



COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025





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Executive Summary

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) advises the Governor and state agencies on issues impacting individuals with physical disabilities across the lifespan.

During the 2024–2025 council year, CPD focused on:

- Legislative and systems advocacy
- Emergency preparedness
- Cross-council collaboration
- Strengthening council structure and governance
- Development of the [State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities 2025-2027](#)

This report summarizes the Council's major objectives, activities completed, responsible parties, timelines, and evaluation of effectiveness in fostering and enhancing services for individuals with physical disabilities in Wisconsin.

Council Composition

- CPD is a 14-member council made up of individuals who either have a physical disability, are related to someone with a physical disability, or provide services to individuals with a physical disability.
- 11 of 14 members were seated by the end of reporting year.
- 7 members with a physical disability.
- 2 members who are relatives of a person with a physical disability.
- 1 member who demonstrated interest in the problems of physical disability and rural areas.
- 1 member who provides services to individuals with disabilities.

CPD Objectives 2024-2025

Objective: Advance Legislative and Policy Advocacy

Activities Completed

- Monitored legislation impacting individuals with physical disabilities.
- Reviewed and discussed relevant state and federal legislation at quarterly meetings.
- Participated in United Councils Workgroup discussions.
- Contributed to development of advocacy action materials.
- Engaged in conversations around accessibility, building codes, transportation, and disability services.
- Attended the Self-Determination Conference and shared information about disability advocacy.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Legislative updates provided at meetings
- Council discussion documented in meeting minutes
- Evaluation based on engagement level and coordinated advocacy efforts.

Objective : Emergency Preparedness

Activities Completed

- Convened monthly CPD Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings.
- Focused on education, outreach, and disbursement of the following emergency preparedness materials:
 - 675 Visual Communication Tool Cards
 - 812 Emergency Preparedness Toolkits
 - 50 Emergency Preparedness Toolkits translated into Spanish
 - 581 Medical Wallet Cards
 - 733 Emergency Preparedness Forms Folders
 - 355 Emergency Preparedness Communications Folder
- Participated in multiple outreach events and conducted presentations, both virtual and in-person, to individuals with disabilities, support networks, and service providers throughout Wisconsin. Including:
 - America Veterans Conference, Green Bay and Madison
 - County Health Departments and Office of Emergency Management, statewide
 - Unified Voices: Engage for Change Disability Summit, Madison
 - Puerto Rico's Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
 - Movimiento para el Alcance de Vida Independiente (MAVI), Puerto Rico Center for Independent Living
 - Wisconsin Emergency Management Governor's Conference, Lake Geneva
 - Farm Technology Days, Baraboo
 - Functional Assessment Services Team (FAST) collaborative training
 - American Red Cross
 - Self Determination Conference, Wisconsin Dells
 - Aging Disability and Independent Living Conference, La Crosse
 - Aging and Disability Resource Centers, statewide
 - Office of Alzheimer's and Dementia Care
 - HEAR Wisconsin

- Caregiver Conferences, statewide
- County Health Departments and Office of Emergency Management, statewide
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), multiple locations

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Convened CPD Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings.
- Reviewed emergency preparedness materials and planning efforts.
- Review accessibility considerations in statewide emergency response.

Objective: Strengthen Cross Council Collaboration

Activities Completed

- Participated in United Councils meetings to improve coordination between Wisconsin disability councils.
- Shared updates across councils.
- Contributed to collaborative planning discussions.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Attendance and participation in cross council meetings
- Shared documentation of collaborative efforts

Objective: State Plan Development and Review

Activities Completed

- Collected member input.
- Reviewed previous plan objectives.
- Updated plain language.
- Prepared plan for with council priorities and fiscal year cycle
- Reviewed and updated State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Council discussion and formal vote.
- Alignment with bylaws requirements.

Objective: Governance and Work Plan Oversight

Activities Completed

- Conducted quarterly council meetings.
- Conducted Executive Committee meetings.
- Reviewed council work plan.
- Addressed vacancies and membership needs.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Quorum maintained for official business.
- Compliance with open meetings requirements.
- Review of council operations and participation.

Evaluation of Council Performance

In accordance with bylaws, the Council evaluated its effectiveness in fostering and enhancing services for individuals with physical disabilities.

Evaluation Criteria

- Achievement of work plan objectives
- Member participation and attendance
- Legislative engagement
- Collaboration with partner councils
- Governance compliance

Findings

- The Council maintained regular meetings and quorum requirements.
- Members actively engaged in legislative and policy discussions.
- Cross council collaboration increased coordination of disability advocacy efforts.
- Emergency preparedness remained an ongoing focus area.
- Vacancies presented challenges but did not prevent council business.
- During the 2024–2025 council year, CPD held:
 - Quarterly Full Council Meetings

- Monthly Executive Committee Meetings
- Monthly Emergency Preparedness Committee Meetings
- Monthly Subcommittee meetings
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Employment and Health
- Meeting minutes document discussions, motions, and action items.

Areas for Continued Improvement

- Fill remaining vacancies.
- Increase measurable outcomes tied to objectives.
- Enhance stakeholder outreach and communication.
- Develop clearer tracking for legislative priorities.

Conclusion

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities remained committed during the 2024–2025 council year to advancing policies, improving systems, and strengthening collaboration to better serve individuals with physical disabilities throughout Wisconsin.

The Council will continue to build upon this foundation in the upcoming council year.

The CPD was created by the Wisconsin Legislature, [WI State Statute 46.29](#), in 1989 and is administratively attached to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). For questions, comments and concerns please contact [Angela Brenna](#) at 608-266-0128 or angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

To learn more about the specifics of our mission, visit: dhs.wisconsin.gov/cpd