



# Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Website: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd) ○ PO Box 2659, Madison, WI 53701

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

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025, from 2:05 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.**

### **Executive Committee Members Present:**

- Tiffany Payne, Dan Witt, Ben Barrett, Dan Laatsch, and Ramsey Lee.

### **GCPD Voting Members Present:**

- Cindy Bentley and David Morstad.

### **DHS Support Staff Present:**

- Zachary Davenport, Lisa Sobczyk, Ashley Baker and Angela Brenna.

### **American Sign Language Interpreters Present:**

- Kim Barr and Carly Bieri.

### **Guests:**

- Lawrence Brown, Community Member from Milwaukee and TJ Jerke, Wisconsin Business Enterprise Program Manager.

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

- Tiffany Payne, GCPD Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:07 P.M. Introductions and roll call were conducted. The meeting was made available via Zoom and by phone with Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

### **Review and Approve June Executive Committee Meeting Agenda**

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the June Executive Committee Meeting Agenda. Dan Witt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Review and Approve May Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the May Executive Committee meeting minutes. Dan Witt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Review Action Items from Previous Executive Committee Meeting**

- Dan Laatsch will draft a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor in support of shifting Medicaid funding from State Institutions to Community-Based Services. ***Item pending answer from Dan Laatsch.***



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- Dan Laatsch will contact Nancy Leipzig regarding the Employment Workgroup schedule and work items. ***Item pending answer from Dan Laatsch.***

## Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities (2:15 – 2:35 P.M.)

- Lawrence Brown stated that IRIS communications with IRIS Consultants (ICs) and Fiscal Employment Agents (FEAs) have not been done properly as he has not received feedback from his IC regarding transportation and what has been denied in his plan. Also stated that Milwaukee County is experiencing issues with the transit system in Milwaukee and not being held accountable for being late for pickups and drivers are not properly training for tie downs, stated that he has been in contact with Independence First for advocacy and will continue to monitor any budget cuts to transportation.

## Discuss Updates to GCPD Workplan

- The Executive Committee discussed current state of the GCPD Workplan being good and the focus of the Committee at this time needs to be more on advocacy and keeping a pulse on the state and federal budgets and sustaining services for people with disabilities.

## Discuss Federal and State Legislative Updates and WI Budget Items

- DHS staff support reported on Federal and State Legislative Updates.
  - Update on Texas v. Kennedy: States Withdraw Constitutional Challenge to Section 504.
  - Shared about State Bill 152 / Assembly Bill 176 that removes income requirements for Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support program (AFCSP). The Assembly's Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee held a public hearing on AB 176 in mid-May and unanimously (15-0) recommended the bill for passage on June 4. The legislation is now available for scheduling for a vote by the full Assembly and Senate.
  - The Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) released its budget papers with DHS initiatives including funding increases for Independent Living Centers, Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers, and to address caregivers' shortages. Also, information regarding paratransit aids for the aging population, people with disabilities and employment transportation and mass transit assistance.
    - The Executive Committee discussed the need to continue to advocate for line items that would improve programs for people with disabilities.
    - **Action Item:** GCPD membership will individually continue to write emails/letters/make phone calls to advocate for state and federal line items that need to be kept intact for individuals with disabilities and funded or increased funding.



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- **Action Item:** Tiffany Payne will resend the letter that was drafted by GCPD to advocate for line items that need to be kept intact and funded or increased funding during the Engage for Change event that was in April 2025 to Lieutenant Governor's office and see if they can get a response from Joint Finance.
- DHS Staff Support shared about Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed rule to rescind certain Section 504 accessibility regulations. Some of the removed provisions may seem redundant because they overlap with the ADA and ADA accessibility guidelines (ADAAG). However, there were some concerns because removing some sections would weaken key protections for people with disabilities.

## Updates from GCPD Committees and Workgroups

- **Transportation:** Ramsey Lee reported that the workgroup met June 4<sup>th</sup>, and discussed transportation priorities, resources, and access.
- **Opportunities and Access:** No update.
- **Employment:** Ben Barrett reported that the committee is still working and gathering information for a manual and keeping a pulse on state and federal budget updates.
- **Awards:** Tiffany Payne reported that the workgroup met June 6<sup>th</sup>, and the award winners were selected. Three awards will be given out on August 27<sup>th</sup> at the GCPD Quarterly meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **United Councils:** Dan Laatsch reported that the United Council workgroup will be meeting next week. No updates at this time.

## Discuss July Executive Committee Agenda

- The draft Executive Committee meeting agenda for June is as follows:
  - Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
  - Review and Approve July Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
  - Review and Approve June Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
  - Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities
  - Discuss Federal and State Legislative Updates
    - Analyze State Budget (if passed)
  - Discuss United Council Workgroup
  - Adjourn



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## Review Action Items from Meeting

- **Carried Over from May 2025:** Dan Laatsch will draft a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor in support of shifting Medicaid funding from State Institutions to Community-Based Services.
- **Carried Over from May 2025:** Dan Laatsch will contact Nancy Leipzig regarding the Employment workgroup schedule and work items.
- GCPD membership will individually continue to write emails/letters/make phone calls to advocate for state and federal line items that need to be kept intact for individuals with disabilities and funded or increased funding.
- Tiffany Payne will resend the letter that was drafted by GCPD to advocate for line items that need to be kept intact and funded or increased funding during the Engage for Change event that was in April 2025 to Lieutenant Governor's office and see if they can get a response from Joint Finance.

## Adjourn

- Ben Barrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Bentley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.**