



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT

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Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2023

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://esd-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/88621173150?pwd=eXY4UnBpZlJOSWNSWFhRTEVFfaVILQT09>

Meeting ID: 886 2117 3150

Passcode: 556040

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Subcommittee Attendees: Kristin DiBiase, YLF Chair; Dr. Nathan Hoston, YLF Vice Chair; Yvonne Bussler-White, Dr. Marsha Cutting, Damiana Harper, GCDE Chair; Autumn Harris, Stacy Kidd (DVR), and Ivyanne Van Der Peet.

Staff: Elizabeth Gordon and Elaine Stefanowicz

Absent: Lucas Doelman, Clarence Eskridge, and Dr. Kevin Frankeberger.

1. Approval of June meeting minutes (no minutes for planning meetings). Damiana motioned to approve the minutes and Marsha seconded. All members were in favor. Minutes approved as written.
2. Welcome, introductions, and housekeeping
3. Recap of 2023 YLF. Members gave their thoughts about this year's YLF:

YLF was stressful but successful. Challenges: understaffed (by four) with counselors. Didn't get any applications for lead counselor interns. It was a growth opportunity for people who would have been co-counselors. People worked really hard to make up for the staffing shortage. We had higher-need delegates this year.

We need to focus on recruiting counselors from critical disability study programs with a disability justice perspective. UW has a Dis-Crit program, and they may have one at WWU. Marsha will research programs. It would be a good idea to have counselors do the cardboard houses first, so they know how to put them together. The configuration of the classroom was not helpful. They liked how the tables were in a fan shape on the last day. Making eye contact with students is critical when teaching. Next year, we will move into the room next to the dining space (Heron Room). It was agreed upon that we do need to recruit more delegates of color. It was suggested we have dance breaks for delegates in between different activities. For

snacks, maybe something healthier like popcorn. There was talk about bringing our own microwave or air popper. Staff expressed concern about popcorn being messy and getting permission from Dumas Bay to serve it. We need more outdoor activities and possibly getting patio umbrellas at a garage sale. It was asked if we can we rent a storage locker for supplies? Elizabeth said she doesn't think we are prevented from doing that and said we still have office space.

It was suggested having DVR Regional Transitional Consultants (RTCs) and Vocational Rehabilitation Consultants (VRCs) participate in YLF as counselors and in supporting roles. She said there is a new mission statement for DVR focusing on youth and students.

YLF was a great experience, and it was nice to see the delegate growth over the week. They agree about more activity in between sessions to prevent restlessness. We will have to shorten some content. The goal is to completely revamp and design our own curriculum.

It was clarified that Pre-ETS = Pre-Employment Transition Services. There are five categories - work base learning, self-advocacy, job exploration workplace readiness and post-secondary counseling.

It was suggested we ask former delegates about what worked and didn't for them at YLF. One delegate said that the etiquette training is outdated. We need culturally and age-appropriate activities. For the dance, a beach theme is ok, but we should avoid a Luau theme. Stay away from cultural themes. We should have a schedule for counselors that includes breaks. On the delegate application, we should get parent's input if delegate can walk to/from places alone (bathroom) because we are too short staffed for escorts. People were getting tired because the room was so warm. Can we bring in portable air conditioning units? There is air conditioning in the new space (Heron room). What are our non-negotiables? Values: adaptability and flexibility. Would like to avoid having late-night counselor meetings so counselors can get more rest. Can we find a time to meet during dinner? Parents want feedback on how delegates did during the week. Can we create a template that's easy to fill out? We could have delegates fill this out and share it with their parents. This is what was fun, this was a challenge...

There is no difference between counselors and co-counselors. The amount of work is significant. Every counselor should get paid.

There must be training and support for our volunteers who are in any sort of leadership position on those values and positive behavior support skills so that everyone can have the same skill set going into the week. We can't assume that GCDE members have professional experience current to today's standards and values. We have to have a level setting and shared values.

Adjusting the curriculum is something that needs to happen ASAP. You don't want to wait until next year. We need a work plan with deadlines for things we need to get done. We should be very explicit with parents about deadlines with applications. We can provide services, but we need lead time (4-6 weeks in advance for accommodation). We could have a parental info session via Zoom. What does DVR ask for?

We need to put out more info in the front end and more info about what is happening in the application. We need the delegate's behavioral plan and most recent documentation IEP or 504.

We need to think of our primary customer of the event is the youth. A report to parents might not fit. Would rather have the youth have a takeaway. One person said, it is helpful for adults to know what skills and improvements their delegate is making.

It was asked if the delegates leave with a portfolio or vision board they can share with their family? Does it fit with high school and beyond plan? Continue to grow with everything they learn.

Having delegates reflect on their experience and what they learned is an important part of consolidating. We need to have a closing section.

Subcommittee members please write down any additional items and we'll share at next meeting.

4. 2024 YLF: July 27-August 2, Dumas Bay Centre, Federal Way. Talking about them to get extended dates for the future.
5. Action Items
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Friday, October 20, 2023, 10:00-11:00 am