

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Governor’s Autism Council			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:
Date: 12/17/2025	Time Started: 10:02 AM	Time Ended: 11:47 PM	
Location:			Presiding Officer:
<b>Minutes</b>			

**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 Margaret 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](https://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.

