

**Youth Empowerment Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment**

**May 1, 2026**

**10:00 am**

**Attendees:** Kristin DiBiase, chair; Lucas Doelman, co-vice chair; Autumn Harris, co-vice chair; and Lyn Sowdon, Staff: Elizabeth Gordon and Elaine Stefanowicz.

**Meeting Purpose:** To plan the 2026 Youth Empowerment event

**Meeting Results:**

By the end of the meeting participants will:

- Identify date for launch of Youth advisory council to GCDE
- Identify a marketing plan to recruit youth
- Approve application materials
- Approve 1 pager

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Person(s) Responsible</u>
10:00	Call meeting to order/roll call	Kristin DiBiase, Chair
10:05	Agenda/minutes approval	Kristin DiBiase, Chair
	<u>Agenda:</u> Lyn made a motion to approve the agenda and Lucas seconded the motion. All voted in favor and agenda approved as written. <u>Minutes:</u> Lucas made a motion to approve the minutes and Autumn seconded the motion. All voted in favor and minutes approved as written.	
10:10	Approve 1 pager as presented	Elaine quick summary/Kristin
	<b>Vote:</b> Lyn made a motion to approve one-pager and Autumn seconded the motion. All voted in favor and one-pager was approved.	
10:20	Discussion-youth recruitment	Elaine/Elizabeth/Kristin
	Elizabeth suggested that the youth event be scheduled during the school year to increase attendance and engagement. We need to reach out to school partners and get the information to parents, We will recruit for 10 youth and choose 6. Kristin said her job is busy during September so she will not be able to help much during that month.	

10:40 Application approval/review Elaine/Kristin

It was suggested that we add the one-pager link at beginning of the application. It was asked if youth might need reasonable accommodations to complete the application.

**Vote:** Lucas made a motion to approve the application with a few suggested edits and Autumn seconded the motion. All voted in favor and application was approved.

10:45 Program Ideas Elaine/Kristin

Elizabeth talked about a partnership with the Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC). She and Elaine met with them recently and will schedule another meeting to include Yvonne and Kristin. WASILC is a cross-disability organization. Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are currently revamping their youth programs that are Pre-ETS connected. They have staff who work with youth. This could be a rich partnership.

Other youth programs we should engage with: [Legislative Youth Advisory Council](#).

Elizabeth asked if we should consider having a youth listening session this year. We could meet with partners and then figure out future meetings.

10:55 Wrap up-next steps/meeting cadence Elaine/Kristin