

Youth Empowerment Subcommittee Minutes
Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

June 5, 2026

10:00 am

Attendees: Kristin DiBiase, Chair; Lucas Doelman, Co-Vice Chair, Lyn Sowdon, and Nancy Zellers.

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: October 21, 2026, was suggested.
- Identify an outreach plan to recruit youth
- Discuss partnership with Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

<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> Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda and Nancy seconded the motion. None were opposed and agenda approved as written. <u>Minutes:</u> Lyn made a motion to approve the minutes and Lucas seconded the motion. None were opposed and the minutes were approved as written.	
10:10	Finalize October 21 st as event date	Elaine
	Elizabeth said that it would be helpful to see what tools we already have to help us with the schedule. Nancy suggested WorkSource offices that have different locations throughout Washington state. We could host a virtual event and be collaborative. The Community Summit for Developmental Disabilities community was also mentioned. Lucas suggested we have a backup and tech check for the event.	
	<u>Vote:</u> Lucas made a motion to hold the first GCDE Youth Advisory Council on October 21, 2026, and Lyn seconded the motion. None were opposed and the motion passed.	
10:15	Discussion-youth recruitment	Elaine/Elizabeth/Kristin
10:45	Discuss partnership with Disability	Elaine/Elizabeth/Kristin

Kristin, Yvonne, Elizabeth, and Elaine met with Kimberly and Faith from two Centers for Independent Living (CILs). They do events during the summer and reached out to GCDE to see if we could partner with them. The CILs have a great connection with youth. Elizabeth thinks we could support each other's work. We both want to make sure there is support of underrepresented youth. Topics they suggested were financial literacy and job search. We could partner with them to do micro events over the summer.

What GCDE can bring to the table:

- Help deliver training
- Connect people with partners
- Infrastructure for meetings
- Subject matter experts
- Lived experience
- Personal/business connections
- WorkSource Youth Pathways (ages 18-24) employment based (résumés, job market). See what connections they have.
- Building relationships
- Identify system gaps
- Social media infrastructure
- Legislative subcommittee (train legislative advocacy; tell story with a purpose)
- Employment Workgroup

Limitations:

- Money
- We don't have people who can show up in person (has to be virtual)
- Limited staffing
- Limited at various times of the year (Legislative Session, Accessible Communities grants)

10:55

Wrap up-next steps

Elaine/Kristin

Next Meeting: July 10, 2026, at 10:00 am.

