

**Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Legislative Workgroup (LWG)**



**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 3, 2022
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

Topic: Legislative Workgroup

Time: August 3, 2022 09:00 AM

AGENDA

Present: Bill Kinyon, Kristin DiBiase, Clarence Eskridge, Lucas Doelman, Patti Dailey-Shives

1) Review 2022-23 Legislative Priorities.

- a. Transportation and access issues: just because you get a bus or light rail, but if stops are not accessible, they don't provide access. We target areas will lower access and in all, rural transportation has been an issue.
- b. Employment barriers. Also came out of community outreach. Lack of job availability along with cultural attitudes create barriers.
- c. Concept of 'Nothing About US Without Us.' Representation matters in disability policy and legislation. Has been expanded to include other marginalized groups.
- d. Mental Health – accessibility and availability of institutions
- e. Expanding disability info on driver's licenses and ID cards to provide info to Law Enforcement
- f. In-patient services for mental health
- g. Voter accessibility and removing/not creating barriers to voting for people with disabilities
- h. Elimination of waiting list for DVR.
- i. Legislator orientation on topic of disabilities to help educate them a to our needs

- j. Corporate and public education on changing hiring practices for people with disabilities and designating FTEs
- k. Education about mental health for police
- l. Helping GCDE members and associates learn about boundary between lobbying and advocacy

2) Five Steps –

- a. Engaging with advocacy groups to learn their legislative priorities
- b. Sharing that with GCDE team
- c. We encourage our group and others to communicate our position in our legislative districts (in advocacy – my opinion, which is educated through involvement with GCDE – subject matter experts, and constituents)
- d. Network with people we know in committee chair positions about whether a bill goes forward or not.
- e. Writing Op-Eds on the bills with our name as author.

For next meeting – send agenda ideas about these topics to Bill or Elaine, ideas on above topics or any new ones you may have, so we can talk about it in the next meeting.

Kristin talked about upcoming changes to structure with “Nothing About Us Without Us” coalition, and she was encouraged to continue her involvement.

3) Feedback on who is willing to step up for leadership and review steps to follow up on that desire.

- a. Bill will be off GCDE at the end of the year as he has termed out.
- b. Members were encouraged to step up to leadership in the committee as next session will be important.

4) Review of Legislative process for bills and where to track them.

- a. From training provided by DRW: how a bill becomes law
 - i. Disability advocates come up with an issue.

- ii. Flesh it out and present it to a legislator. Can use your own legislator
- iii. Bill created and Dropped
- iv. Goes to Committee
 - v. House gets the bill, chair of committee decides whether it will come to floor for debate
 - vi. If is not voted to go forward, dies in committee
 - vii. If goes forward and has a fiscal impact, goes to ways and means the appropriations
 - viii. If no fiscal note – goes direct to house rules
 - ix. Goes to house for vote
 - x. Goes to Senate and goes through their review steps.
 - xi. If passes both house and senate, goes to Governor for signature.
- b. We need to work with other advocacy groups to enlist their support in promote the legislation.
- c. We can start now in identifying issues and finding sponsors and promoting bills for consideration.
- d. Don't just talk about priorities in our group, go out and talk with others and promote our priorities with other groups. If you have lived experience, your voice may carry more weight.
- e. Groups we already are targeting: DRW, NAMI, People First of Washington, Job Accommodation Network (AskJAN.org), Association on Higher Education and Disability, NAACP and other marginalized groups, Children and Adults with ADHD, ADD Association, Morningside, Skookum and other direct service providers, KOKUA (residential support services), ARC, WA Association of the Deaf, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Easter Seals, March of Dimes, Gov office of Indian Affairs, LGBTQ Commission, Political Caucuses, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Association of Special Education Educators.