

**GCDE Employment Workgroup
Meeting Minutes**

July 23, 2026, | 9:00-9:45am | via Zoom

Meeting Purpose

Welcome new members, review process, answer questions. Discuss lunch-and-learn topics & partners.

Attendees

Members Present:

- Emily Spears (staff)
- Brit Nuckles (Chair)
- Yvonne Bussler-White

Members Absent:

- Amy Cloud (excused)
- Ivyanne Van Der Peet (resigned)
- Elizabeth Gordon (staff – conflict)

Guests (new members):

- Dean Olson
- Jerrell Briscoe
- Leslie Maxwell
- Ed Lam

Meeting Results

- Welcome new members and review process, answer questions
- Discuss possible lunch-and-learn topics and partners, resources

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome New Members** – We are excited to have folks here and hear their contributions.
2. **Review process thus far** – We’d like to understand the biggest issues and our resources and access to other community organizations as GCDE (relational tools and the knowledge we can glean). We need to balance this with capacity and focus. We’ve come to the idea of a (possibly recorded) lunch-and-learn, and finding a place where information is lacking to a certain community, organizations, or businesses to share.
3. **Discuss lunch-and-learn topics** – A [Seattle Times article](#) recently came out around gaps in transition services (pre-employment transition services or pre-ETS, changes: **Yvonne will share it with her colleagues**). One example of a potential topic is getting information about pre-ETS (rights) out to folks. How can we get this information out to folks on the “front lines.” How are they currently being delivered (Parent-2-Parent coordinators, Special Ed teachers,

etc.) They can be hard systems to navigate, and may be getting more difficult with federal changes to Olmstead (institutionalization vs right to community). We're also interested in connected with business about their rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and WA Law Against Discrimination (WLAD).

4. **Discuss partners** – Pablo V. from Division of Vocational Rehab (DVR) would love to have a conversation with us about the transition council. Sam Blaznia and Jeanine Chandler with DVR may also be good contacts (Dept. of Services for the Blind - DSB also has a contact – **Yvonne will send them to Brit**).
5. **Resources** - DVR [state plan](#) includes information about disproportionate lacks in services by race, location, etc. – this could be due to lack of trusted sources or communication gaps. DVR generally looks at youth with disabilities on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), not location or race specifically necessarily. Each area has a Regional Transition Counselor (RTC) and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) assigned to each school. The [Transition Map](#) from DVR, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), and WA State Rehab Council (WSRC) breaks down what the services are, where they are located, and contacts. WSRC also has [additional data](#) available. The [School-to-Work](#) (STW) program through DDA has a different pathway.