



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

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Teleconference via [Zoom](#), Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716

1. Call to Order and Roll call

- The meeting was made available via [Zoom](#), Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.
- GCPD Chair David Morstad called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM
- **Executive Committee Members Present:** David Morstad, Dan Witt, Ramsey Lee, Chelsea Polaske and Dan Laatsch (past chair).
- **GCPD Members Present:** Ashley Mathy, Jacob Bogost, Ben Barrett, Rebecca Rabatin and Cindy Bentley.
- **DHS Staff Present:** Angie Brenna.

2. **MOTION:** Approve the meeting agenda.

- Dan Witt made a motion to approve the January 14, 2026, GCPD Executive Committee Agenda. Chelsea Polaske seconded. Motion carried.

3. **MOTION:** Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the December 17, 2025, GCPD Executive Committee Minutes. Chelsea Polaske seconded. Motion carried

4. Members Reviewed Action Items from Past Meeting Minutes

- Work plan language draft: David reported he did not draft proposed work plan language ahead of this meeting and preferred to discuss work plan revisions as a group.
- DVR waiting list/funding letter: Angie confirmed the letter was edited after the prior meeting (Dan Witt provided edits) and updated language was completed.

5. Public Comment (Time 2:20 PM to 2:30 PM)

- No members of the public were present for public comment. David noted that if a member of the public joined later, the committee would pause to take comments.

6. Leadership and Executive Committee Vacancies

- The committee discussed changes in Executive Committee makeup due to Tiffany's departure from GCPD effective at the start of the year.
- David shared a review of the bylaws process for elections.
- Vice Chair vacancy is filled by appointment from the Executive Committee (understood as a simple majority vote of remaining Executive Committee members).
- After appointment, the resulting vacant Executive Committee seat is filled through a special election of the full GCPD.
- Members discussed Vice Chair appointment
- Ramsey Lee, Dan Witt and Chelsea Pulaski discussed time/representation considerations.
- **MOTION ITEM:** Dan Witt made a motion to appoint Ramsey Lee as Vice Chair (to complete the unexpired term through the end of the year). Seconded by Chelsea Polaske. Motion carried.
- **ACTION ITEM:** David will draft an email to the full GCPD to open nominations and run a special election to fill Ramsay's now-vacant Executive Committee member-at-large seat. Angie will assist with administration as needed.
- General Membership openings discussed. The Chair noted two open membership positions (excluding liaisons).
- Angie reported the Governor's Office contact will share current applications and requested input.

7. New Member Orientation and Peer Support

- The committee discussed prior work on an orientation/peer support concept for onboarding new members. Angie reported she had not received the draft materials previously referenced.

- Members discussed the need for a structured onboarding process and peer support to improve engagement and “knowledge transfer.”
- Agreement that this should be elevated into the work plan rather than left informal.
- Direction: David proposed revisiting placement of this initiative within the work plan, potentially as Executive Committee-led work, with input from newer members (Chelsea, Jacob) and involvement from the immediate past chair (Dan Laatsch).

8. GCPD Workplan and 2026 Priorities

- David shared anticipated work plan updates and requested input from work areas. Key points:
 - Employment work group: No longer active; major prior issues have been addressed.
 - Transportation: Ramsey and Becky have been active; Ramsey will coordinate with Becky on proposed updates.
 - Opportunities & Access: Chair recommended removing/retiring the first two bullet points related to a healthcare-student awareness initiative (no longer viable) and continuing focus on items such as broadband/telehealth and Assistive Technology Council efforts.
- **ACTION ITEM:** David will communicate with relevant committees/work areas requesting proposed edits to work plan bullet points.

9. Discuss GCPD United Councils Workgroup and 2026 Priorities

- Discussion included the purpose and current status of the United Councils Workgroup and the need for more GCPD engagement.
- Members discussed improving GCPD’s proactive role in advising the Governor/Legislature through regular brief updates (e.g., short monthly bullet briefs).
- Workgroup includes disability councils supported through DHS/OPIL.
- Meetings focused on program/policy updates and developing letter templates (legislators, decision-makers, council-level).
- Next meeting date noted: Wednesday February 4 at 2:00 PM

10. GCPD Awards Workgroup Updates

- David provided an update on the annual awards (Richard Blakely Award and Faulkner Award).
- David shared that he received feedback on how to follow-up on the 2025 award recipient CITEE. David will coordinate with Dr. Elizabeth Watson to deliver the award in person (Madison or Milwaukee), take a photo, and formally complete the 2025 presentation.
- **Action Item:** Angie will ship the award to David.

11. Annual Reports Discussion and Action

- 2024 Annual Report: Completed; does not require approval, but the Executive Committee prefers to include a formal vote in minutes for clarity.
- Add approval of the 2024 Annual Report to the agenda for the upcoming quarterly GCPD meeting for a full-committee vote.

12. Review and Consider Approval of DVR Funding Letter

- The DVR funding/waiting list letter had been edited previously but not formally approved.
- **MOTION ITEM:** Dan Witt made a motion to approve the DVR funding letter with the edits discussed and incorporated. Ramsey Lee seconded. Motion carried.

13. Preparation for Upcoming GCPD Quarterly Meeting

- David is working to improve representation/participation from Mental Health and AODA councils; he requested DHS liaison contacts.
- Angie will send Chair an email regarding a CDHH member update.
- David contacted key liaisons (Tech Colleges, Universities, DWD, DPI) encouraging attendance or written reports in advance to strengthen relationships.

14. Plan for the Next Meeting

- Rescheduled the next meeting to February 25 because of schedule conflicts.

15. Adjournment

- **MOTION ITEM:** Ramsey Lee made a motion to adjourn. Dan Witt seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.

Action Items from Meeting

- Chair will communicate with relevant committees/work areas requesting proposed edits to work plan bullet points.
- Angie will ship the CITEE award to David.

Minutes Status

- Minutes were Prepared by DHS Staff Support, Angela Brenna on 1/14/26.
- These minutes are in final form. They were approved by the governmental body on: 2/25/26.

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