

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

Awards subcommittee meeting

May 23, 2023

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

1. **Welcome** – Meeting called to order by Yvonne at 11:01am, welcomed everyone. **No changes or additions heard to today's agenda.**
2. **Roll Call** – **Janet excused. Damiana excused. Present were** Emily, Ryan, and Elizabeth (**staff**), ASL interpreter, and Kevin, Yvonne, Amy, Cullynn, Lucas, Matt, and Clarence for **Members** (*Clarence joined late due to a conflict*).
3. **Housekeeping Rules** – Please state your name before speaking and raise your hand. (*skipped*)
4. **Approval on Minutes from April 28, 2023** – Yvonne checked for people's review and any questions, **review confirmed by Amy (very comprehensive), no questions heard. Motion for approval by Amy, seconded by Kevin, motion carries – minutes approved as written.**
5. **Emcee announcement** – Ryan shared the exciting news per Yvonne. Bid everyone good morning and thanked all for attending on a Tuesday since he will be on vacation later this week. **Our emcee will be John Evans, who has accepted the role for our event in Wenatchee on October 6.** He was a DVR employee for many years, you may be familiar. Ryan can share more if needed. Yvonne concurred that he is a powerful speaker, advocate, and proponent of GCDE. Amy did not know him and appreciated the recap. John and his wife Kathy have been advocates for 45 years as a dynamic team. John is Deaf and Hard of Hearing and hails from Eastern WA himself (fluent in ASL). He has inspired many on their journey of disability. Kevin appreciated the review also, and wondered if we can have a copy of the script that will be used to introduce John. Yvonne or Ryan will reach out to

John to get his bio to share. Ryan asked for clarification of Kevin's request and Kevin repeated. **Ryan understood and will reach out to John for the brief bio to share and may add something.** Ryan is happy that he has accepted and is looking forward to it. Thanks. Ryan wondered if Barry comes from WA, also. Emily believes so.

6. **Nominations Application Packet Update - Emily shared that we received our first completed self-nomination on May 16 for Behavior Bridges in Puyallup, which is a very small company that provides supports to individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. Otherwise, we have 10 other "incomplete" nominations also currently listed in the system as of this morning, at least a few of which the person seems to have spent a fair amount of time reviewing the packet (unless they just had it open but were not actively looking at it, which is possible). Emily will continue to provide updates at our meetings. This is exciting news. Yvonne shared that she is with DVR, and will mention this as a standing topic at her unit meeting (Thursdays), to discuss employers to nominate on an ongoing basis. Matt shared that he has passed the packet along to some local organizations in the Tri-Cities and hopes to glean some nominations from them. Amy thanked Emily for her work to get the packet ready with the changes from last year. Elizabeth said she will share to her 800 followers on Linked In also. All, please continue to spread the word. Moving on to the next topic.**
7. **Marketing Workgroup Update – Emily shared that a reminder message and post went out via the email listserv and Facebook page mid-last week, and will continue as we get closer to the nomination deadline per the draft marketing timeline. Last week's email had a 96.2% (15,945k) delivery rate to the 16,609k subscribers, a 22% open rate (3,654), and 2% (332) click rate; and the FB post reached at least 25 people had and at least 1 engagement. Emily will work with the marketing workgroup to continue curating content for continued reminders. No questions heard.**
8. **Hotel room Block Update – Ryan reported per Yvonne that there is great news to share on this, although not finalized or quite worked out yet, but**

for background he did reach out to the Coast hotel next to the convention center and they did not accept our request for a block of hotel rooms at the govt. rate. He did not hear back despite repeated follow-up. He discussed with Yvonne, and decided to move onto other locations. **The Hilton Gardens has agreed to reserve us a block of rooms at the govt. rate. Ryan has taken care of that for 13 rooms. He doesn't have details to share yet, as we are waiting for word from the ESD travel desk that the hotel agreement is acceptable, or if we need to go through the Contracts office.** For now, the rooms are on hold for us, and Ryan will share more information about making reservations etc. once the agreement has been approved. He thanks everyone for their continued patience. Yvonne appreciates the update.

