



Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: Friday, November 24, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

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

Prepared by: DHS Staff Support

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson Ben Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

2. Roll Call

- **Members Present:** Chairperson Ben Barrett, Vice Chairperson Jason Ostrowski, Secretary Jackie Gordon, Ramsey Lee, Karen Secor, Artrell Mason, Stacy Ellingen, Julie Blasky, Charles Vandenplas and Tyler Williams.
- **Members Absent:** Jason Glozier.
- **Liaisons Present:** Jeremy Kaul (DSPS) and Karen Preuss (DWD).
- **DHS Staff Present:** Angela Brenna, and Zachary Davenport.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to approve the November 24, 2025, CPD Quarterly Meeting Agenda. Jackie Gordon seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Julie Blasky made a motion to approve the July 18, 2025, CPD Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Jason Ostrowski 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. CPD Liaison Updates

- **Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Karen Preuss**
 - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) reported a \$4 million budget shortfall and is seeking approval from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Governor's Office to implement an Order of Selection; no waiting list is currently active, and no start date has been set.
 - Individuals with an active Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and students receiving required Pre-ETS services will continue receiving services if a waiting list begins.
 - DVR served 33,445 individuals in PY 2024, including 5,900 youth receiving Pre-ETS and 428 individuals with physical disabilities in post-secondary training; DVR exceeded its employment placement goal with 3,338 successful closures, including 551 individuals with physical disabilities.
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) are delivered statewide through school liaisons and include 1:1 supports, group instruction, assessments, work experiences, transportation assistance, and benefits counseling.
 - DVR provides ABLE information through benefits counseling; outcome data on benefits counseling may be available at a future meeting.
 - Members discussed potential impacts of a waiting list and noted CPD's plan to send a letter to the Governor's Office and Legislature regarding DVR funding.
- **Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, Jeremy Kaukl**
 - WI adopted the 2021 ICC Building Codes, including the 2017 ICC A117.1 accessibility standard; these requirements took effect September 1 with a grace period through November 1. All new project submissions must follow the 2021 codes.

- The ICC A117.1 supplement on adult changing stations has been adopted by ICC but is not yet codified in Wisconsin; designers are encouraged to incorporate those provisions voluntarily.
- [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 450](#), which passed both legislative houses, proposes delaying building code adoption until April. Because the codes have already taken effect, the intent of the delay is unclear. DSPS expects the Governor to sign the bill but is monitoring its implications.
- Jeremy noted that Wisconsin building codes do not currently require adult changing stations. Those requirements do not appear in building codes until the 2024 ICC printing. If AB 450 passes, it may limit future flexibility by locking requirements into statute rather than code updates. Jeremy anticipates that adult changing station requirements would be adopted in future Wisconsin code updates if not restricted by statute.
- **Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), Sarah Smith**
 - No report; liaison not in attendance.
- **Board on Aging and Long-Term Care, Liza Morrow**
 - No report; liaison not in attendance.
- **Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Taqwanya Smith**
 - No report; liaison not in attendance.
- **Colleen Larsen, Wisconsin Technical College System**
 - No report; liaison not in attendance.

7. ADA Title II Updates and Digital Accessibility Feedback Opportunities

- Angela shared by email prior to the meeting information about the DHS Digital Accessibility Stakeholder Feedback Group. If members are interested, they should reach out to Lisa Sobczyk.

8. Executive Committee Elections

- Nominations are open now through November 30, for 3 CPD Executive Committee members. Nominations should be sent to Angela. Once nominations close, Angela will prepare a ballot, and the voting period will run from December 3–17.

9. Emergency Preparedness Updates

- Karen Secor (Emergency Preparedness Chair) and Zachary Davenport provided CPD Emergency Preparedness toolkit inventory and FY2025 budget updates.
- The toolkit inventory includes visual communication tools, pocket folders, communication folders (English and Spanish), empty to-go bags, and complete CPD EP toolkits, with counts on record.

10. United Councils Workgroup/Program and Policy Updates

- Angela reported that the United Councils Workgroup is on hold due to leadership transitions; she will send out the new 2026 schedule when finalized.
- Zachary Davenport shared policy updates flagged for monitoring/action:
 - **ACTION:** DHS staff will send the policy updates document to Council members after the meeting.
- Members briefly discussed potential follow-up by CPD related to these policy issues.

11. Update on IRIS Program Grievance Policy and Procedure, Julie Blasky

- Julie noted that the provider portal is being worked on with the IRIS Advisory Council and will continue to monitor progress and remain in contact with IRIS representatives.

12. Discuss WI ABLE Program

- Angela provided an overview of 2023 Act 267, which directs the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to establish an ABLE account program for Wisconsin residents and gave an update on CPD members' prior meeting with DFI and DFI's implementation proposal. She noted the plan was not approved by the Joint Finance Committee and that the statute does not outline consequences if Wisconsin does not implement a program.
- Julie Blasky shared that, as of January 1, ABLE eligibility has expanded from disability onset before age 26 to disability onset before age 46, increasing the number of eligible individuals.
- Angela noted that 46 states have implemented ABLE programs, and Wisconsin remains one of the few without a state program. Members discussed the need for outreach and potential CPD involvement (e.g., a

committee or workgroup) to increase awareness of ABLE and access to the program.

- Members discussed that Wisconsin does not currently track residents using ABLE accounts or the related tax credits. Julie suggested exploring whether the Department of Revenue could provide data on the number of residents who claimed the ABLE tax credit.
- Artrell Mason reported on a financial planning session at Independence First (with Summit Credit Union) where ABLE accounts were mentioned, noting that some financial institutions inform people about ABLE but do not offer the accounts, and that better communication between financial institutions and disability advocates is needed.
- Julie suggested that CPD and disability advocates promote the national ABLE clearinghouse and encourage Wisconsinites to compare state programs (e.g., residency rules, card fees, minimum balances).
- **ACTION:**
 - Angela will send the DFI report and recommendations on establishing a Wisconsin ABLE program to CPD members after the meeting.
 - CPD members will review the document and discuss next steps and an outreach plan at the next meeting.
 - Artrell will monitor upcoming financial education events in the Milwaukee area and share opportunities and contacts so ABLE information and CPD materials can be provided.

13. Discuss Upcoming Events for CPD Engagement

- Ramsey reported that ILCW staff (Jason Glozier) are working with an advocacy board on statewide grassroots advocacy for individuals and families and will seek more information to share with CPD.
- Angela noted she is maintaining a running list of major conferences and awareness events for 2026 (e.g., Transition Conference, Circles of Life, Self-Determination Conference, Disability Advocacy Day, Farm Tech Days, and others).
- Members discussed using these events and awareness dates (such as “Week Without Driving”) as opportunities for CPD outreach, including sharing ABLE information and CPD Emergency Preparedness materials.
- **ACTION:**

- As dates are confirmed, Angela will send the list of conferences and key dates to Council members and include CPD engagement planning on future agendas.

14. **Adjournment:**

- **At 12:13 PM, the Council lost quorum.** As no further action could be taken in accordance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law and the CPD bylaws, CPD Chair Ben Barrett elected to adjourn the meeting at that time. Formal review of action items was postponed and will be moved to the next CPD Quarterly meeting.

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.