



Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) Quarterly Open Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: Friday, July 18, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Online via [Zoom](#) and telephone, Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

Prepared by: Angela Brenna, DHS on July 19, 2025

Minutes Status: APPROVED.

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson Ben Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. Roll Call

- **CPD Members Present:** Chairperson Ben Barrett, Vice Chairperson Jason Ostrowski, Secretary Jackie Gordon, Ramsey Lee, Karen Secor, Artrell Mason, Stacy Ellingen, Julie Blasky and Charles Vandenplas.
- **CPD Liaisons Present:** Jeremy Kaul (DSPS), Sarah Smith (OCI) Taqwanya Smith (WisDOT), and Eva Kubinski (DPI).
- **DHS Staff Present:** Angela Brenna, Zachary Davenport, and Lisa Sobczyk.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Charles Vandenplas made a motion to approve the July 18, 2025, CPD Quarterly Meeting Agenda. Jackie Gordon seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Charles Vandenplas made a motion to approve the February 11, 2025, CPD Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Artrell Mason seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment (10:15 AM to 10:25 AM)

- Public Comment was held from 10:15 AM to 10:25 AM. No public comment received.

6. Discuss CPD Membership

- 3 vacancies on CPD.
- Jason and Ben supported changing tactics to increase engagement and bring in new members.
- Members emphasized the importance of returning to in-person meetings and recruiting younger members.
- Julie suggested inviting potential members to attend a meeting before appointment to learn about the Council.
- Jackie asked whether a Membership Committee currently exists; Angela confirmed that existing subcommittees (except Employment, Health, and Executive) are inactive.
- Members discussed possibly moving away from multiple subcommittees to focus efforts through the full Council and Executive Committee.
- Members agreed on the value of developing a mentorship structure to support new members and help them feel confident contributing to meetings.
- Suggestions included:
 - Pairing new members with experienced mentors (e.g., as Eva noted, her past mentorship by Ben Barrett and Jeff Fox was valuable).
 - Allowing “new member cohorts” to connect and build relationships.
 - Encouraging quieter members to engage comfortably in virtual meetings.

7. Discuss GCPD United Councils Workgroup

- Angela shared that GCPD is organizing a United Councils Work Group under the Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities to bring all state councils together at least twice per year.
- The meetings would mirror Engage for Change events—bringing advocates together to share ideas, discuss policy, and develop actionable next steps.
- Proposed structure: Two-day events, where Day 1 would include cross-council collaboration and Day 2 would allow each council to focus on council-specific follow-up and action items.

8. CPD Liaison Updates

- **Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) – Sarah Smith**
 - Sarah reported on monitoring new federal budget and CMS rule changes affecting the healthcare.gov Marketplace.
 - Key points:
 - Expanded premium subsidies are set to expire at the end of 2025; changes will be felt during 2026 open enrollment.
 - Individuals will not be dropped midyear but may choose not to re-enroll due to higher costs.
 - Additional CMS policy changes include reinstating previous eligibility rules and limiting certain groups (e.g., DACA recipients) from marketplace coverage.
- **Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Taqwanya Smith**
 - Taqwanya Smith reported that DOT’s ADA Transition Plan will be published in early August and open for a 30-day public comment period.
 - Taqwanya shared that the first adult changing station opening at the Sparta Rest Area (Monroe County) in October 2025, following CPD’s advocacy. Next stations planned for Manitowoc County rest areas opening June 2026.
 - Taqwanya shared that there are additional ADA improvements at Amtrak stations, Milwaukee DMV centers, and rest areas statewide.
- **Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Karen Preuss**
 - Karen introduced herself as the new DWD liaison for CPD.

- Karen shared that DVR exceeded their successful consumer closure goal by 4%.
- **Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, Jeremy Kaukl**
 - **Jeremy provided the following updates:**
 - The WI Supreme Court ruled that the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules cannot block rules from advancing through the Legislature.
 - DSPS expects to formally adopt the 2021 building codes in the coming months which will align with Wisconsin's accessibility standards – replacing the 20089 version currently in use.
 - DSPS is planning training sessions for inspectors once the new standards are implemented.

9. Dan Johnson Award Updates

- Members discussed putting the award into a on-going cycle for receiving nominations throughout the year.

10. Discuss Federal and State Legislative Updates

- Zachary Davenport shared some policy updates flagged for monitoring/action:
 - Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act proposed change – would roll back disability hiring goals/self-ID requirements for federal contractors.
Public comment due: Oct 24, 2025.
- **Ramsey Lee shared** that DHS put out a request for proposal, RFP, to run the whole state. Ramsey shared that this could be problematic for a lot of people who have disabilities. Ramsey wanted to make sure that everybody's voices are heard. Also wanted to make sure if consumers have needs that they have a place to go.

11. Adjournment

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to adjourn. Charles Vandenplas seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.

About the CPD

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). CPD works to improve the lives of people with physical disabilities through public awareness, advice to agencies, and policy recommendations. To learn more about the specifics of our mission, visit: dhs.wisconsin.gov/cpd.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you need accommodations to participate, please contact [Angela Brenna](#) at 608-266-0128 or angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov.