



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

Community Outreach Subcommittee Team | October 8, 2024 | 4:00-5:00 pm

Minutes

1: Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting – Marsha – was able to join (Patti doesn't need to lead).

Meeting called to order at 4:04pm. Welcome all, good to see everyone. Matt cannot attend. Missing Damiana and Lucy (giving them a couple minutes, haven't heard from them – Damiana joined later). Checking in while we wait (pets and health).

2: Roll Call & intros – Marsha – no intros needed.

Present– staff: Emily Heike (host), Elizabeth Gordon, Elaine Stefanowicz

Members: Steven McCray, Marsha Cutting – chair, Dave Carl – co-vice chair, Lyn Sowdon, Patti Dailey-Shives – co-vice chair, Susan Matt, IvyAnne Van Der Peet, Daniel Ledgett, Damiana Harper

Quorum: 5

3: Housekeeping rules – Marsha – state your name, speak slowly & 1 at a time, raise your hand.

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

(Marsha has been thinking about this, we have been focused on the physical parts, not building the local team). In Clark Co., we had a robust local team, which made it easier to split work and have an ACAC nucleus for the event. **Hopefully we can do some work in that area** in addition to the physical stuff that we need. In that regard, she messaged with Kenny Salvini (head of Here & Now Project – WA Paralysis Network) and it isn't yet a statewide org, but moving that direction, making connections (**she asked to put us in touch**). EWU has an adaptive basketball team in Spokane/Cheney. Can Steven touch base with the team? **He will reach out – research to figure out where – thanks.** Going back to Lyn (no audio – maybe use chat – she wondered if we can reach out to disability groups thru FB to announce/promote the 3/20 & 21 event – not local but gets messages related to her disability and there are likely others. **She will look into it, found 3-4 groups already**). There is also a CIL in Spokane - closed (Steven is not connected). Marsha is finding the info – having some difficulties per Elizabeth (lost org running it), same group as Idaho now (brought under for leadership), **could get the contact info** (listed on WASILC – INDEX, **she could reach out or share the info**). **Please share any other ideas for reaching out to PWD with Marsha. Elaine suggested DACNW.**

- a. **Items needed from scouting team (restaurant/hotel/catering/transportation)** – Marsha Damiana (hotels – not present to report until later – work meeting). Excited that the meetings wouldn't interfere with school board, county commissioner/city council, but when

she contacted the Davenport Grand (preferred for location) – March is completely out for them on a Thursday night due to sports tournaments thru the month (NCAA Women's, others). No availability for a March Thurs. for rooms (oh great). There are other hotels nearby, but if large tournaments are happening, we may run into same difficulty with a block of rooms at the state rate anywhere (concerned, not insurmountable, but may be challenging). Hadn't considered this. Hmm. Hand from Elizabeth. **Could we move to April?** That's what Elizabeth was thinking (relives some of the pressure during Leg. Session). It will still be in session then (but maybe less tournaments). It is a short session, per Patti (no, it's long, budget year – per Marsha/Elizabeth, short incorrect). Do we have the minutes from August, some concerns re: school vacation. District 81 Metro April 7-11 Spring break. **Could look at other dates.** In budget years, pending election per Patti, things may go long (June 30th). April is still early. The legislators might be able to get way on a Thurs/Fri per Patti (budget crunching is later on). **Can Steve check for a different date? Should Damiana check on hotels first? She can do that for April instead of March and share with Steven (he'll need to know which dates to look at ASAP to secure the venue). Will need to ask for a different room for the breakfast (Damiana knows there's a room in the bldg. on the ground floor that may be big enough without theater seating, unsure of name. Steven may go down on Friday to see what's available, needs to know dates. Library is across the street if needed – nice rooms – tables/chairs/large – for both – check hours for breakfast). 10 vs 8 am opening possible. Leave them to it.** Already asked about accessible rooms (**no van**) – person she spoke to was a PWD, understands the concerns, feels confident in good info.

