



Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)
Community Outreach Subcommittee Team | July 9, 2024 | 4:00-5:00 pm

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – Marsha

Meeting called to order by Marsha at 4:03 pm. Welcomed all, hopes folks are staying cool.

2: Roll Call & intros – Marsha

Present: Emily Heike (hosting), Elizabeth Gordon - Staff

Members: Marsha Cutting (chair), Dave Carl (co-vice chair), Patti Dailey-Shives (co-vice chair), Suzi Matt (new member - welcome), Matt Nash, and Daniel Ledgett. Quorum sufficiently met with 6 members.

Absent: Damiana Harper (GCDE chair), Ivyanne Smith, Leslie Purser, Lucy Barefoot (associate member)

Staff: Elaine Stefanowicz (had to leave)

3: Housekeeping rules – Marsha

Marsha reviewed the standard housekeeping items (say your name when speaking, speak slowly).

4: Expectations – Marsha

Marsha reviewed expectations for returning and new members alike. Recapped the prior approach of coming into the chosen community and holding a Town Hall for local PWD followed by a leadership breakfast by invitation only (elected officials). Explained the new process piloted successfully last year in Clark Co. (involving local PWD in the planning process and leadership breakfast). Desire to connect people across disabilities and empower them to speak up on their own behalf (ACAC's helpful – desired outcome, coming to fruition in Clark Co. currently). Hopes to continue in either supporting or revitalizing ACAC's (in addition to considering past locations and in spite of slower efficiency). No event this Fall due to staff limitations – 1 event in March as a compromise (legislators available during short sessions). Otherwise, we've discussed identifying state disability group meetings (i.e. WFB and ACB) to listen to concerns and get connected.

Question from Suzi (involved before): agrees w/ 1 event/year, but unsure what ACAC's would accomplish in the communities. In the past, CO goals included putting loop systems in place in theaters. Wants to hear the same from other areas (accessibility needs/concerns). Answer (Marsha): this is 1 reason why we should connect with various state disability orgs – to be aware of those ideas that could be accomplished locally with the help of ACAC's (likely resulting in similar experiences). Dave agrees.

5: Site selection for the 2025 event – Marsha

Marsha introduced the site selection for 2025 as follows (we wanted to look at the 3 things below):

1: Where are ACAC's now: Benton (inactive), Clark (pending), Callam, Cowlitz, Douglas, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Pierce, Skagit, Spokane (east side, working on revitalization, large), Thurston, Wahkiakum.

2: Where have we held events in the past few years: Shelton in 2020 (Mason), Camano Island/Stanwood in 2021 (Island/Snohomish), 2022 Colville (Stevens) and Port Orchard (Kitsap), 2023 Vancouver (Clark). Mostly on the west side except for Colville – something to consider.

3: Where are ACAC's inactive? Roughly half are not active, including Benton (where Matt is located – no project recently to folks knowledge, he and Elizabeth will follow up), Clallam, Cowlitz, Douglas, Skagit, and Spokane. Of those, we have members in Benton (Matt), Spokane (Steven/Damiana – ACAC in progress), and Cowlitz (Daniel) counties.

Matt noted that he lives in Tri-Cities (Benton/Franklin, Benton has an ACAC, Franklin doesn't). That may be a possibility – hopes they could combine into one and get the 2 counties working together but it might be a lot to ask of the leadership if feasible. Dave concurs and thinks a lot of things are tied together (i.e. transit, which could also be an issue). Combining would depend on population size, per Elizabeth. We haven't been there lately.

Steven M. is connected with leadership in Spokane but isn't here to share his thoughts, Marsha will follow up with him. There may also be another person working on the ACAC revitalization there. She thinks we should decide fairly quickly since the last one took 7 months to plan.

Elizabeth believes we could possibly choose the next 2 sites after exploratory work to decide which makes the most sense for 2025 and 2026.

Marsha is leaning towards Spokane for 2025 since work is already being done on the ACAC revitalization there. She believes Benton is farther behind in that work and may be a better candidate for 2026, Matt and Patti concur and think there is a lack of local resources, and Matt wants to stay involved though he will be off the committee by then. Daniel had to leave the call. Patti was unable to join earlier, but joined during this discussion, and was brought up to speed.

Dave thinks as far as establishing or planning another event, what always crosses his mind is underserved, are there areas or counties (with or without an ACAC) that we know of that are generally underserved or feel that way. It might be something to consider also. Maybe it is smaller counties in the middle of the state feel unheard?

