



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

Community Outreach Subcommittee Team

September 10, 2024

4:00-5:00 pm

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – Marsha

Meeting called to order by Marsha at 4:04pm. Welcome all. Dave mentioned that the Clark County ACAC is finally getting going after some time. Marsha mentioned that Kitsap ACAC is working on adaptive trikes.

2: Roll Call & intros – Marsha

Present:

Staff: Elaine Stefanowicz, Elizabeth Gordon, Emily Heike (host)

Members: Marsha Cutting (chair), Susan Matt, Dave Carl (vice-chair), Lyn Sowdon, Steven McCray, IvyAnne Van Der Peet, and Lucy Barefoot (associate)

Quorum: 5

3: Housekeeping rules - Marsha

State your name, speak slowly (& 1 at a time, raise your hand).

4: Site selection & partners for the March 2025 event (Spokane) – Marsha

a. Items needed from scouting team (restaurant/hotel/catering/transportation) – Marsha

Steven and Damiana will assist with this as of the last meeting where we looked at venues, restaurants, and hotels (local).

Steven and Susan have not attended an event before. The Town Hall is usually from 5:30-7:30pm for locals with disabilities or their guardians alongside elected officials or school folks and department heads. The goal is to hear community concerns such as housing, resources, participation, etc.

The leadership breakfast picks the top 3 concerns and brainstorms solutions via a guided process (topics chosen at the dinner after the Town Hall). We are trying to move away from only inviting electeds and department heads, and to involving local PWD (it was successful in Clark Co. with

the formation of an ACAC for grant funding opportunities – Dave concurs). That continues as a goal in Spokane with revitalization as well.

Elizabeth feels the listening process is as important as the outcomes, and she uses the comments in her work (Marsha/Lyn agree).

Lyn participated virtually in the Town Hall in Vancouver (not the breakfast). She wondered about follow up. It was the first time with the new model of including PWD, so there were unique challenges, per Marsha. There were some accessibility issues in the leadership breakfast process, as well as 4 topics to provide input to instead of 3 (typically folks select 1 topic that they want to commit to working on at the end). We were tight on time last time, and didn't get a lot of commitments, so follow has been difficult on specific issues. The ACAC is the biggest outcome currently.

We started exploring Spokane and where we might meet, stay, and have dinner last time. Damiana was with us last time, but isn't present today (traveling). She had volunteered to look at hotels. Steven had volunteered to follow up on some of our other questions about these items as well. Steven was asked for an update.

Steven's tasks: Reach out to City Council/Mayor for Thu/Fri conflicts in March. Research local PWD owned caterers for breakfast.

He got in touch with the county commissioners, their office isn't available after 5pm. The City Council seemed willing to facilitate and support us (read an email). Looking at March 20th (questions about hours and recording/broadcasting/virtual options). Needs to confirm these items.

Thank you, that is helpful, per Marsha. Steven said City Council members were interested (hasn't contacted the mayor yet). Marsha wondered their relationship – an ACAC has to be a county committee. Marsha is glad we have buy in from the city, but wonders if the county would be supportive of us working with them. 2 county commissioners are onboard (election ongoing). Steven is unsure about the other few but doesn't anticipate issues. Thanks.

Hand from Dave. He wondered about the TV broadcast (the cable station for public events is available per Steven – Dave thinks it would be great). We did a hybrid meeting last time, Marsha thought it went well in person, but Elizabeth heard feedback that the Zoom folks had trouble hearing due to the setup. We were using their equipment outside of the norm, she thinks. If we have the technology we've requested by then, we could consider hybrid for equity, Elizabeth is pushing for that but doesn't have a timeframe. Do we have to use state equipment, or can we borrow an OWL, Marsha wondered? Last time we decided that if we didn't run it on an agency laptop it may be OK, per Elizabeth. The concern is always about privacy of info (working with IT on that – not a lot of data collected – not as big a risk but concerns persist, she said). There may be ways around it, but hopefully we can get equipment (an OWL on an agency laptop or a dedicated laptop to move forward). The OWL was explained. It is the standard for hybrid meetings, per Elizabeth (it transmits both sound and video). Other systems aren't as accessible, she's heard.

It's hard to keep track of chat and conversation, per Marsha. Hand from Steven. He wants to clarify about the 5-8pm reservation on the 20th and the cable channel use (Marsha is wondering about it – it's like public access). Understood. Marsha's preference would be for a hybrid meeting

vs the cable. The cable would just be so folks could watch it for observation per Steven (we could still have a hybrid meeting). They are offering their hybrid tech (Steven would rather reserve it and then not use it than not reserve it and need it). That makes sense to Marsha. If the TV option is available it might make things more visible, folks thought. Marsha isn't sure how it would work with the hybrid meetings on the TV, but is onboard as long as it works (we could have the virtual link posted on the broadcast, Steven thought). It would be on record then too, Marsha believes. Elizabeth said there are examples of televised hybrid meetings on TVW (Results Review uses OWL). Marsha thinks yes to all of their questions.

Marsha would like to be able to have the Leadership breakfast at the same place as the Town Hall if possible to eliminate confusion. The times for the next morning are typically 8-11am. Steven will check with the city. The library is across the street and connected by a skybridge, so Steven will check into that too if needed (he hadn't asked the city about the breakfast yet, just the Town Hall – thanks).

