

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Governor’s Autism Council			Attending: Alejandra Glafira Apreza-King, Parent; Kim Bruessel, Public; Margaret Fairbanks, Parent; Robert Johnston, Parent; Rose Cutting, Parent; Vanesa Carmona-Lewis, Parent; Jennifer Maskel, Parent; Suzanne Juzwik, Parent; Daniel Parker, DPI  Excused: Katy Morgan-Davies, Parent;  Absent: Christina Krasovich, Parent; Daysi Jimenez, Parent; Rebecca Thompson, Provider  State and Presenting Members: Deb Rathermel, BCS; Isabelle Leventhal, BCS; Julia Thoe, BBP; Bob Meyer, BCS; Alicia Reinhard, DPI; Stacey Teegardin, DCTS; UW-Madison; Sarah Kuehn, DVR; Rachael Kramer, LTC Adult; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Nancy Bills, BCS; Tiffany Schanno, BCS Disability Fellow; David Sorenson, BCS  Public Members: Autumn J, Portage County
Date: 2/11/2026	Time Started: 10 a.m,	Time Ended: 11:21 a.m.	
Location: Virtual Zoom meeting			Presiding Officer:

**Minutes**

**Welcome**

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introduction

**Public Comments**

- No public comments

**Operational**

- **Approval of the meeting minutes from December 17, 2025:** [December 17, 2025, Governor’s Autism Council Minutes](#)
  - MOTION TO APPROVE: Bob Johnston; SECONDED: Margaret Fairbanks
- **By-Laws Update**
  - Isabelle Leventhal: Bylaws aligning with the Governor’s executive order.
  - **Motion to approve the bylaws and send the red-line changes to the governor’s office for approval:**
    - MOTION TO APPROVE: Jennifer Maskel; SECONDED: Alejandra Glafira Apreza-King

**Updates from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)**

- **Bureau of Benefits Policy, presenter Julia Thoe**
  - **Behavioral Treatment Data:**
  - Overview of the behavioral treatment benefits.
  - Presentation on data from Medicaid paid claims for behavioral treatment services, which examines how much service Medicaid reimbursed with the benefit, who receives the Medicaid services, and where members receive those.
  - The data looks at three key services: (1) comprehensive treatment (2) focused treatment (3) family treatment guidance. In 2024, Medicaid reimbursed over 1.5 million hours of comprehensive

behavioral treatment and over 179,000 hours of focused behavioral treatment.

- Overview of billing codes and data trends, which are fairly stable across 2023 to 2024, with a slight increase and growth from 2023. There is an increase in center based behavioral treatment over in home services.
- No questions or discussions

### **Presentations / Council Input**

- **Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), presenters Bob Meyer, Sarah Kuehn, Alicia Reinhard**
  - Introductions: Bob Meyer, Sarah Kuehn, Alicia Reinhard, Stacey Teegardin, Rachel Kramer.
  - Overview of CIE Act 178 requiring DVR, DHS and DPI to work together to promote competitive integrated employment as the first option for individuals with disabilities.
  - Analysis of outcomes in the five years since the cohort formed in 2019. The number of youth served has doubled, especially within CLTS and DVR and continues to increase, while the number of school age children with an IEP served by DPI has stayed fairly consistent. No notably differences among race, ethnicity or geography
  - Whether or not someone is employed or not employed is highly correlated with a connection to DVR services.
  - Stacey Teegardin spoke to the lack of data on behavioral health services and IEPs being tied to outcomes, and that is something they are working on trying to incorporate into the data in the future.
  - Presentation by Alicia Reinhard on employment goals and transitions for students with IEPs. The data shows that most students are interested in going to work after high school and that, while employment is trending down for students with autism, this mirrors statewide trends.
  - Overview of available transition and employment resources for autistic youth and families.

### **Council Member Updates and Discussion**

- **Council Member updates and emerging topics:**
- Bob Johnston: The state autism conference is being hosted by the Autism Society of Wisconsin, which is the new statewide affiliate, after a merger following the disaffiliation of the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin.
- Suzanne Juzwik: Congress is now recognizing the term “profound autism” and including it in the NIH autism research.

### **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** May 20, 2026

- **MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Vanesa Carmona-Lewis; **SECONDED:** Bob Johnston.

Prepared by: Sarah Ybarra on 2/11/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 5/20/2026