

Community Outreach Meeting Agenda

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

July 13, 2026 | 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Zoom link: [GCDE Community Outreach Meeting | Zoom](#)



Meeting Purpose

Plan for the 2026 Community Outreach activities.

Meeting Results

By the end of the meeting, participants will:

- Welcome new members
- Review implementation timeline and work completed this far
- Approve partner outreach messaging
- Confirm next steps and meeting cadence

Time	Agenda Item	Person Responsible
4:00	Call meeting to order / roll call: welcome new members	Dave Carl, Chair
4:05	Approve agenda and minutes	Dave Carl
4:10	Review implementation timeline/completed work	Dave / Emily
4:35	Approve outreach language	Subcommittee members
4:55	Wrap-up: next steps and meeting cadence	Emily / Dave

Implementation timeline:

Month	Key Actions
June	Draft outreach language, review elevator pitch, prep NMO bullets
July	Partner outreach, confirm topics, onboard new members
August	Draft fact sheets
September	Revise drafts, decide on training expansion

October	Final revisions, design coordination
November	Finalize materials, accessibility review, approvals
December	Publish materials, outreach rollout

Draft outreach language

Dear new, current GCDE members, and partners,

I am excited to reach out to introduce the GCDE Community Outreach Subcommittee, share our goals for this year, and invite interested members to join us.

The GCDE Community Outreach Subcommittee is a project of GCDE. Our work centers on conducting outreach to facilitate, encourage and celebrate local disability communities especially in rural and underserved communities.

As a subcommittee, we're excited about the opportunity to shape our direction with input from members. Our goals for the coming year are:

1. Select a project for 2026.
2. Identify partners to participate in the work.
3. Get new people involved.

Some of our initial ideas include creating a training series, 1-pager, fact sheet, or resource template/guide on how to impact your community, whether that be through creating an Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, connecting with your local legislators, or understanding what inclusion is and how to create a more inclusive community.

We'd love to hear from you if you want to be involved!

Elevator pitch

Short Version (30–45 seconds)

GCDE, the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment, our goal is to help people with disabilities have equal opportunities in life, work, and their communities. 90% of our members have disabilities with lived experience so we can include real voices and experiences in our work. We help guide the government, support inclusive employment, and educate communities.

Our goal is simple: A fair Washington where people with disabilities are included and have the chance to succeed.

Community Outreach Subcommittee – Meeting Minutes

Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

Date: July 13, 2026

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: GCDE Community Outreach Meeting | Zoom

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Time: 4:00 pm

Chair: Dave Carl

Summary: Meeting called to order at 4:04pm. New members just joining us recently welcomed with a round of intros.

Members Present: Dave Carl, Napal Tesfai

Members Absent: Lyn Sowdon (excused)

Staff Present: Emily Spears, Elizabeth Gordon

Guests: Dean Olson, Ed Lam, Jerrell Briscoe, Leslie Maxwell, ASL interpreter Kam Butler

Quorum: Met / **Not Met**

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Time: 4:05 pm

Discussion:

- Agenda for July 13, 2026 sent out with reminder.
- Minutes from previous meeting sent out with reminder.

Outcome: Approved / Approved with edits / **Not approved – no quorum**

3. Review of Implementation Timeline & Completed Work

Time: 4:10 pm

Presenters: Dave / Emily

Discussion Summary: Dave provided an overview of the Community Outreach committee – we work with counties in the state, help in establishing an ACAC or Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, and in identifying what issues they are dealing with when it comes to disability. Formerly, we held Town Hall meetings jointly facilitated with local community members (in-person, or virtual, due to the budget and travel freeze: note - folks can lack incentive to attend aside from having a voice).

Elizabeth added some history – it’s not necessarily just about sharing about GCDE, the purpose is to ensure we’re reaching out to under-resourced and rural communities where access to

services may be more lacking than in other areas. We want to help communities have conversations with their own leaders to hear from people with lived experience about what is going well and needs to be addressed for folks with disabilities. We are thinking of engaging with communities in new ways, such as to form an ACAC in all 39 counties.

Question: Are there specific counties in mind to reach out to? Can we go to them?

Answer: This is in discussion. We focus on those with low populations and less resources, “underserved” (geographically diverse).

Question: Is this done through disability organizations/leaders in the areas for identifying needs, solutions, and support?

Answer: Yes, we have tried to work with the professionals, advocates, people with disabilities who know what’s going on in their area.

Comment: Folks should be compensated for bringing their expertise, though it hasn’t been in our budget, it does need to be considered for 2027: folks were willing to brainstorm on this (statewide initiative: there is a guide and internal process).

Context: We talked about having an elevator pitch and what’s the best way to reach out to communities.

Question: What are the benefits of having an ACAC?

Answer: They can apply for funds through the GCDE via a grant proposal for projects such as beach wheelchairs, trail improvements, accessible horse ramps, ADA doors, brochures, etc. (not staff support, but joint participation is allowed). Funds come from tickets from illegally parking in ADA spots (we get an allotted amount, and also pay for RA’s at meetings). It’s also a networking opportunity to work with the county on ADA issues, policy needs, and network with businesses, etc. 13 counties currently have an ACAC – **more information requested (will share)**. There is a subcommittee to review grants and keep track of established ACAC’s. They have different structures (virtual or hybrid) – and can be an extension of the voter access committee.

Acronym: EWG is employment workgroup.

Recap: We wanted to start off with an informative meeting. A lot of what we were going to be doing today is figuring out where to go now that we have new members – projects haven’t been finalized yet. This has been good discussion. Please reach out to staff or Dave with any other questions.

5. Wrap-Up: Next Steps & Meeting Cadence

Time: 4:45 pm

Presenters: Emily / Dave

Next Steps:

- Continue onboarding new members.
- We will get list of current ACAC's, and where they were thinking of reaching out this year, to consider for partnership.

Meeting Cadence:

- 2nd Mondays at 4:00 pm
- **Next Meeting:** August 10, 2026, at 4:00 pm

6. Adjournment

Time: 4:45 pm

Meeting adjourned by Chair Dave Carl. Thank you for joining, hope to see folks again.