



Wisconsin Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) Executive Open Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 9:03 AM

Location: Online via Zoom-

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1606289620?pwd=pjTdHm2YcX9jUID17JxYuaUs3VXau4.1> and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 160 628 9620.

Prepared by: Andy Altmann on January 5, 2026

Minutes Status: DRAFT. These minutes will be presented for approval at the next CDHH Executive Committee Meeting on January 29, 2026

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson Jason A. called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

2. Roll Call

- **CDHH Executive Committee Members Present:** Chairperson Jason Anderson, Vice Chairperson Jonathan Petermon, Secretary Andy Altmann.
- **CDHH Members Present:** Brenna Durand.
- **DHS Staff Present:** Jennifer Anderson, Zachary Davenport, Sign Language Interpreters- Kim Barr, Nicole Keeler, Live Captioner.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Agenda was amended with addition of the following items:
 - Correct the year on the agenda from 2026 to 2025.
 - Add the Zoom Link to the agenda.
- Jonathan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Andy made a motion to approve the November 14th, CDHH Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Jonathan seconded. Motion carried.
- Members reviewed the action Items from the November 14th, meeting minutes.
 - The committee agreed to approve minutes “as is,” then transfer into the official state template and upload to the website as final once formatted.
- **November 26, 2025 Executive Committee Minutes:**
 - Jennifer provided coaching and offered support on transferring notes into the template, with flexibility in how Andy captures notes before pasting into the template.
 - Andy made a motion to approve the November 26th minutes, including into the official state template. Jonathan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment 8:10 AM

- Public Comment was held from 8:10 AM to 8:25 AM. (example-No public comment received).
 - The group discussed creating consistent expectations for distributing agenda, minutes, and meeting materials in advance.

6. Agenda Item

- Process expectations for meeting materials. The group discussed creating consistent expectations for distributing agenda, minutes, and meeting materials in advance.
- **Action: Decisions**
 - Target timeline: Provide agenda, minutes, and any supporting documents at least 48 business hours before meetings, but preferably 72 hours prior. Include agenda and minutes as attachments in the Outlook calendar invite, along with any additional documents to be discussed.
 - Create a separate email conversation to interpreters about best practices and prep needs, rather than using meeting time.

7. Agenda Item

- **New Business and Future Agenda Items:**

- Law enforcement liaison topic
- Jonathan shared an idea to build or replicate a liaison model between law enforcement and the Deaf community, with possible engagement through Deaf clubs, Capitol Police, and state troopers.
- **Decision:** Bring this topic to a future full council meeting (not the next meeting, likely the meeting after), tied to Priority Area 3 (housing and livable communities).

8. Agenda Item

- Access to Independence (ATI) connection
 - Jonathan shared interest in engaging with ATI and strengthening links between DOJ, law enforcement, and community training and mentoring.
 - **Action:** Jonathan to send Andy the correct spelling for the ATI contact name (Jason Beloungy, spelling to be confirmed).

9. Upcoming Events and Meetings

- January 9, 2026 Quarterly Council Meeting Planning
 - Panel planning and invite list discussed
 - **Confirmed yes:** Kathy Johnson (HLAA) to represent hard of hearing perspective.
 - **Invited or in progress:** Jamie Chapman (mental health therapist), pending timing confirmation.
 - **Proposed:** Lance Weldgen (mental health provider, Deaf community perspective).
 - **Proposed:** Stacie Heckendorf (recommended by Amber from OPIL and supported by committee).
 - DeafBlind representation remains difficult to fill
 - Adrian Klenz (Center for DeafBlind Persons) declined as best fit and suggested contacting Mental Health Alliance.
 - **Action idea:** Work with Jamie Chapman's network to locate DeafBlind panel representation, including Minnesota connections.
 - Jason to email the full council requesting recommendations for DeafBlind representatives and other panel suggestions.

- Jennifer to invite Karen Odegaard (DHS) to attend and listen, with intent to help DHS hear themes directly.
- Jason proposed a facilitator agenda with time blocks (not necessarily embedded in the public agenda) and will distribute a rough draft so everyone and interpreters can prepare.
- The committee agreed it is helpful to have more questions than needed, then prioritize.
- Motion to approve the January 9 meeting agenda: moved by Andy, seconded by Jonathan, motion carried.

10. Review Action Items

- Jason to email the executive committee to review panel questions and propose priorities.
- Motion for the executive committee to pick the top five panel questions: moved by Andy, seconded by Jonathan, motion carried.

11. Plan the Next Meeting

- Members drafted the agenda for the next CDHH Executive Committee meeting scheduled for January 9th, 2026, from 10 AM to 2:30 PM.

12. Adjournment

- Jonathan made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 AM. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 AM.

About the CDHH

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was established by the Wisconsin Legislature, [WI State Statute 15.197\(8\)](#), in 1979 and is administratively attached to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Council is appointed by Governor to advise the Governor, DHS, and the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on issues and concerns affecting people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind. To learn about the specifics of our mission, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dhhcouncil/index.htm>.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you need accommodations to participate, please contact Jennifer Anderson at 715-502-9355 or jenniferj.anderson@dhs.wisconsin.gov