Steven (City Council venue update – both meetings, library backup, caterers – local/PWD – Sodexo). **Spokane City Council reserved 3/20 from 5-8pm and 8:30-12:30 on 3/21** (security concerns/OT). Steven is unsure of the layout – theater seating (yes per Damiana – good for Town Hall, not so much for breakfast). Are there other rooms there? Damiana isn't sure (**could look into**). Next is catering. Can't secure/book, last talked to Sodexo, willing to work with us – may require a deposit, etc. (**staff can handle that**). Third, local politicians interested, want an official invite (**not together yet**). Fourth – 2 people appointing to ACAC (he knows 1, able bodied). Tried to have a discussion with them, didn't get far, the person Steven knows is a hard worker but not a PWD (isn't familiar with the other person, appointing at legislative session). 4 PWD put in apps (disabled – nothing heard back). Not much else to do or say on that (no influence on County Comm. decision). Does the person he knows have any connection? Willing to serve/be an advocate, not disabled, or family/work. Put in an app, supportive of the group/willing to help, surprised re: appt. (knows Steven). EWU professor (PWD) for example hadn't heard. Won't qualify for \$/certification w/o PWD at the table otherwise (clarifying – requires partnership with PWD/County, list of folks, types, # - possible misinformation, just FYI). Pierce Co. is OK. **Steven will reach out** (not at home at the moment – classes). Will have to cut out (**send him notes with his actions**). Was there a doodle poll at some point for a better date? Need him here. Can stretch it a bit longer. **If he finds out other ACAC appts, ideal to invite them to be a part of the group.** 13 seats still open (odd place to start – unsure on thought process/comm). **Will reach out to the 2 commissioners he knows** (election forthcoming). City council secured, need to book Sodexo.

Could another ACAC send them a welcome letter? That may be helpful, but likely best coming from the AC subcommittee of GCDE. Concerning that this time doesn't work for Steven (1 of 2 people on the ground - needed). Did we do a poll? Steven doesn't remember. He will stay today. Patti thinks we did 1 (comm. partners change with each event – may have been done for Vancouver, not Spokane). Marsha thought we did. Steven's classes just started last week, oh, OK (catching up on chat). If an ongoing problem (pause), should probably pick a different day (**plan to do a doodle poll**). **If we're going to invite others to join, need to figure out date, poll in meeting** – met at this time for people employed EOD. If we looked at this time on other weekdays, how about Mondays? Any objections? Mondays work better for Steven (Susan could do 4:30 but not 4). What about Wed? Would need to make sure it wasn't the same week as AC (has 4:30 meetings once a month). AC meets on the 1st Wed of the month (confirmed). 2nd Wednesday (current schedule) should work? Can we do 4:30? Hands from Steven and Suzi. Tue, Wed, and Thurs are busy for Steven (Suzi can do 4 only Tu/Th). **What about Mondays at 4:30?** What about winter quarter for Steven? Mostly they land on Tuesdays (internship Tu/Wed, depending on week, elected on 3rd Thurs, board on 3rd Wed, CB 3rd Tue). Lyn is jumping the gun – **hoping we can schedule next Mon at 4:30 for calendar (Nov. 4? Nov. 11)**. Veteran's Day holiday. Don't want to meet then. **Could do 1st or 3rd Monday that particular month** – any objections? Hearing no objections. Marsha suggesting **4:30 Mon 11/4**. IvyAnne due 10/28 – generally OK, congrats. Elizabeth conflict on 3rd Mon. **Rest of the time, go back to meeting on second Monday at 4:30.**

Haven't discussed a restaurant for post Town Hall planning (LB). Does Damiana have a sense? **Restaurants w/in hotel would be spendy (lots of restaurants in downtown, between two venues, the Onion for example – large menu, open late, 10-11)**. Sounds good. OK. **What about no-cost private rooms for groups (hearing issues). Damiana can think of 1 close to downtown that has 1 – free room – holds up to 30, used a couple weeks ago, would require having enough vehicles to get folks there (close, not walking distance).** **Is that an issue for folks?** Dave thinking about coming by train, what about others? Patti: **Could we get a small meeting room at the hotel and order in (DD)? If that isn't an issue (unsure of policy). Would make accessibility easier to stay at the hotel (restaurants within a block – space question). Has stayed there for other events (depending on hotel availability of conference rooms). Damiana will ask.**

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

This item was tabled at the last meeting. Next steps – send the list to members when it is reasonable. Can Patti share any thoughts about the list? **It is daunting, but she's checking website on some of the larger orgs, NAMI just had a conference in Yakima the other weekend (same as another event – compared notes, got a business card from the organizer). Getting onto a spreadsheet, checking website, hundreds of organizations – capturing counties most helpful – sort database for local area we're going to.** Won't have to continue to piecemeal. **Still working on it (process).** Not really a way to split up. Election year, not as much free time, travelling – will calm down, holiday coming, days off – **will get done. Let us know if we can help. She can divide it up and send it to people who want to help check websites and look for conventions once it's ready.** NFB WA moved conference from Fall to Feb, WCB is at end of Oct (DH will attend). **Could we use them as a test case? Do we know where the Feb. conference is? Damiana can look it up (possibly Vancouver – logical).** Elizabeth joining by phone at

4:50. **Dave and Lyn are there. Marsha will talk to her contact – to see if we could table or speak to them.** OK? Fine with them. **Steven usually goes to NFB conventions too** (since he's been, does it make sense to table there, yes – both). **Late for WCB this year – agreed (next year – both in future).** Steven has connections with both (same on AC). **To do it, would have to reach out to planning person, usually listed on website (or DSB might have it – Steven can look up if helpful – may be overloaded [Marsha can look]). Could we do a presentation about the upcoming Spokane if not a table? Unsure if we know yet (dates). Depending on when it is. Something there in April, watch for it, etc. Need to think about it.** Discussed before, lost, literature – stuff to table with. **Elaine put together a 1-pager** (former event cancelled) – **does have it, could add a QR code probably to scan with phone for website. Would be good, helpful. Marsha will work on that in the interim. Would rather wait til Feb and do it well, end of Oct. feels rushed,** unless others have objections.

