1. **What is the purview and purpose of the committee?**
	* **Decision after discussion**: Recommend that the committee remain an independent and free-standing committee. Significant factors in the discussion:
		+ **Disabilities** – are now in the state plan goals, recommendation for funding included in 2019 GWDB Report to the Legislature (Was listed at the top of the recommendation list.)
		+ **Remain focused and “have a loud voice”** – have momentum on this topic currently and do not want to “take the foot off the gas” this year. Can re-examine this for next year. Focus included the WorkForce Center System (now known as CareerForce) and the closed categories for service. Would like updates on the number of people in this category by CareerForce location. Also interested in and very supportive of any staff training for all CareerForce staffers to better serve individuals with disabilities. Update on that was also suggested. Are aware that there is training being done as part of a grant.
		+ **Data** – remain very interested in current data by location, age, gender, etc. to have informed discussions to make recommendations.
	* **Reviewed the Charter** – Support it, still valid and plan to take a more in-depth look at it this year. Was developed at the formation of the committee in June 2017.
	* **Resource** – The committee’s vision is that it is a resource for the Governor.
	* **State is a leader** – Having a GWDB committee for Disabilities is part of Minnesota’s brand as a leader in employment and training. “Minnesota should have a separate committee…”
2. **What are some goals that members would like to propose for the next year (2019)?**
	* **GWDB Board Meeting presentation ideas for 2019**
		+ **VRS and SSB (Title IV)** “what we do, who we serve, define the eligibility categories (learning for members). Include DHS, MDE – and others that align with the DEED-based work.
		+ **Business Panel** – members – equity in disability hiring experience and processes – success stories as well as challenges and solutions.
		+ **Updates** – legislation – funding for VRS – during / after session
* **Strategic committee membership growth**
	+ Pleased that the new VRS Director, based at DEED, will join this committee.
	+ Minnesota Dept. of Education – Expertise and contributions of a former member of the committee with expertise in Transition Services is missed and committee looks forward to working with the new person at MDE. Asked that Kay K. follow up with Charlene Briner on this to get the name.
	+ Committee will discuss this more in depth at a future meeting.
* **Tap into other groups strategy / discussion / develop a model or process**
	+ TOC presentation and how they aligned with and tapped into other groups was impressive. Discussion of that for this committee during 2019.
	+ Want alignment with / presence in the other GWDB committees and their work and their recommendations. Have a discussion on how best to accomplish that. Want a role in / voice across the committees.
* **Update / Track / Progress on the 4 Recommendations provided to the GWDB at the December 2018 Joint Meeting.**
* **CareerForce and its new online platform –** Committee would like a technical presentation of the new [CareerForceMN.com](https://www.careerforcemn.com/) platform and its content for people with disabilities and resources for businesses who want more information about hiring, training or retaining individuals with a disability. Group sees this as a priority after the staff completes all the work needed for the April launch. They want to talk about how this part of the website and its content can be used in outreach – job seekers, families, employers.
1. **What ideas do GWDB members have for this committee? Example: Combining equity committees and having subgroups for racial equity, disability equity, youth, and barriers to employment.**
	* **Recognition Award –** New idea to discuss for the committee to put a spotlight on members, businesses, projects that serve people with disabilities. Need to inventory what else is similar or being done by other business-led groups (Chambers of Commerce, etc.). Would put a spot light on Best Practices.
	* **Attention to Employment –** Walmart greeter discussion led to future thinking discussion as people with a disability are often the first layoff when a company does a RIF. Need to talk about the upcoming economic picture across the state and what can be done to prepare for this instead of reacting after the fact.
	* **Mental Health and Disabilities –** Huge topic and significant issue for employers. Could be part of the business panel – BUT – is such a significant topic that it could be an all-day seminar. Part of the visible / not visible discussions about disabilities.
	* **Barriers and Opportunities – Need data –** Briefly looked ahead (as part of the prepare for a recession) discussion about AI, electronics, upskilling needs, what wage categories and types of work are people with disabilities employed in across the state.