



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

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 2:05 PM to 3:35 PM

Location: Online via [Zoom](https://zoom.us) and telephone, Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

Prepared by: DHS Staff Support.

Minutes Status: DRAFT. To be presented for approval at the January 14, 2026, meeting.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Dan Laatsch called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM
- **Executive Committee Members Present:** David Morstad, Dan Witt, Ramsey Lee, Ben Barrett, and Dan Laatsch.
- **Executive Committee Members Absent:** Tiffany Payne.
- **GCPD Members Present:** Ashley Mathy, and Chelsea Polaske.
- **DHS Staff Present:** Angela Brenna, and Lisa Sobczyk.

2. Approve Today's Agenda

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the **December 17, 2025**, GCPD Executive Committee Agenda. Dan Witt seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approve Past Meeting Minutes

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the **October 15, 2025**, GCPD Executive Committee Minutes. Ramsey Lee seconded. Motion carried.

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

- Ramsey Lee reported receiving public comment (via email) raising concerns related to funding for [Wiseye](https://wiseye.org). Angela forwarded the public comment email to GCPD members. [See attachment 1.](#)

5. Officer Elections

- David Morstad was announced as the incoming Chair.
- Executive Committee Member seat (tie/resolution)
 - A tie occurred for the Executive Committee member seat between Ben Barrett, Chelsea Polaske and Dan Idzikowski
 - Dan Idzikowski subsequently resigned/withdrew from the committee, reducing the tie to two candidates.
 - The Executive Committee discussed tie-resolution options (runoff vote, vote by those present, random selection such as coin toss/drawing, etc.).
 - Ben Barrett later stated he would withdraw from the race, noting he would remain active and involved regardless.
 - Chelsea Polaski was announced as the newest Executive Committee member following Ben's withdrawal.

6. 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 as item 2.

7. Discussion and Follow-up From GCPD Quarterly Meeting

- The Executive Committee discussed edits to a draft letter regarding DVR's waiting list and funding. Key points included:
 - Members discussed incorporating updated/accurate funding language (including match/federal draw-down concepts).
 - Ben Barrett recommended keeping the funding request framed around fully funding the match to capture federal dollars, rather than a precise dollar amount.
 - The group discussed sending the letter to the Governor's Office and legislative leaders.
 - **Action Item:** Dan Laatsch will send updated language to Angela Brenna to share with the full committee for approval.
- Workplan Updates
 - David Morstad noted the work plan needs updates reflecting new priorities (including digital accessibility) and removing outdated items (e.g., items no longer applicable under Opportunities and Access).

- **Action Item:** David Morstad will draft proposed work plan language and send it to the Executive Committee ahead of the January quarterly meeting for review, then bring a recommendation to the full committee.

8. Review and Finalize Peer Support/Orientation Checklist

- Item was tabled because Tiffany was unable to attend, and materials were not available for review.

9. GCPD United Councils Discussion

- Angela Brenna noted calendar dates/planning were not yet distributed and that this item would remain a standing agenda topic as scheduling and planning progress.

10. GCPD Awards Workgroup Updates

- David Morstad reported a process breakdown: the award recipient organization CITEE, contact Elizabeth Watson, was not informed in advance and did not attend the awards presentation.
- Options to follow-up on presenting them their award were discussed:
 - Mail the award (least preferred)
 - Deliver/present the award in person soon (e.g., David presenting at UWM)
 - Present the award at the next in-person GCPD meeting/ceremony in 2026
- David Morstad will reach out to the GCPD Awards workgroup for feedback on follow-up.

11. Adjournment

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to adjourn. Dan Witt seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 PM.

ATTACHMENT 1.

From: John Schroeder

Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 9:36 AM

Subject: WisEye Messaging

Hi Ramsey, John here with WisEye. Hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

Would you have time to connect on WisEye? You may have seen the news on our funding status, and I wanted to see if it may be within your mission's guidelines to communicate our funding situation and mission to your members and folks you work with on disability rights issues? No pressure whatsoever, but I wanted to see if there may be an opportunity to do something - to be defined by you and what you may be able to do - via your traditional COMS methodology. For instance your email newsletter?

Our goal is to raise awareness primarily. Despite producing public policy content since 2007, there are still many who are not aware of our mission, and we are at risk of having to shut the channel down.

Again, no pressure. Let me know what you think, and I'd be happy to jump onto a call.

Appreciate the time.

--

John Schroeder

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