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

Marsha sent an email last meeting – update on responses? Next steps: get connected once we hear back (Susan will help, we can mention at GM – seeking statewide orgs). **Covered above.**

7: Next Meeting date, time, and cadence to be decided – all – currently 2nd Tuesdays at 4pm monthly until closer to the event. MOVING TO 1ST MON. AT 4:30 IN NOVEMBER, 2ND MON AT 4:30 IN DECEMBER.

That's our agenda. **See you at 4:30 on 11/4.** Looking forward to seeing us all then. Thanks all, have a good day, bye.

~~Next meeting is Nov 12 at 4pm.~~ Invites sent thru 2024 – **need to update. Considering switching to bi-weekly in the new year and then weekly for event month** (discussed before).

8: Action items (items to be noted in minutes):

1: Marsha hopes we can do some work to build a robust local team, which makes it easier to split work and have an ACAC nucleus for the event (in addition to the physical stuff that we need). She has asked Kenny Salvini to get us in touch with his connections. Steven will reach out to see if he can find where to get in contact with the EWU adaptive basketball team. Lyn will look into local disability groups on FB. Elizabeth will try to find/share the contact info for the Idaho group (Index?) currently running the Spokane CIL. Please reach out about any other contact ideas (such as DACNW).

2: We are considering moving the event to April. We will look at dates other than Spring Break (April 7-11). Damiana will check with hotels and let Steven know to check for the venue. We will need to ask for a different room (non-theater seating) for the breakfast (Damiana thinks there may be one on the ground floor, Steven will go check it out on Friday). The library across the street also has rooms and may still be an option, but we'd likely have to check the time they open for the breakfast. We will leave Steven and Damiana to that. Note: the hotel doesn't have an accessible van.

3: Currently the City Council chambers are booked for 5-8pm and 8:30-12:30 on 3/20 & 21 (will have to be cancelled if moving to April). We will need to look into other rooms for the breakfast. Staff will have to handle booking with Sodexo. The City Council wants a formal invite, that will need to be put together. Steven will reach out to the 2 County Commissioners he knows about the local ACAC appts. He is requesting the notes of his actions. It would be ideal to invite the appointees to participate. We may also be able to send them a welcome letter from the GCDE AC subcommittee.

4: Poll taken during meeting to change the cadence so we know when we invite partners. Decided on Mondays at 4:30. Next one: Monday 11/4 at 4:30 (1st Monday). Following, second Mondays at 4:30.

5: The restaurants in the hotel will likely be spendy, but there are lots of restaurants downtown in between the hotel and venue, such as The Onion – large menu, likely open late. We are also looking into places with no-cost private rooms (audio access). Damiana can think of 1 close to downtown that has a free room which holds up to 30 people and is familiar with – but isn't within walking distance (may pose a transportation issue/use of vehicles). She will check if it would be possible to reserve a small conference room at the hotel to meet in and order food in from nearby restaurants for easier access (if allowable/available).

6: Patti is working on the spreadsheet list of statewide disability organizations and checking websites for conferences/contacts. Capturing the counties so we can sort the database for areas we go to. It is still a work in progress, but will get it done. For help, once it is ready, she will divide it up and send it to folks who want to help check websites and look for conventions.

7: The NFB conference moved from Fall to Feb. WCB is end of Oct (Damiana attending). Steven usually attends NFB and has contacts with both/thinks it makes sense to table there in the future. There was a suggestion to use one of these as a test case for tabling. Damiana will check to see where the Feb. conference is (Vancouver or otherwise). Lyn and Dave are in that area. Marsha will talk to her contact to see if we could table/speak there. It is likely too late for to present about the upcoming event to WCB this year. We'd need to know the dates for NFB (Marsha will think on it). We would need to find the planning folks to reach out to (usually listed on the website, or thru DSB, Marsha will check). Elaine has a 1-pager we could use to table and can add a QR code to the website. Marsha will work on this item in the interim, would rather wait to try until NFB in Feb, than rush for WCB in Oct.

8: We are moving the next meeting to 11/4 at 4:30, and the 2nd Monday (12/9) at 4:30 in December. The calendar invites need to be updated. Emily will work on that on Thursday morning. We are also considering increasing frequency in the new year. Otherwise, we will see folks at the next meeting.