



State of Wisconsin

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Quarterly Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2025

10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Action Items and Motion Items

A. Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Action Items

1. **Action Items:** The DHS Staff will structure the speakers for the next CDHH Quarterly meeting in September 2025.

B. Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Motion Items

1. **Motion Items:** BJ Ermenc made a motion to approve June 2025 agenda as amended with corrections. Leah Simmons second. Motion Carried.
2. **Motion Items:** BJ Ermenc made a motion to approve the December 2024 quarterly minutes. Brenna Durand seconds. Motion Carried.
3. **Motion Items:** BJ Ermenc made a motion that Jonathan will be the official liaison to the GCPD. Leah Simmons seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
4. **Motion Items:** Leia Sparks made a motion to close our CDHH Facebook page. BJ Ermenc seconds. Motion Carried.
5. **Motion Items:** Katy Hagmeyer made a motion to bring a representative from the Center for Deaf Blind persons on the council as a liaison. Leah Simmons Second. Motion Carried.

C. Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and introductions by: Jonathan Petermon

Council members present: Jonathan Petermon; BJ Ermenc; Leia Sparks; Leah Simmons; Kathy Johnson; Greta Surprenant; Brenna Durand; David Seligman; Katy Hagmeyer; Billy Mauldin (ex-officio).

Council members absent (excused*):

Liaisons present: Kathy Johnson, Hearing Loss Association of American (HLAA); Lisa Demmon, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf (WAD); Jon Thomm Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (WisRID).

DHS staff support present: Christopher Rawlings; Amber Mullett; Jenna Sturgis; and Zachary Davenport.

Guests: Terri Matenear, Scott Kendziorski, Julie Reindl, Marcy Jo, Chantel Wiedmeyer, Jenna Sturgis, Jason Anderson, Adrian Klenz, Stacie Heckendorf, Adrian Klenz, Billy Mauldin, Denise Johnson, Andrea, and Scott Kendziorski.

Interpreters: Nicole Keeler, and Kim Barr.

CART: Margo Lucas

II. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Jonthan Petermon.

The meeting was available via phone at (669) 254-5252 and Meeting ID: 161 464 6689 and [via Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve June 6, 2025, Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meeting Agenda

- BJ Ermenc made a motion to approve June 6, 2025, agenda as amended with corrections. Leah Simmons second. Motion Carried. See Motion Item 1

IV. Review and Approve May December 6, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- BJ Ermenc made a motion to approve the December 6, 2024, quarterly minutes. Brenna Durand seconds. Motion Carried. See Motion Item 2.

V. Public Comment on Issues Impacting People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind (10:15 - 10:30 A.M)

- Jason Anderson shared that he has been approved as a Hard of Hearing CDHH member to replace David Seligman at the next upcoming meeting. Jason's term will start in July.
- Jonathen Thomm shared concerns regarding the interpreters who have been accepting interpreting jobs with proper license. He requested additional guidance on how to address this issue.
 - Amber Mullet, DHS, responded with guidance.

VI. Update from Ex-Officio Organizational Members

- Hearing Loss Association of America: Wisconsin Chapter – Kathy Johnson
 - Kathy announced that HLAA will host the *Walk for Hearing* event at Olin Park on June 8th, 2025.
 - Kathy shared that HLAA will begin offering a monthly virtual meeting option starting June 24th, 2025.
 - Kathy reported that the Wisconsin State Aging Plan was released in May 2025. HLAA reviewed the plan and noted that hearing loss was not identified as an

indicator of isolation or loneliness among older adults, and that communication accessibility was not addressed. HLAA will be meeting with the team that developed the plan to discuss potential collaboration and strategies to include hearing accessibility in future updates.

