



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)  
Employment Workgroup Meeting | April 23, 2026, | 9:00-9:45am

## Minutes

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

Meeting called to order by presiding Chair Brit Nuckles at 9:06am. Good morning to all.

### 2: Roll Call –Brit N.

- i. Members present: **Amy Cloud, Brit Nuckles, Yvonne Bussler White**
- ii. Staff present: **Emily Spears & Elizabeth Gordon**
- iii. Absent: Ivyanne Van Der Peet

### 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. We can hold each other accountable.

### 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, Cullynn) who participated in the Employer Awards program formerly. **Discuss recruitment (new members update, messaging to GM with invite to participate/list of ideas).**
- Discussed in the realm of inviting partners.
- We are working on a draft invitation for new members to participate and hope to have it ready by the May meeting. New member appointments are also anticipated in May. Staff can help draft if needed (**Brit said they would** but is open to assistance, **will find the deadline**). Community Outreach also has a small number of people which makes it hard to do work – could consider a hiatus and/or partnership.

### 5: Planning activities –Brit/all: **update on inviting partners**

We hope to invite other partners, likely to the May meeting. Last meeting, Yvonne volunteered to contact **Jeanine Chandler with DVR** to obtain contact info – **she is willing to come talk to us** about things that their doing in terms of business outreach and with DSB. Sam Blaznia could to about pre-ETS (pre-employment transition services in school). Melinda Bocci could talk about school-to-work. We could discuss ways to support their work – do we have questions? Yvonne will reach back out to other partners. WSRC may be a good ask as well (doesn't do direct work with participants).

- a. **Recap of actions proposed at last meeting – *pick one to start work on while we await new members (pending capacity).* We have a general idea on topics, partners, and audience.**

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]*
  1. Lunch and learns with professionals (business & disability employment), such as DVR, and Pre-ETS. We would host them as far as folks understand. May be able to consolidate their expertise and share with the audience.
  2. We should consider writing down what we want first before inviting partners – who we want to impact, and what we want to do (clearer vision). We can revisit Coordinating notes to narrow our focus before we engage partners – what we want to do and have to offer. For example, are we speaking **internal to the state**? This may be a starting place for information sharing and putting together presentations.
  3. We did talk about putting together a resource library for businesses on the website at Coordinating Committee. Then the information could be repurposed once we figure out the messaging and audience (or could offer bi-annually).
  4. Ideas from Coordinating Committee: Advocate and communicate about career ladders for people with disabilities to help folks grow in their employment and take leadership positions. (Employment).
  5. Education about WLAD for business—also work to change opinions and culture with business about capability and value of employing people with disabilities. This fits with talking to businesses. **HRC** may have info.
  6. Hosting ADA trainings in partnership with the NW ADA Center was another idea. This may be an interesting approach that we could fold into a cohesive presentation for businesses. Accommodations can be an issue.
  7. Partnering with the Association of Washington Counties or Cities (data) or Businesses, Department of Commerce, ESD (**1-pager**) could be an avenue to get a wider audience/reach. Learn what resources they have around employment discrimination (more resourced cities likely have councils).
  8. EO 24-05 Consortium Workgroup is about increasing employment **within state govt.** for PWD. There are various workgroups doing the work, one surrounds the employment pieces. It has various bodies (such as one starting on Supported Employment in State Govt., possibly another coming around career pathways). State as a model employer. County level data is available elsewhere. Trainings are coming out.

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

- a. Our next meeting will be on **Thu., May 28, 2026, at 9am**. Members should have received a calendar invite for the 2026 meeting series (**4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. at 9am**) from Emily. Hopefully, new members can participate. We need to refine strategies around information sharing.