



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

Friday, December 19, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

- Members Present: Stacy Ellingen, Julie Blasky, Ben Barrett, Ramsey Lee, Artrell Mason, Jason Ostrowski, Jason Glozier, and Jackie Gordon.
- Members Absent: Charles Vandenplas.
- Liaisons Present: Taqwanya Smith, and Jeremy Kaukl.
- Liaisons Absent: Liza Morrow, Sarah Smith, and Colleen Larsen.
- DHS Staff Present: Angela Brenna, Zachary Davenport, and Lisa Sobczyk.
- Guests: Karen Secor.
- ASL Interpreters: Kim Barr, and Nicole Keeler.
- CART Captioning: Margo Lucas.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Jason Glozier made a motion to approve the December 19, 2025, CPD Quarterly Meeting Agenda. Julie Blasky seconded. Motion carried

4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

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

5. Public Comment (Time 10:20 AM to 10:30 AM)

- No public comment received.

6. CPD Liaison Updates

- **Taqwanya Smith, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)**
 - Sparta Rest Area reopened in Monroe County, including installation of the first universal changing station in Wisconsin rest areas. Ben Barrett participated as a speaker. [Press release here.](#)
 - Next universal changing stations planned for June at Denmark and Maribel rest areas (Manitowoc County, I-43).
 - Amtrak completed ADA improvements at stations in Tomah and Columbus; next upgrades planned for Wisconsin Dells and La Crosse stations.
 - Taquanna shared an Amtrak news release link in the chat (attached to minutes).

- **Eva Kubinski, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)**
 - DPI reorganization: special education functions reorganized into four sections; continuing cross-workgroup collaboration.
 - Director of Special Education position eliminated; DPI is hiring a coordinator-type role (applications closed; interviews planned Jan–Feb).
 - Federal context noted: uncertainty in U.S. Department of Education staffing/structure impacts communication; DPI continues required work.
 - DPI released updated resources for Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA) and initiated a discretionary grant/consultant support for district training.
 - Link to the [FBA page](#) was shared in chat.

- **Karen Preuss Department of Workforce Development (DWD)**
 - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) enacted a waiting list for all three categories effective December 1.
 - There is no confirmed timeline for “activations” (taking people off the waiting list groups.) DVR is reviewing spending to determine sustainable activations.
 - **Program Year Highlights:**
 - Served 33,445 individuals total; 5,300+ identified physical disability as primary.

- Top three disability categories served: mental illness, physical disabilities, autism.
 - Provided Pre-ETS services to nearly 6,000 youth; 297 with physical disabilities.
 - Successful employment closures: 3,338 (goal 3,200; exceeded by 4%); 551 with physical disabilities.
 - Rehab technology spending: \$4M+, including assessments/devices; vehicle mods just under \$500K; farm equipment just over \$1M.
- **Jeremy Kaukl, Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)**
 - Current building code does not require adult/universal changing stations.
 - Accessibility code includes design provisions for adult changing stations when owners/designers choose to install them; DSPS will apply those provisions when reviewing and advising.

7. Executive Committee Elections

- Angela Brenna reported two nominations received to fill executive committee needs (odd number required). Nominees: Julie Blasky and Ramsey Lee.
- **Motion: Artrell Mason made a motion to accept Julie Blasky and Ramsey Lee as Executive Committee members. Seconded by Jason Glozier. Motion carried.**

8. Update from Julie on IRIS Program Grievance Policy and Procedures

- No update provided.

9. WI ABLE Program Updates

- Artrell Mason provided an update on the ongoing ABLE work sharing that Wisconsin is one of only a small number of states without an ABLE program structure in place; members discussed approaches to move Wisconsin forward. **Focus areas include:**
 - Working with the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI)
 - Connecting with national partners (e.g., ABLE Today) and other states' advisory groups

- Exploring coalition models that may reduce startup/operational costs versus creating a standalone program.
- Planning is tied to April activities:
 - ABLE to Save Month (April) (including the Governor's recognition in Wisconsin)
 - Financial Literacy Month / Money Smart Wisconsin Week (April)
- Angela noted Artrell and Julie will continue meeting and will bring updates back to CPD for continued agenda placement.

