**Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment**

**Membership Application Information**

The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE) is now recruiting to fill vacancies on the GCDE in 2011. The Committee is made up of 37 members appointed by the Governor to serve 1-3 year terms. Below are the requirements for membership consideration and information on how to apply.

**Applications are accepted throughout the year, but only** **applications received by September 15, 2012, will be considered for 2013 appointment.**

**Requirements**

In Executive Order (EO-87-08), which establishes the GCDE are specific membership requirements:

· --The Chairperson and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor;

· --At least 50 percent of new members appointed shall be persons with a disability. Up to 10 percent of the full Committee membership may be family members of persons with a disability and/or advocates/professional; and

· --The membership shall be selected so as to represent a wide variety of physical, mental or sensory disability characteristics. Geography, occupation, sex, age, socioeconomic status, other minority membership and diversity of viewpoints will also be considered in making appointments.

The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment will accept applications until **September 15, 2012** for appointment in **2013**. The GCDE requires (2) reference letters that must also be submitted by **September 15.**

**Steps to Apply for Membership on the Committee**

1. The Boards and Commissions Office (B&C) application located at [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov). The application can be found in the middle of the page under the appointments tab. The Governor’s Application is can be accessed in the second line from the bottom of the page and will need to be completed and submitted to them through their website **ASAP**. **(It sometimes works better to type the above address.)**

When filling out the application make sure that in the **"choose the board or commission"** put down our full name, The Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment. When you get to the section about Membership in professional...and the Community/volunteer activities...please fill them out as best you can about any experience you have with persons with a disability/or organizations that serve persons with disabilities. There isn’t much space for this (256 characters) so be precise.

2. The Supplemental Questionnaire from the GCDE is attached and can be filled out by tabbing through the document and then emailed to [dhimes@esd.wa.gov](mailto:dhimes@esd.wa.gov) or sent by US Mail (address below) to the Committee by **September 15, 2012**.

Two (2) reference letters, also due **September 15, 2012**, are required by the Committee and can be sent by US Mail to: GCDE, PO Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046 or by fax to 360-407-2647. Reference letters can also be scanned into a computer and emailed (address above) with your completed GCDE Supplemental Questionnaire.

1. You will be contacted by one of our Membership Subcommittee Members for an interview. After the interview, we will contact your references and the Subcommittee will meet to discuss applicants. Those recommended for appointment will be sent to the B&C, where the Governor will make the final decision.

The goal of the Committee is to have new members appointed by the first of January 2013.

4. Prior to appointments being made, those selected for consideration, will be sent a letter from GCDE for your employer to sign, asking if you have the time to commit to the Committee based on your job duties.

**Please Note: As of July 1, 2011, the Governor has asked Commissions not to travel until further notice. (Exceptions have been made.)**

\*The following information about meetings is the norm. Currently, we are meeting online (webinar) and by conference call, with a possibility of 1 or 2 in-person meetings of the full Committee.

The GCDE has 6 subcommittees and new members usually choose 1 or 2 subcommittees that are of interest to them. The GCDE Chairperson makes the final decisions about subcommittee appointments. These subcommittees meet every 6-8 weeks and more often if the need is necessary. The meetings are held in a combination of conference calls and online webinars. With the current rules on travel, some subcommittees may be allowed to travel occasionally, with an exception.