9. **Other Tasks** – Yvonne asked if there are any other agenda items to discuss as a group. Ryan asked if anyone was interested in helping with making changes to the program booklet in MS Publisher since it is not accessible. Emily has done that in the past, but Ryan wanted others to pitch in if possible, should they have the time, skills, and energy to do so. He'd like to get started on it so we can jointly build the vision for it and go from there. Yvonne could help and confirmed for Lucas that the hotel covers parking. Amy will also help with the program while at work. She also asked if travel arrangements are underway. There was a group of people who had volunteered to work on this earlier, she believes it was Pat. Cullynn had also volunteered and had their hand up for this. They want to get started in a couple of weeks in June, Mondays or Fridays around lunch time is best for her, and she would be happy to set a meeting. Cullynn asked for help with scheduling the meeting since she has a hectic couple of weeks. She can take it from there after that. Any time in mid-June after the 11<sup>th</sup> works for her. Yvonne will help setup the meeting and provide any needed support. Cullynn appreciates it. Clarence joined us (welcome). Ryan appreciates it and would love to join a carpool if folks are doing that. Lucas that he'd need to know the specific dates and times and could then let us know due to other obligations. Ryan understands. He thought of another task related to the program booklet, confirming that Amy was interested in helping? Amy confirmed (Yvonne can also help). Teamwork is essential and the more

hands make lighter work, so **Amy and Yvonne will work on it together. Ryan and Emily can provide staff support as needed. Emily volunteered to help with the transport group if needed** (i.e., sharing the state mileage reimbursement rates, flight information - which may not be feasible due to only 1 daily flight from SeaTac to Wenatchee thru Alaska on the state govt rate, **can discuss offline**). **Yvonne confirmed that Cullyn and Pat will be working on travel (not Amy). Yvonne will follow up with an email.**

10. **Photo Event with the Governor with 2020-2022 Award recipients and their employers Update** – Ryan reported per Yvonne that he apologized for not being able to report on this last week. He does not have any update and **wanted to check with Elizabeth about whether she's heard anything from the Gov's office**, but it is **on her list. She will reach out to the Policy office to see if she can connect.** The Gov's office can be slow to respond for various reasons. She will try to **reach out to confirm a date and a solid yes or no.** She just hasn't gotten to it yet.
11. **Next steps** – Ryan wanted to be sure to capture these. **Lucas wondered if we have a brochure and program. We do have a brochure, and will work on updating the program. Lucas volunteered** (Ryan clarified). Yvonne recapped that next steps are our **next meeting next week (date below)**, the **transport work group of Cullyn (leading in June), Pat, Yvonne, and staff (Yvonne has set an initial meeting and Ryan and Lucas will connect offline about the possibility of carpooling)**, and the **program booklet workgroup (Yvonne, Amy, and Lucas – no meeting set yet for that).**

**Emily recapped otherwise from the other agenda items for today (aside from the next meeting, transport, and program workgroups) as follows:** *Ryan will reach out to John for his bio and share it with the group, Emily will continue to provide updates during meetings about progress on nominations, Yvonne will continue to discuss nomination possibilities with her team at their unit meeting on Thursdays ongoing, Matt will follow up with his local contacts in Tri-Cities to hopefully get some nominations from them, Elizabeth will share with her 800 Linked In followers, everyone else will continue to spread the word too, Emily will work with the marketing*

*workgroup* on continued reminders, **Ryan** will follow up with the ESD travel desk to confirm the hotel agreement with Hilton Gardens is acceptable and then share more info about making reservations with the **team**, and **Elizabeth** will follow up with the policy office about the photo session. Continued below (**Ryan will work on accommodations and send out the materials for next week by tomorrow**). Email with any questions before next week.

Lucas wondered if **accommodations have been reserved**. Ryan said we are **currently working on that** and appreciates the reminder. Emily shared that the **CART captioners have already volunteered** to hold the date and she will **defer to Ryan on interpreters**. Folks can **email in the meantime if they have any questions on next steps** before we talk next week. **Ryan** will get the **materials for next week sent tomorrow** since he will be out from this Thursday until next Thursday. He will **work with Yvonne to draft the agenda after this**. Lucas confirmed the next meeting date below. That concludes our meeting at 11:40am, talk soon, goodbye and thank you.

12. *Next meeting date and time: Friday, June 2 2023, at 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

**\*\*Important Note:\*\***

WHO: Awards subcommittee volunteers  
WHAT: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Employer Awards  
WHEN: Friday, October 6, 2023  
WHERE: Wenatchee Convention Center  
121 N Wenatchee Ave  
Wenatchee, WA