Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 2:05 PM to 3:35 PM

Location: Online via Zoom and telephone, Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

Prepared by: DHS Staff Support.

Minutes Status: FINAL.

Call to Order

- Tiffany Payne, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

Roll Call and Attendance

- **Executive Committee Members Present:** Dan Witt, Ramsey Lee, Ben Barrett, Tiffany Payne and Dan Laatsch.

- **GCPD Members Present:** Rebecca Rabatin.

- **DHS Staff Present:** Angela Brenna, and Zachary Devenport.

- **Guests:** Cheri Fuller and Lawerence Brown.

Approval of the Agenda

- Dan Laatsch, Chairperson resumed presiding over the meeting.

- **MOTION:** Dan Witt made a motion to approve the October 15, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Agenda. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the September 17, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Dan Witt seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment (Time 2:25 PM to 2:35 PM)

- Chairperson Dan Laatsch opened public comment early at 2:24 PM.

- Lawerence Brown provided public comment, sharing concerns about:
  - Ongoing transportation barriers in Milwaukee county including missed/canceled rides, appointment delays, and driver shortages.
  - The DHS change to a single Fiscal Employer Agent (FEA) for IRIS participants and changes in EVV timesheet processes.

Peer Support Orientation Checklist, Tiffany Payne

- Tiffany shared that progress shifted from a checklist to a structured orientation program including:
  - Short informational interviews with members (15-20 min) to gauge knowledge, goals and expectations.
  - Information about Roberts Rules of Order and WI open meetings laws, with a recorded training module and bi-annual refreshers.
- Timeline:
  - Nov 1: Tiffany will share a draft with the Executive Committee.
  - Nov 15: Executive Committee will provide feedback on draft to Tiffany.
  - Nov 19: Discuss draft with full GCPD.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Keep orientation as an action item for next Exec meeting.

Review and Finalize Chair and Executive Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- Members reviewed draft of GCPD Roles and Responsibilities document.
- **MOTION:** Ramsey Lee made a motion to forward draft to full committee for approval and voting at the quarterly meeting. Ben Barrett seconded. Motion carried.

GCPD United Councils Updates

- Tiffany Payne provided updates from the United Councils Workgroup meeting.
- Advocacy letter templates (co-developed by members incl. Jason Anderson, Jackie Gordon and Tiffany Payne) were shared by DHS Staff Angela Brenna. Letter format is in:
  - Individual
  - State
  - Federal

- **MOTION:** Dan Witt made a motion to approve the draft letters from the United Councils Workgroup will be used as letters moving forward. Tiffany Payne seconded. Motion carried.
- Zachary provided policy and program updates:
  - Federal items flagged for monitoring/action:
    - 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.
    - Concern: could make it easier for contractors to avoid hiring people with disabilities.

GCPD Transportation Committee Updates

- Ramsey shared some highlights from the meeting:
  - A Week Without Driving is from Monday, September 29–Sunday, October 5.
  - State Senator Melissa Ratcliff created a formal award, called a citation of commendation, to celebrate the 'Week Without Driving.' She did this to recognize and draw attention to the fact that 31% of people in Wisconsin don't drive. The goal is to help everyone better understand the experiences of those who do not drive themselves and may rely on public transportation, walking, or biking to get around.

GCPD Awards Workgroup Updates

- Tiffany shared that the GCPD quarterly meeting and awards ceremony will be held at:
  - Urban league, 2222 Park Street in Madison, WI – from 9-3:00, Nov 19

GCPD Election Updates

- Elections include Chair and one Exec Committee member seat.
- Angela distributed plain-language role/responsibility summaries and election process.
- **Action Item:** Members review and send edits/clarifications (aim for plain language and alignment with bylaws).
- **Plan:** Put final review/adoption of the roles/responsibilities and election process on next month's Exec Committee agenda; any bylaw-level changes go to the full committee at the next quarterly meeting.

Executive Committee Action Items

- Peer Support/Orientation checklist: Draft by Nov 1; feedback by Nov 15; finalize by at next meeting. (Tiffany Payne)

- Section 503 proposed rollback: DHS Staff will share information with Tiffany Payne who GCPD Vice Chair, who will draft comments and be submitting comments by Oct 24.

- Awards event: Workgroup to finalize date/venue after Sept 24 meeting then update Angie to initiate approvals. (Awards WG; Tiffany Payne, Angie Brenna)

- Elections: Members review plain-language roles/responsibilities & process; come prepared to finalize next month. (All)

- Nominations: Members should submit nominations to Angela Brenna.

Plan the Next Meeting

- Same items, items that come out of full committee meeting in November

- Transportation Workgroup – Milwaukee

Adjournment

Tiffany Payne made a motion to adjourn. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM

About the GPCD

The GCPD advises the Governor and state agencies on issues that affect people with disabilities. The GCPD also reviews disability-related legislation, promotes effective programs and increases public awareness about the needs and abilities of people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

To learn more about GCPD's history, mission, and work, visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd

Notice of Accessibility

If you need an accommodation to take part in this meeting, contact Angela Brenna by phone at 608-266-0128 or email angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov.