

**Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Legislative Subcommittee**



**Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 17, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees: Amy Cloud, Kristin DiBiase, Lucas Doelman, Steve Lewis, and Brit Nuckles. Staff: Elizabeth Gordon and Elaine Stefanowicz.

Minutes: Brit made a motion to accept the minutes and Kristin seconded the motion. None were opposed. Minutes approved as written. Agenda: Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda and Brit seconded the motion. None were opposed. Agenda approved as written.

1. Training ideas: Ways & Means and Appropriations. Other training ideas:

- How to make a public comment in session. How to structure comments and things to avoid bringing up.
- How to give testimony and how to present yourself in the process. What happens in rules, the floor, and the house of origin? Where does Ways and Means fit in?
- How we consider our legislative priorities. Get involved earlier in the process. How to partner with other disability organizations.
- Figure out what the disability community wants at the statewide level.
- There is a reoccurring need for training with new members. Have a library of training and share it at the New Member Orientation.
- What state workers can and can't do during the legislative session. How can they get involved and stay within the rules of being a state worker. The state and each agency have their own rules.
- Lobbying training—what is and isn't. Elizabeth said it's up to each member to find out their agency's rules and how they are funded. Federal funds have certain set of rules. Perception is also a factor. Reach out to your supervisor.

Elizabeth reminded everyone that there are training that is already made and she will search for what's available.

2. Suggested topics for next Legislative Session:

- Invite [Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning \(CIEP\)](#) to talk about emergency management at one of our meetings and ask how we could collaborate. Elizabeth will connect me with Jim to get them scheduled.
- Cuts to home and community-based services
- Can we create a bill through GCDE and see it through the process?
- Would love to see a statewide wheelchair license plate
- Help develop budget priorities rather than at the end

Also discussed:

- The electronic voting portal. It was only approved for use by military personnel. There is research being done on how other state secure their voting. Elizabeth attends the Secretary of State's accessible voting group meetings. They will include people with disabilities in pilot of the voting portal. There is no date when they will start. They worked with the blind community to make the external envelope of the absentee ballot is accessible. We will monitor the work that is being done.
- Housing is important for disabled and low-income residents. The elderly and disabled can be impacted by excessive heat. Cooling centers aren't always accessible. It's important to make our voice heard with public comment.
- EO 25-12 Department of Housing Task Force Meeting was mentioned by Brit. <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/housing-policy/housing-task-force/>
- Elizabeth asked if anyone knows a person who could give training on ways and means.

Next meeting is Friday, May 15, 2026, at 9:00 am