10. GCPD United Councils Workgroup Updates

- **2026 scheduling is in development; no calendar invites sent yet.**
- Planning underway with GCPD and others for an in-person Legislative Day concept (discussion focused on holding it as its own event, potentially in May, rather than combining with IL Day).
- Eva shared a model from another organization's legislative day and recommended including an orientation/training component (how the legislature works, how to approach legislators, and preparation with data and personal stories).
- Ben recommended adding a "how a bill becomes law" refresher (especially helpful for new members).
- Eva shared the [Wisconsin Legislature How a Bill Becomes Law](#).

11. Federal and State Legislative Updates

- Zachary Davenport provided an update focused on the Affordable Care Act (ACA):
 - Enhanced ACA premium tax credits are expected to expire December 31 (if Congress does not act).
 - Potential impacts: higher 2026 premiums for marketplace enrollees and possible loss of financial assistance depending on income.
 - A House of Representatives bill (HR 6703) passed without including extension of the enhanced tax credits; bill is with the Senate for consideration.
- Ramsey asked about WisconsinEye being offline; Zach noted he will look into it.

- Ramsey requested to learn more about **Senate Bill 578 (SB 578) and its companion, Assembly Bill 598 (AB 598)**, which aim to address situations where an incapacitated individual needs to move from a hospital to a nursing home or other facility but has no identified Power of Attorney or legal guardian. Angela will follow-up to get more information.

12. Continue Discussion: Upcoming Events for CPD Engagement

- Angela shared confirmed dates (to be sent out after the meeting for review):
 - Disability Advocacy Day (BPD): March 19 (Madison)Wisconsin
 - Transition Conference (TIG): Feb 12–13 (Wisconsin Dells) (noted as too late for involvement this year)
 - Circles of Life (youth transition-focused): May 14–15 (Stevens Point) (proposal deadline Feb 1)
 - Disability Pride Madison Festival: July
 - Farm Tech Days: July 13–16 (Stratford)
 - “Home for Everyone” planning was raised as a potential priority area for involvement.
- Members discussed recognizing disability-related awareness months on CPD platforms (website and social media).
- Jason Ostrowski noted CPD social media presence (Facebook); members also suggested LinkedIn and press releases where appropriate.
- **MOTION: Jason Ostrowski made a motion for CPD to have a table at the Self-Determination Conference in October. Ramsey Lee seconded. Motion carried.**

13. Digital Accessibility Project, Lisa Sobczyk

- Lisa Sobczyk shared information about the DHS Digital Accessibility Project which was created in response to the updated standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II. **PowerPoint attached to email.**

14. Review Action Items

- Angela to send the conference/events list and key dates to CPD members.
- Angela to attach the Amtrak news release (shared in chat) to the meeting minutes distribution.

- Angela to contact absent liaisons (including Liz Moreau and others) to request updates for the record and/or next meeting.
- Add agenda item (next meeting / exec committee): Snow/ice removal barriers at curb ramps/sidewalks; explore joint work with other councils and possible statewide public awareness materials.
- Jason Glozier to assist with gathering/expanding snow removal awareness materials/PSAs for possible statewide use.
- Add training item: “How a bill becomes law / legislature orientation” for CPD and/or United Councils (support new members and legislative day planning).
- Artrell and Julie (ABLE workgroup) to continue research and stakeholder outreach (DFI, ABLE partners/other states) and report back at future CPD meetings.
- Zach to follow up on WisconsinEye status and share any findings with the council.
- Self-Determination Conference table: Identify logistics (registration, materials, staffing) and coordinate with other councils as appropriate.

15. Plan the Next Meeting and Create 2026 CPD Meeting Schedule

- CPD members drafted an agenda for the next quarterly meeting.

16. Adjournment

- Jason Ostrowski made a motion to adjourn. Ramsey Lee seconded. Motion carried. **Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.**

Attachments:

- Amtrak Celebrates Upgrades in the Wisconsin State Legislature
- DHS Digital Accessibility Project PowerPoint

Minutes were Prepared by DHS Staff Support, Angela Brenna on 3/27/26.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 02/06/26

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About the CPD

To learn more about CPD, visit: dhs.wisconsin.gov/cpd