



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment (GCDE)

General Membership Meeting

Friday, May 15, 2026, 10:00am-3:00pm

Zoom: [Link to join on Zoom](#)

Agenda

10:00: Welcome, housekeeping, roll call – *Elizabeth Gordon GCDE Executive Director* (10 min)

Elizabeth welcomed everyone, reviewed housekeeping items (state your name prior to speaking, speak slowly and 1 at a time, raise your hand to make a comment, this is a safe space for ideas), and did roll call (members, associates, staff, guests).

Members present: Lucas Doelman, Amy Cloud, Angie West, Brit Nuckles (EWG), Cullynn Foxlee (VC), Dave Carl (CO/MS), Lyn Sowdon, Patti Dailey-Shives (Leg), Steve Lewis (AC), Nancy Zellers, Kristina Sawyckyj, Napal Tesfai, Autumn Harris (YEP)

Quorum: 9 members – met (13 members total)

Associates present: Danielle Miller (WATBBL), Courtney Williams (WASILC), Doug Burkhalter (CAP), Luz Barefoot (DCYF)

Staff present: Emily Spears (PS), Elaine Stefanowicz (PC), Elizabeth Gordon (ED)

Guests present: CART Captioner Connie Church, ASL interpreter Kelly Brunson, ASL Interpreter Kam Butler, Emily Good (HCA), Heather Chrzan (HCA), Naomi Namekata (WATAP)

10:10: Work Requirements under HR1 – *Heather Chrzan, Emily Good, Health Care Authority* (40 min)

Elizabeth to introduce Heather and Emily from Healthcare Authority to discuss changes to Work Requirements surrounding Medicaid at the Federal level and subsequently in WA (Apple Health). They will share a PPT -- forthcoming. Questions can be sent in chat (collect) or via email and responses will be sent afterwards or answered live at the end (time permitting).

10:50: Break – *all* (5 min)

Elizabeth to dismiss everyone for a 5-minute break. It is a break for our interpreting providers and CART captioner as well, so please limit side conversation. Please return promptly for the next presentation.

10:55: Presentation on Assistive Technology – *Naomi Namekata, Washington Assistive Technology Act Program* (1 hour)

Elizabeth to introduce Naomi from WATAP to talk about their assistive technology program and lending library. PPT will be shared following the meeting and described during. Elizabeth will read questions from chat, and alert to raised hands.

11:55: Lunch – *all* (50 min)

Elizabeth to dismiss folks for a 50-minute lunch. It is a break for our interpreting and CART providers as well, so please limit side conversations. Please return promptly for the next discussion.

12:45: Associate Member Spotlight: *Danielle Miller, WA Talking Book & Braille Library* (45 min)

Cullyn to introduce Danielle from WATBBL to share more about their program and answer questions. PPT will be shared after the meeting.

1:25: Break – *all* (15 min)

Cullyn to dismiss folks for a 15-minute break. This is a break for our interpreting and CART providers as well, so please limit side conversations. Please return promptly for the next discussion.

1:40: Subcommittee discussion – *Cullyn Foxlee, Subcommittee Chairs* (20 min)

Cullyn to introduce chairs to discuss their goals for 2026 and how GCDE can help.

-Dave Carl, Community Outreach and Membership

GCDE Community Outreach Goals 2026

- Select a project for 2026 (training series, 1-pager, listening session, resource template/guide)
- Identify partners to participate in the work
- Purpose: conduct outreach events to facilitate, encourage and celebrate local disability communities especially in rural and underserved communities.
- Get new people involved

How the GCDE can help – Community Outreach

- Let us know if you want to get involved!
- Are there partners you think should be involved in the work?
- Are there questions you think we should be asking the community?
- Are there trainings or resources you'd like folks to hear about?

Membership

- **Purpose:** ensure GCDE has highly qualified representatives of the disability community
- **Goals:**
 - Recruit members from across Washington with diversity of age, income, disability type, race/ethnicity (assistance)
 - Screen candidates and make recommendations for appointment to the Governor's office
 - Provide onboarding orientation and mentorship to new members (chairs)

-Patti Dailey-Shives, Legislative

- **Purpose:** work alongside leadership to identify priorities and mobilize GCDE members to personal action
- **Goals:**

- Establish legislative priorities for 2027 legislative session
- Provide advocacy training and support for GCDE members (assistance)

-Brit Nuckles, Employment Workgroup

GCDE Employment Workgroup Goals 2026

- Invite new members to participate
- Clarify 2026 focus areas to guide partner engagement and workgroup priorities
- Identify priority questions for partner agencies
- Select 1-2 lunch-and-learn topics, proposed presenters, and target audiences

How the GCDE can help – Employment Workgroup

- Let us know if you want to get involved!
- Are there partners you think should be involved in the work?
- Are there questions you think we should be asking partners?
- Are there lunch-and-learn topics you'd like to hear about?

-Autumn Harris, Youth Empowerment

- **Purpose:** Build youth advisory council
- **Goals:**
 - Move youth event during school year to increase attendance and engagement
 - Partner with LYAC and other youth organizations (assistance)
 - Partner with Pre-ETS and other available services for youth
 - Hold event engaging youth during 2026 (assistance)

-Steve Lewis, Accessible Communities

- **Purpose:** support counties in improving accessibility
- **Goals:**
 - Award funds to counties for accessibility projects
 - Host all county meeting
 - Assist counties to establish accessible community advisory councils, especially in under resourced areas (assistance)

2:00: Legislative training – Making a difference in your community – Legislative Subcommittee (15 min)

Cullyn to introduce a training on behalf of the legislative subcommittee about making a difference in your community. Patti's PPT presentation was in the packet. More trainings to come.

2:15: Wrap up and next steps – Cullyn Foxlee, GCDE Vice Chair (15 min)

Cullyn to review any next steps and remind folks of the next meeting date (10/30/26 from 10am-3pm). Recap of meeting. New Member Orientation reschedule forthcoming post appts.

2:30: Adjourn

Cullyn to adjourn meeting at 2:30pm.