



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT

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Accessible Communities (AC) Meeting Minutes September 20, 2023, 4:30-5:30 pm

1. AC Subcommittee Member Roll Call:

Warren Weissman, Chair; Clarence Eskridge, Vice-Chair; Dave Carl, Autumn Harris, and Steve Lewis

Absent: Lucy Barefoot, Cullyn Foxlee, and Angie West

Staff: Elizabeth Gordon, GCDE Executive Director and Elaine Stefanowicz, Program Coordinator

2. Approval of August Meeting Minutes. Approved as written.

3. Comments on Thurston County election center visit. Thurston County invited us to visit the Ballot Processing Center either before or after the November election. We can attend either as a group or an individual tour. Elizabeth said it would be fine to extend the invitation to all GCDE members. Warren suggested either November 8 or 9. Dave asked if someone can take pictures of the doorway for wheelchair width. Steve said he didn't find any problems with the door when he visited, so he didn't take pictures. He found parking the biggest challenge.

4. Review of draft AC financial report. Warren discussed the draft financial report prepared by Elaine and Elizabeth. From a starting point of \$200,000 per fiscal year, we are subtracting 1) GCDE internal expenses related to AC, 2) funds made available to ACACs for reasonable accommodations and other expenses (in FY 2023/4, this is \$2,000 per ACAC).

The remaining amount is what is available for grants in the Fall and Spring cycles. If a grant awarded in a previous fiscal year (FY) remains undisbursed, it will still be obligated for the current FY and will have to be counted against the current year budget. Counties are allowed to apply for a no-cost extension which may make the project take even longer.

Currently, \$62,774.48 is available for the Fall and Spring funding cycles. Elizabeth said that, if funds are available in the AC Account at the State Treasury, we can request that OFM permit us to use more than \$200,000 in a fiscal year, but we haven't been spending the whole amount in past FYs. The likelihood that OFM would approve a request is uncertain.

5. Status of approved grants with pending contracts or other issues delaying implementation. Elaine reported on the status of the grants. Everything is progressing with each county project. Kitsap County asked for a no-cost extension to implement their adaptive biking project in Poulsbo. The grants approved in prior years for Walla Walla County, and which never got past the contract stage due to issues with the Board of County Commissioners, are now formally terminated.

6. Timetable for Fall grants. Elaine will send another reminder of the grant deadline (October 31) to ACACs.

7. A new chair will be needed for the AC subcommittee as of January 1, 2024, due to Warren stepping off GCDE when his second term expires. If anyone has an interest, please communicate with Damiana. If you have questions, feel free to contact Warren.

**Next AC Subcommittee Meeting:
October 18, 2023, at 4:30 pm**