Steven's other assignment was to look into catering (breakfast only), he hasn't heard back from Skils'kin, DSB sent a contact yesterday – Sodexo thru Gonzaga – and he left a voicemail. There are dozens of different local caters, so he can go down that list after he's tried for the PWD owned ones. Pause for Marsha to rejoin – hold for Elaine. She has a contact at Skils'kin too, and will reach out (may be a good lead). She can share Steven's info with them. He appreciates the help with this. Marsha is back online.

Was Damiana going to check on hotels? Steven believed so. Marsha wasn't too worried about that because we had a couple good options, and once we have the other things nailed down, it may help decide. We may be able to have dinner at the hotel (and there are lots of other restaurants, per Steven). That's all on this topic for now.

Links in chat for OWL, TVW, and Skils'kin.

b. Site selection for 2026 event (Benton/Franklin) – Marsha

Local member Matt will ask Benton/Franklin Commissioner's Chambers about Thurs/Fri conflicts in March 2026. He was not able to make the meeting today due to a work conflict. Tabled for now.

5: Compiling a list of disability organizations with conventions we could attend – Marsha/Patti

This item was tabled last time as Patti was not present to report. She was not able to make it today, either, but she has since sent the list to Elaine, Elizabeth, and Marsha and is working to narrow it down. Once we have a reasonable list, we will send it to members to see who has contacts where.

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

As of last meeting, Marsha had planned to send an email out about this (she had one drafted and Elaine sent it – Marsha got 2 responses – People First & NW ADA Center). The purpose is to table and introduce ourselves (increase awareness/interest, hear concerns to consider, and empower folks to speak up via connections across disabilities and the state). Once we are farther down the road with collecting this info, then maybe members can (or already are) attending and can help us get connected. It may take us a while to put it into effect, but starting is good.

Susan saw the email and wondered why it was state disability related organizations – she is part of a local emergency readiness group that does lots of tabling that she coordinates. It generates interest just because they have the things out that result in contacts, she said. PWD attend those local events as community members in her experience. She recommends considering that. Marsha mentioned that their ACAC member got a county internship, and went to a lot of different events. She doesn't disagree, but also doesn't want to burn folks out, so would rather start with state and regional groups and go from there. She hopes Susan can help – she is willing. Our work is state level, so staying big picture is good, per Elizabeth. We are getting to that piece and may be able to mention it at GM.

7: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence to be decided – all – currently 2nd Tuesdays at 4pm monthly until closer to the event

Next meeting would be Oct. 8 at 4pm. Invite to be sent tomorrow (thru rest of the year). When we get closer to the event, we might want to meet bi-weekly, and then weekly on event month. We will see how it goes – we are in good shape compared to last time.

That brings us to the end of our agenda. Is there anything else? The dates of the event we are looking at is the evening of Thu. 3/20 and the morning of 3/21 (2025).

Steven just got a phone call back from Sodexo, a lot of hotels don't allow outside food to cater, they said (such as the Davenport). They do employ a lot of folks with ID/DD, so they are excited and would love to be a part of our event for 2025, and they asked to get back to them when we have a bit more info and go from there. Marsha clarified that the catering would be for the Leadership Breakfast and wouldn't be at the hotel (rather the City Hall or Library – they think they could do it at either of those locations, per Steven, and seemed very positive about the idea). Elaine didn't see catering as a service at Skills'kin (it may be thru an external group that they're connected with, Steven thought). Elaine will still reach out just in case. Marsha wants to make sure that it's announced at the morning meeting that Sodexo hires PWD, if we go with them. We may be able to plug them for an Award nomination next year then, too, Elaine said.

Hearing nothing else, Marsha thanked everyone, and will see us in a month. Take care all. Meeting adjourned at 4:52.

8: Action items

1: Steven will confirm the time for the Town Hall (5-8pm on 3/20/25), and that we'd like to use the hybrid meeting technology, and local channel broadcasting. He will also check about availability in the morning of 3/21 from 8am-11am for the leadership breakfast.

2: Steven will check with the public library across the street as an alternative option for the Leadership breakfast, if the city hall is not available.

3: If we don't have luck with Sodexo or Skills'kin, Steven will start researching other local catering options (may not be PWD owned). We will touch bases with Sodexo again once we have a bit more info to share. If we use them, Marsha would like to make sure it's mentioned that they employ PWD, and Elaine would like us to share the Awards program information with them.

4: Elaine will reach out to her contact at Skills'kin and share Steven's contact info with them since he hadn't heard back in response to his inquiry.

5: Damiana was going to look at hotels as of the last meeting, but could not attend today's meeting, however we may be able to hold on this piece until some of the other pieces (i.e. venue) are decided. The same goes for restaurants if we cannot use the hotel one.

6: Matt could not make the meeting today to report out about contacting the Benton/Franklin County Commissioner's chambers for Thurs/Fri conflicts in March 2026, so this item will be tabled for next time.

7: Once Patti has narrowed down the list of disability organizations, we will send it to members, to see who has contacts where.

8: Once we are farther down the road with hearing from members which disability organizations they are involved in (per Marsha's email), then perhaps they can get us connected to start attending events. We may be able to mention this at the agenda at the next GM meeting, as well. We are starting with state disability organizations and Susan is interested in helping.

9: Emily will send monthly meeting invites for the 2nd Tuesdays at 4pm thru the end of the year. We will reassess the cadence in the new year (possibly moving to bi-weekly depending on how things are going), and as we get closer to the event (potentially meeting weekly during event month).

10: October 8th at 4pm will be the next meeting date. The event dates we are looking at are 3/20 pm and 3/21 am, 2025.