- Kathy shared that a new healthcare facility is being constructed in Verona, WI. She is collaborating with project staff to ensure that communication accessibility features, similar to those implemented at East Park UW Heath, are considered during construction.
- Wisconsin Association of the Deaf (WAD) – Lisa Demmon
 - Lisa shared that she will not be running again for President of WAD this fall.
 - Lisa shared that WAD is hosting its conference on June 13th – 14th. 75 participants have registered for the conference.
 - Lisa encouraged people to send a letter opposing Assembly Bill (AB) 292, which would allow the use of artificial intelligence instead of interpreters in court proceedings.
- Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (WisRID) – Jonathan Thomm
 - Jonathan shared that WisRID will hold its board meeting on June 8th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Water Tower View, Wisconsin. All members are welcome to attend.
 - Jonathan announced that the WisRID Annual Conference will be held in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, during the weekend of November 21st-23rd, 2025.
- Deaf Unity – Greta Suprenant
 - Greta shared that Deaf Unity has been focusing heavily on policy and funding initiatives due to recent federal funding cuts and actions by the current administration. The organization has also been communicating with Governor Evers regarding Senate Bill (SB) 147.

VII. Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Program Updates

- Board for the Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) – Chantel Wiedmeyer
 - Chantel provided an update regarding BEI certification requirements. She explained the Continuing Education Units (CEU) are required for renewal and outlined the process for maintaining certification. She noted that updated information and instructions have been posted on the Wisconsin DHS website, including details on how individual can complete and maintain their certification online.
 - Chantel also shared that BEI certification renewal in the State of Wisconsin is now open for enrollment until June 30, 2025.
- Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) – Stacie Heckendorf

- Stacie reported that the Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) Wellness Day event was held on April 12, 2025. A total of 189 participants registered, and approximately 131 attended the event.
- Stacie shared that 2026 will mark the fifth year of hosting the BHI Wellness Day. She noted that the funding approval for next year's event is still pending.
- Stacie shared that Denise Johnson will be collaborating with the BHI, and they will be participating in community and outreach presentations at Independent Living Centers throughout the state.
- Stacie reported that she is working with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) regarding mental health licensing requirements. The new mental health qualification applies to only initial license applicants and those currently practicing. BHI is exploring an alternative pathway to meet the qualification requirements (Explanation link: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/professional_services/200/203)

VIII. Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Representative Selection

- The Council discussed the replacement of CDHH's liaison representative to the GCPD.
- BJ Ermenc made a motion to appoint Jonathan as the official liaison to the GCPD. Leah Simmons seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Motion Item 3.

IX. Governor Evers Budget Update – Zachary Davenport

- Zachary shared that the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) held an Executive session on the 2025-2027 biennial budget on May 8th, 2025. During the session, the Committee identified several budget items that were removed from consideration, including:
 - Full Medicaid Expansion
 - Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Saving Account Program
 - Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
 - Home-Delivered meals
- Zachary also noted that the following items that may be considered, as they are not included in the list of motions to be removed:
 - Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
 - Interpreter Services
 - Independent Living Centers (ILCs) grants
 - WisTech
 - Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Fund.

- The JFC has not provided any updates since May 8th, 2025. Zachary will share the new information with CDHH members once updates are received from JFC regarding the next steps.

X. Determine Fiscal year 2026 Quarterly Meeting Agenda and Speakers

- The Council reviewed and discussed its priority areas and identified potential speakers for the next Quarterly Meeting in September 2025. The proposed speakers include:
 - Corey Axelrod
 - Great Lake American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Center
 - Howard Rosenblum
- The Council assigned this topic and coordination to DHS Staff. The DHS Staff will organize and confirm speakers for the September 2025 CDHH Quarterly meeting. See Action Item 1.

XI. Discuss the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Website and Facebook Account

- The Council discussed whether to continue maintaining or deactivate its Facebook account.
- Leia Sparks made a motion to close CDHH Facebook Account. BJ Ermenc seconded the motion. Motion carried. Motion Item 4.

XII. Review Council Action Items

- The Council will hold elections for the Executive Committee at its next meeting. ODHH will prepare the agenda for the September CDHH Quarterly Meeting, with a focus on communication access laws and service providers.
- Kathy Hagmeyer made a motion to invite a representative from the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons to serve on the Council as an Organizational Liaison. Leah Simmons seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Motion Item 5.

XIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 1:49 PM by vote of the members present.