have a good direction, but if the budget freeze is ongoing, the listening sessions may be duplicative if we decide to have multiple per year in terms of various areas facing the same issues (hopefully we could still have movement on cross-disability issues, but the only thing we may be able to do is **bring issues forward to legislative subcommittee to see if there is anything that can be done** legislatively).

**What's our overall goal for 2026?** Last time we talked about **engaging the community visibility this year and sharing resources** (and our role). **Where should we go from here?**

Per Patti, we could **look at where we've been, where we haven't been, and work on the resource guide or template on how to connect in your community and get it out to those underserved areas** (rural).

Lyn wonders, **do we have a list of concerns from our last two events?** Some issues (transportation after hours or to appts, etc.) have compounded issues in rural areas.

Patti noted that change happens with local elected officials – **could we create a resource guide on how to reach out to local elected officials regarding disability issues (legislative could partner)**. Dave and Lyn like this idea. **ACAC's can be a venue for this, as well**, it goes both ways in partnership.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:04pm** by motion from Lyn and Patti – all in favor, thanks for the great discussion today. **We'll continue the 4pm timeframe since it works for most – we can reach out to the folks not here (and will do so when we orient new members)**.