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

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order**
    - 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.
2. **Attendance**
    - **Executive Committee Members Present:** David Morstad, Dan Witt, Ben Barrett and Chelsea Polaske, and Ramsey Lee.
    - **Executive Committee Members Absent:** N/A
    - **GCPD Members Present:** Brenna Durand, Jacob Bogost, Laura Lee Wright, and Tim Ross.
    - **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport; and Angela Brenna.
    - **ASL Interpreter Services:** Carly Bieri and Nicole Keeler.
3. **Approval of the Meeting Agenda**
    - Chelsea Polaski made a motion to approve the March 18, 2026, Executive Committee Agenda. Dan Witt seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**
    - Angela Brenna noted two corrections to the February 25, 2026, meeting minutes.
        - The meeting date was corrected from December to February.
        - Jackie Gordon was corrected from "member" to "guest."

- Dan Witt made a motion to approve the corrected February 25, 2026, GCPD Executive Committee Minutes. Chelsea Polaske seconded. Motion carried.

5. **Public Comment (Time 2:20 PM to 2:30 PM)**
    - No members of the public were present for public comment. The Chair noted that if a member of the public joined later, the committee would pause to take comments.
6. **GCPD Workplan and 2026 Priorities**
    - **Broadband, Telehealth, and Assistive Technology**
        - The committee discussed broadband access, especially in rural communities, and its importance for employment, health care, and daily living.
        - Angela Brenna shared that grants have been awarded to expand broadband in some northern Wisconsin communities and will send additional information after the meeting.
        - Members discussed challenges with electronic visit verification for home care services in areas without reliable internet or 5G. These limitations create barriers for providers to document and bill for services.
        - The committee also discussed:
            - Gaps between infrastructure expansion and actual access to homes
            - Affordability issues in areas with limited internet providers.
        - Possible next steps include:
            - Following up with the Public Service Commission
            - Contacting the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access
            - ACTION ITEM: Angela Brenna will find contact information and David Morstad will follow up on this topic.
    - **Engagement with Governor and Lt. Governor's Office**
        - The committee welcomed Tim Ross from the Lieutenant Governor's Office.
        - Tim Ross shared the following:
            - He plans to attend meetings regularly when possible

        - He is available as a direct contact for the committee
        - The committee discussed the importance of maintaining consistent communication with the Governor's Office.
- **Engagement with GCPD Liaisons**
    - The committee discussed engagement with agency partners, including:
        - Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
        - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
        - Technical colleges
        - University of Wisconsin System
- **Transportation Volunteer Driver Issue**
    - The committee discussed challenges affecting volunteer driver programs including:
        - Some insurers are treating volunteer driver mileage reimbursement as commercial activity.
        - This can increase premiums or change coverage requirements.
        - As a result, some volunteer drivers are no longer able to participate.
    - Proposed legislation (LRB-4850) would:
        - Prevent insurers from penalizing volunteer drivers solely for volunteering
        - Clarify that reimbursement is not commercial income
    - The committee expressed interest in continued follow-up and potential advocacy.

7. **Discuss GCPD United Councils Workgroup**

- The Chair went over the mission and membership make-up of the United Councils Workgroup.
- The group remains a separate work group, not a formal GCPD committee.
- It helps identify shared cross-disability priorities.
- It can respond more quickly to emerging issues.
- Engage for Change Planning

- Angela Brenna provided an update on the Engage for Change event scheduled for August 13, 2026. Updates include:
    - The event will likely be held at Monona Terrace due to accessibility needs.
    - A draft agenda is being developed and will be shared for input.
    - The event will focus on:
        - Advocacy skills.
        - Identifying shared priorities.
        - Communicating with policymakers.
        - Creating opportunities for dialogue with decision-makers.

8. GCPD Awards Workgroup Updates

- David Morstad provided an update on the annual awards (Richard Blakely Award and Falconer Award).
    - There are no current nominations yet, as the request for nominations just went out this month.
- Action Item: Angela Brenna will send out reminder.
- Members noted:
    - Chelsea Polaski plans to submit a nomination.
    - David Morstad plans to submit a nomination.

9. Assembly Bill 598 Concerns

- Dan Witt raised concerns about AB 598, which could allow hospitals to appoint health care decision-makers in certain situations.
- Concerns discussed:
    - Potential impact on individual rights.
    - Risk of bypassing supported decision-making processes.
    - Possible implications for autonomy and consent.
    - Jacob Bogost also noted concerns from a medical perspective.

10. Adjournment

- Ben Barrett made a motion to adjourn. Ramsey Lee seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Action Items from Meeting

- Angela Brenna
  - Send members additional information on broadband expansion.
  - Share contact information for Governor's Task force on Broadband Access to David Morstad.
  - Send reminder to GCPD members about award nomination and deadlines.
  - Share draft agenda for the United Councils Engage for Change event for input.
- David Morstad
  - Follow up with Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access.
- All GCPD Executive Committee Members
  - Consider and submit nominations for both Falconer and Blakely Awards.

Minutes were Prepared by DHS Staff Support, Angela Brenna on 3/18/26.

These minutes are in final form and were approved by the governmental body on: 4/15/2026

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