Hybrid Meeting

WSRC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 14, 2026
9:00am-11:00am

Members Present: Michele Stelovich, Council Chair, Labor Representative, Everett
Jennifer Bean, Council Vice Chair, Client Assistance Program, Bellingham
Jennifer Tabiando, CRP Representative, Lynnwood
Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board Representative, Lacey
Jana Finkbonner, Tribal VR Representative, Bellingham
Aimee Elber, Disability Advocacy Representative, Spokane
Alexandra Toney, OSPI Representative, Olympia
Pablo Villarreal, DVR Interim Director, Ex-Officio, Olympia
Verena Strydom, DVR Counselor Representative, Ex-Officio, Kirkland
Matt Newton, Business Representative, Tacoma
Jill McCormick, Parent Advocate Representative, Puyallup

Members Absent: Noelle Green, Recipient of Services Representative, Olympia
Katrina Simmons, Recipient of Services Representative, Tacoma
Edward Nicholson, Business Representative, Vancouver

Council Staff: Shelby Satko, WSRC Executive Director, Olympia
Jolie Ramsey, WSRC Executive Assistant, Olympia

Visitors:

Chrissy Dahlgren, Jeannine Chandler, Jen Chong-Jewell, Joshua, Laura Hamilton, Heidi Scheibner, Rebecca Jansson, Tammy Bowen, Tara Zink

Call to Order— Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Michele Stelovich, Council Chair

Executive Committee

Council Leadership Elections for 2026-2027

Motion: Approval of Michele Stelovich as Council Chair and Jennifer Tabiando as Vice Chair
First: Jill McCormick **Second:** Verena Strydom
No abstentions. **APPROVED**

2027 Quarterly Meeting dates

- Proposed 2027 dates: Feb. 11-12, May 13-14, Aug. 12-13, and Nov. 10.
- Some of these dates conflict with Indian Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) meetings.
- Tabled the conversation of dates and locations to September subcommittee meetings.

National Disability Policy Discussion

- Dept of Justice's piece about integrated settings. Concerns about the impact that decisions at the federal level may have on the disability community. Olmstead Act. There is a deemphasis on upholding people's legal rights to live within their communities and not be institutionalized. May not enforce the ADA or Olmstead Act.
- Full Support in keeping this on the agenda and considering council support of a letter or involvement. This is of high importance for those we collectively serve.
- Aimee suggested to discuss this issue in our subcommittees and see how each group can consider this issue from their respective standpoint.
- Will they push more toward the day centers? How would this impact people moving from rehab centers, group homes, institution settings to the community. Will this decision isolate people with disabilities more? Impacts to supported employment, behavioral health access, etc.
- To lose federal backing would be very concerning.
- Liz: WA already has state laws protecting people with disabilities from discrimination and supporting community integration, independent living, and integrated employment (RCW 49.60, 74.29, 71A.12, 41.04), but it's unclear whether those fully replace the protections Olmstead provides. It may be worth asking AGO to assess that gap and, if needed, explore legislation next session to strengthen those protections in state law.
- And when you consider how much greater emphasis is being put on work requirements to receive food or medical benefits, and at the same time there could be a deemphasis on upholding ADA protections, this further disenfranchises people with disabilities.
- Consider participants who are losing trust in agencies, concerned about how their data and medical records may be used.
- Concerns about federal funding cuts.
- Aimee suggested that Shelby send an email to council members, reminding about the roles, boundaries, and limitations of council members regarding any advocacy or legislative work.

CSPE Subcommittee

- Reviewed CSS Program Year Quarter 3 (Jan-March 2026) results.
- Customer Satisfaction Improvement Project on hold due to DVR data analyst staff members retiring and being out of office, and competing priorities.
- Matt Newton has decided not to reapply to the council, will vacate his position effective 9/30.

Policy & Planning Subcommittee

- Considering how the committee can support creating DVR policies about AI use, training.
- Order of Selection three categories project
    - RSA has issued that DVR return to three categories, instead of current five.
- DVR executive leadership will review policy recommendations.
- Need to prioritize communication with customers, partners, and staff about work requirements.
    - Share in DVR Director communications, all-staff meeting

Partnership Subcommittee

- Focused on deepening workforce integration, and transition within the workforce.
- Will update the WA Transition Map soon.
- Transition Collaborative Transition Collaborative Project
- Updating and modernizing the guidance about transition.

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR)

- Many tribes are dealing with wildfires.
- Jana's office has served more male participants than usual. Likely due to the increase in middle aged and older adult males changing careers or needing second jobs.

Washington Statewide Independent Living Council (WASILC)

- An individual from the SILC has submitted their application to serve on our council, they should be appointed before the November quarterly meeting.

Other Council Business

- Thanked Jen Bean for her service as council vice chair.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am