

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

Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting

April 11, 2023

4:00-5:00pm

Minutes

1: **Welcome to the Community Outreach meeting** – the meeting opened by checking in briefly with everyone. Meeting was called to order by Marsha at 4:04. We will fill in others as they join.

2: **Roll Call** – Present were Marsha, Patti, Ryan, Amy, Warren, Emily, Lilly who is attending as a guest from Clark County and a former CO/GCDE member, interpreters, Andy, and Daniel. There are a couple other community members who may join us going forward. Matt was excused. Damiana is on leave. We did not hear from Associate member Lucy or Member Nathan. Elaine is not staff to the committee and only attends if assigned tasks alongside events.

3: **Housekeeping rules** – Rules were reviewed to speak slowly and identify yourself prior to speaking, and raise your hand.

4: **Task Assignment for who to follow up with the author of each Port Orchard commitment statement** – There are only 3 statements to follow up on, 1 of which is rather vague. It will be 1 phone call checking in as to their progress. Kim M. committed to asking her administration what level of participation DDA could have in the transportation coalition, and setting up a meeting with the county and Megan from GCDE. For Background, the two goals from the event were coming up with transportation solution for folks to get to and from work in particular, and the other group wanted to look at obstacles in the built environment. Marsha does not know if any movement has happened on that. People pointed out that the ADA mandates that cities and counties create ADA transition plans, although not everywhere has one. Mike R. wanted to participate further in connecting employment and training accessibility. This statement was a bit outside of either goal, but he may not have been fully tuned into the event. Richard B. wanted to work with DDA on their mutual needs. This was a bit vague, which makes it hard to hold folks accountable. Ryan has the contact info for everyone to use when following up. We will share updates at the next meeting. Volunteers were solicited. Marsha reread the statements at Andy's request. Ryan let folks know that he sent the commitment statements prior to the meeting. He can resend if needed. Marsha clarified. Ryan noted our goal is to follow up on progress and action steps to keep the ball rolling. Emily didn't have anything to add. 3 volunteers were solicited. Andy will take all 3.

5: **Planning for Clark County outreach event (after PO business concluded)** – Marsha read through the agenda topics below for Lilly. We would like to get a start on these items today, even if we can't accomplish them all. Our first task is to identify where in Clark County we should focus. Ridgefield has been suggested due to its rapid growth. We understand that most services are concentrated in Vancouver with the Schools for the Blind and Deaf, and the County DD Board. Lilly has discussed creating a broader board with them, but it has not been well received unfortunately. There does not seem to be much interest. Marsha noted that there is

oftentimes money available from the state when certain structures are in place, which maybe it. One of our goals is to create interest for a County ACAC after our event as well. Lilly supports Ridgefield as the location if our goal is to go somewhere experiencing rapid growth. Lilly will look into other eastern areas such as Washougal or Camas, but those might not be within the county limits. Ridgefield is within 8 miles of Vancouver and may likely be the best option. It is fairly close by. Marsha wondered about public transportation. Lilly said they have connector vans. Most of the fixed route buses are within Vancouver, and they have commuter lines to outlying areas, but not on a fixed route on a schedule. Not a paratransit vehicle specifically, but a smaller bus that does fewer routes to outlying areas during commute hours a few times a day. Considering the funding, they do their best to reach a wide area in the large county depending on the demand. Marsha noted that this issue often comes up at Outreaches, and sometimes public transit schedules make it difficult.

- a. **Identify other local people with disabilities to work with us** – Marsha thanked Patti for sending her some names, and asked others to send theirs if they know of anyone locally.
- b. **Decide who should contact them** - Marsha contacted William Holmes from Vancouver via Facebook but did not receive a response, Lilly will follow up and report back. Marsha will post in the H&N FB group; Lilly will do the same for the PTL group. Marsha will follow up about messaging.
- c. **Discuss possible locations for event town hall and LAP in Ridgefield** – Amy wanted to clarify where we landed on Ridgefield. Marsha was reluctant to decide for sure without more local participants, but would say we're tentatively going forward and thinks it's likely that's where we'll land, but wants to hear from a few more people first. Lilly Googled and read a list of names of the larger cities in the county (not including small towns, neighborhoods, or unincorporated areas). Lilly wanted to clarify if we are looking for population concentration, or something different to select which town to visit. Marsha said it is a combination of that (population), and the people who are underserved. A map was shown onscreen of the county. Lilly mentioned raising awareness, as well. Vancouver is fairly good on that. Lilly mentioned that you can see the distance between the towns on the map, some of which are more outlying than others. It was helpful to see where things are in relation to one another. Amy clarified if we are seeking somewhere where services are already present, or where we can provide more support. Marsha asked Warren to chime in, but shared that we are looking for a significant underserved population. Warren mentioned that it has been a mix, it has depended on the nature of the community where it is happening, and the scouting work that we're doing now to decide on a location, with the goal being to start a conversation at the town hall and proposing solutions at the leadership meeting. So, we may have to adapt the process a bit to the location. Warren mentioned that we used to just go based upon where we hadn't been recently.

Then we tried to be less objective about it and gather statistics to rate the areas. Ultimately, it was decided to be too tough to compare. Most recently, it has been a mix of the two, where we haven't been in Eastern/Western WA and urban or rural counties. Sometimes in large counties it's hard to find an ideal location. This means often that you have to rely on whether there is an underserved population, some tie to the disability community, or enough of an interest locally. The bias has been to find relatively small communities where our event can actually have an effect with a representative sample of the community. Recently we've visited Walla Walla, Orting, Shelton, etc. Marsha appreciated the information. We came into this with a few possible sites selected based upon information that Laurie and Damiana had gathered. Lilly is a proponent of Ridgefield due to their growth and mindset for change. Battleground could work as well. LaCenter is growing as well and having to adopt a similar mindset. Daniel concurs. Lilly confirmed per Warren that each has their own governments. La Center is home to a Native American reservation which may add a layer of complexity (but also funding). Ryan asked Daniel if he had any local input. Daniel clarified whether we were looking for local representatives. Daniel noted the large size of Vancouver. Marsha pointed out that we may be leaning more towards Ridgefield for that reason. Marsha may have a contact there who may be able to attend next month. Lilly has a contact in Battle Ground from her network. Warren wanted to confirm timeline. We are still undecided for the late Fall. Warren advocated doing more research on all 3 proposed locations to decide since we still have time. The venue and lodging will also be a consideration for logistics. All 3 locations sound similar and are all within Clark County, so we have narrowed it down already, and can go from there. Lilly mentioned that the fairgrounds are in Ridgefield and may have space available. There is a casino in La Center that may have space available as well. They are all close by to one another. Daniel mentioned that he has good connections at the casino and may be able to arrange a space. Ilani in Ridgefield. Marsha asked Daniel to reach out to them and Daniel agreed. Patti noted that they are always doing expanding, and in Ridgefield, are a big employer who we could possibly build a relationship with (Cowlitz tribe). It is on tribal land right off of I5.

- d. *Identify channels of communication to let people with disabilities know about the event and who should contact each -***
- e. *Decide who should be invited to the LAP and collect contact information -***

6: Next Action Steps

7: *Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.*