

BELLINGHAM TOWN HALL MEETING AND LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

May 5 & 6, 2014

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

The Community Outreach Subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE) held two meetings in Bellingham on May 5th and 6th. The meetings were held at the Peace Health Conference Center and the Bellingham Downtown Library, respectively.

Local planning partners were Terra Contezac and Tyler Chang staff from Work Opportunities and Dorthann Cloud, a GCDE member who lives in Bellingham. We would also like to thank the Bellingham Downtown Library for lending us their meeting space for the Leadership Breakfast. A special note of thanks needs to be given to Shree Benson with the Peace Health Education Center. Shree was very helpful with organizing our meeting space for the Town Hall meeting and assisted us with identifying leaders in the disability community.

Over 85 individuals attended our meetings and participants represented a diverse cross section of the community including people with disabilities, family members, service providers, representatives of the Native American Communities and your elected officials.

The following report represents a summary of the issues discussed with suggested actions and resources provided. Also included are the results of the completed evaluation forms. Your feedback will be used to improve our outreach planning process in future meetings.

Barry Long, Chairperson of the Community Outreach Subcommittee facilitated the meetings. Participants selected the discussion topics which defined the meetings' content. The areas of concern identified were 1) transportation, 2) emergency preparedness, 3) low income housing, 5) employment, 6) the school to work

transition. During the course of our meetings other topics were discussed and are included in the report.

TRANSPORTATION

Participant Comments and Concerns