

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council		
Date: 12/17/2025	Time Started: 10:02 AM	Time Ended: 11:47 PM
		Attending: Alejandra Glafira Apreza-King, Parent; Daysi Jimenez, Parent; Margaret Fairbanks, Parent; Rebecca Thompson, Provider; Robert Johnston, Parent; Rose Cutting, Parent; Vanesa Carmona-Lewis, Parent; Daniel Parker, DPI Excused: Suzanne Juzwik, Parent; Katy Morgan-Davies, Parent; Absent: Christina Krasovich, Parent; Kim Bruessel, Parent; Jennifer Maskel, Parent; State and Presenting Members: Isabelle Leventhal, BCS; Zach Bauer, BCS; David Sorenson, BCS; Michelle Lund, DHS; Julia Thoe, BBP; Tim Markle, Waisman Center; Tiffany Schanno, BCS Policy Fellow; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Nancy Bills, BCS Public Members:
Location:		Presiding Officer:

Minutes

Welcome

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introduction
- Council Member Updates and Announcements

Public Comments

- None.

General Business

- **Approval of 2026 Council Dates (delayed due to lack of quorum):**
- **Overview of Proposal to Update Bylaws**
 - Recommendations to: align with the executive order for number of members, establish term limits, and update the name of the “Support Committee” to the “Executive Planning Committee.”

Updates from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

- **Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS) – Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Renewal Update:**
Presentation by Zach Bauer on partner feedback regarding the CLTS Program.
 - The current waiver runs from 2022-2026 and the new waiver needs to be approved by the end of 2026; it will be in effect from 2027-2031.
 - Feedback taken from DHS offices, councils, providers, families, and counties is being distilled into actual proposals and changes to the waiver through Spring 2026. 30-Day public comment period to begin May 2026.
 - Three pillars for the waiver renewal: (1) Consistency in the CLTS experience, (2) Timely access and coordination of benefits, (3) Options for behavioral health services.
- **Presentation by Julia Thoe from the Bureau of Benefits Policy on findings from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit**

- Overview of how the audit was conducted.
- The audit uncovered improper payments, i.e. things that weren't allowable due to insufficient documentation to substantiate the billing.
- The Bureau of Benefits Policy plans to address three priorities: (1) Reduce the likelihood of audit findings by increasing policy compliance, (2) Benefit policy enhancements, (3) Consideration of changing service trends.
- Link to the [OIG report](#)

Approval of May and August 2025 Meeting Minutes, 2026 Meeting Dates, and Executive Planning Committee Election (delayed due to lack of quorum)

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2025:** [May 21, 2025 Governor's Autism Council Minutes](#)
 - MOTION TO APPROVE: Rose Cutting; SECONDED: Daysi Jimenez
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2025:** [August 20, 2025 Governor's Autism Council Minutes](#)
 - MOTION TO APPROVE: Rebecca Thompson; SECONDED: Vanesa Carmona-Lewis
- **Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates:**
 - MOTION TO APPROVE: Margaret Fairbanks; SECONDED: Daysi Jimenez and Rose Cutting
- **Decision to maintain the Executive Planning Committee and revisit in February 2026.**

Healthcare Transitions: Tim Markle from the Waisman Center

- Presentation on transitioning autistic youth from childhood to adulthood healthcare services and better enabling them as decision makers during transition.
- Outline of the three phases of transition: (1) Birth to childhood (2) Childhood to teen (3) Teen to adult.
- Wisconsin is performing slightly better than other states in supporting these transitions, but much work is still needed.
- A greater emphasis on teaching youth how to support their own basic health needs is necessary for better transition outcomes.

Wisconsin Wayfinder Update from Michelle Lund

- Overview of the purpose and scope of Wisconsin Wayfinder.
- In the first 20 months of Wayfinder's operation:
 - 1,633 calls to the 1-800 number, with most calls from the southeastern and southern regions.
 - 2,315 online forms submitted, with 88% completed by parents/families/caregivers.
 - 3,189 unique referral contexts overall.
 - Over 9,000 information topic discussions.
 - 82% of contacts received at least one referral and over 5,500 referrals made.

Council Member Updates and Discussion

- Question from Maragaret Fairbanks about current cuts to DVR and wait times.
 - The state community integrated employment initiative (CIE) workgroup is in discussions to attend future meetings and can share information at a future meeting.
- Rebecca Thompson shared a resource: [thespectrum.org](#)
- Daniel Parker recommended that all adults be encouraged to support youth in schools, not just in a technical sense, but by supporting things like a sense of belonging, activities, breaks, etc.

Wrap-Up

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026

- MOTION TO ADJOURN: Margaret Fairbanks; SECONDED: Rebecca Thompson at 11:46 PM.

Prepared by: Sarah Ybarra on 12/17/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 2/11/2026