Marsha wonders from her experience in Clark Co., if Dave and Lilly (former GCDE member) weren't there to get a foothold – we may have been in trouble. She wonders if we can keep Dave's important thought in mind, and as we reach out to different state disability orgs, and keep track of where the people we connect with are from (appreciates it - may not have thought to organize that way, but could be helpful, and allow us a foothold). Makes sense to Dave.

Suzi thinks looking at who feels unheard is a nice gesture, but how do you find out who those people are, if they feel unheard? Sort of a catch 22. She also wonders why King County doesn't have an ACAC – maybe smaller counties get more attention than large (they do have a council on disabilities). County or City – Patti thinks they have both.

Elizabeth often hears that feeling from the east side of the state as far as feeling unheard or less connected (both counties in consideration are on the east side). Dave thinks everyone may feel that way to a degree, but was thinking the smaller or less populated counties, maybe.

Marsha knows that for quite a while, the CO approach was to focus on smaller places (less services), and try to hit those places (part of what led to the former approach – harder to connect with PWD in those areas and involve them in the planning).

3 more agenda items in our last 15 mins. Skipping down to the last item first, then the rest if we can.

6: Compiling a list of disability organizations with conventions we could attend - Marsha

Patti and Marsha will start this (duplication understandable). Marsha is thinking about other organizations that may not be disability specific, such as the CIL's (adjacent). Patti will start broadly and also connect with a DRW representative. Dave said there is a statewide version (SILC) or statewide one that oversees them. He'll look into that.

7: Update on discussions about partnering with the AC subcommittee and working together – Marsha

There have been discussions with AC about partnering with them. It has gone through some iterations. The decision we've come to is to maintain 2 separate committees, but work together, esp. when trying to establish or revitalize an ACAC (we have a member on both subcommittees). The grants will stay with AC. Most of the planning will remain with CO. When we actually get to the events, it will be all hands-on deck (same for last time as a hybrid – multiple types of interpreters and coordination, etc.). Like running 2 parallel meetings (but happy that we heard from a lot of folks in that format). Once we figured out the tech issues and got things started, it went smoothly, and hopefully can continue. Likely suggests that we may want to use the county commissioners chambers when we can (already set up to do that, easier than us doing it). Other thoughts or questions on this? Patti thinks it's a great idea and participates in her local ACAC. Breaks down silos and duplication. Dave is on both subcommittees and thinks it would be beneficial (it has been discussed before, when AC meets, and he can see that it would help). Maybe he can help facilitate communication as a member of both subcommittees.

8: Reaching out to other GCDE members who might be able to attend conventions with us - Marsha

Tabled for the next meeting – not there yet – need a list of conventions before we start that.

9: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence to be decided - all

Marsha introduced this topic as follows: Currently meeting after 3:30 on Tues. (fits Dave's schedule).

Does Tuesday at 4pm work for folks present? Works for Matt and Suzi (she usually doesn't have Tuesday conflicts). Elizabeth couldn't rejoin. Who else did we invite? Going to Patti first. They work for Patti with the exception of next month. Damiana, Lucy, Leslie, and Ivy were also invited (may be able to check with them about Tuesdays – haven't generally been that participatory). Maybe we could do a Doodle Poll for the committee (Tuesday at 4 is preferred, but let us know if something is better). It works for Dave but would like to get feedback via an email or Doodle for a response from everyone. Emily will do that.

Tentatively August 13 (unless the poll says otherwise). Patti likely isn't available but may be able to join.

Thanks for a productive meeting, we have a direction which is exciting, and thanks for being here – looking forward to working with all of you, see you in a month. Bye all. The meeting adjourned at 4:59.

ACTION ITEMS:

1: Matt and Elizabeth will follow up about Benton County ACAC's status and possibly combining with Franklin if possible, as well as reception to having an outreach event there in 2026 (he will be off the committee by then but would like to stay involved).

2: Marsha will follow up with Steven M. about his progress with the Spokane ACAC and thoughts on holding an outreach event there next year and bring them back to the next meeting.

3: Patti, Marsha, and Dave will start researching statewide disability organizations with conventions we could attend (including those that are disability adjacent). Dave will focus on CIL's (including statewide), Patti more broadly, including asking a DRW representative.

4: AC and CO will work together, esp. when trying to establish or revitalize an ACAC – but otherwise maintain 2 separate subcommittees. Grant work will remain with AC, and event planning will remain with CO – Dave will help facilitate communication as a member of both. It will be all-hands-on-deck for the events themselves – hybrid meeting format to continue if possible (maybe venue dependent).

5: We will discuss reaching out to GCDE members about helping with tabling at other statewide disability org conventions at the next meeting once we've established where and when they are.

6: Emily will send a Doodle Poll to get the team's feedback on Tuesday's at 4pm for our meeting schedule, tentatively August 13.