



Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd ○ PO Box 2659, Madison, WI 53701

GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 2:05 PM to 3:30 PM

Executive Committee Members Present

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

GCPD Voting Members Present

- Ashley Mathy, and Patty Zallar.

Guests

- Lawrence Brown

DHS Support Staff Present

- Zachary Davenport, Lisa Sobczyk and Angela Brenna.

ASL Interpreters Present

- Chantel Wiedmeyer and Nicole Keeler.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Welcome

- Dan Laatsch, GCPD Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. The meeting was made available via Zoom and phone at (669) 254-5252 with Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

Review and Approve Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- Dan Witt made a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Agenda. Tiffany Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review and Approve the Minutes from the Previous Executive Committee Meeting

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Previous Executive Committee Meeting. Tiffany Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities (2:15 – 2:35 PM)

- Ramsey Lee, GCPD Member, provided public comment. Ramsey shared that the BPDD is launching webinars on the proposed Federal Medicaid spending cuts. Members can reach out to Ramsey if they are interested in attending.



- Lawrence Brown, member of the public, provided public comment. Lawrence shared his frustrations regarding the accessibility of transportation for people with disabilities and urged the GCPD to advocate for improvements in this area.

Review the Results of the GCPD Election

- Tiffany Payne won and accepted the role of GCPD Vice Chair for the term of Jan 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026.
- Dan Witt has been elected and has accepted the position of Executive Committee member for the term spanning from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026. Ben Barrett will succeed Tiffany Payne on the GCPD Executive Committee, as she transitions to the role of GCPD Vice Chair within the committee. Ben's term is set to conclude on December 31, 2025.

Reports from GCPD Committees and Workgroups

- Ramsey Lee provided updates from the Transportation Workgroup.
- Dan Witt and Ramsey Lee provided updates from the Opportunities and Access Committee. The Committee has not scheduled a meeting for 2025 yet as they regroup.
- Dan Witt shared that the governor has implemented a minimum fee schedule for residential service providers funded by approximately \$250 million. Dan shared the Governor plans to include this in the biennial budget, which may total around \$500 million over two years. Dan Witt suggests that GCPD analyze this initiative and provide input, either supporting it provisionally or offering suggestions for fund usage. Dan Witt proposed presenting the development of the minimum fee schedule to the full group. Dan Laatsch suggested adding this item to the next GCPD Executive Committee Meeting agenda.
- Members discussed creating another workgroup to tackle items from the GCPD State Plan including the direct care workforce shortage, access to Mental Health Services and availability of accessible, affordable housing. The group agreed that asking GCPD members to commit to multiple subcommittees and workgroups may be too much and that there may be an opportunity to combine meetings.
- DHS Support Staff will email members an invite to the following GCPD Workgroups:
 - Award Workgroup
 - United Councils Workgroup

Engage for Change Updates

- Dan Laatsch provided updates on the Unified Voice: Engage for Change Summit. Dan Laatsch or Tiffany Payne will be attending the planning committee meetings.

Review Legislative and Policy Updates

- DHS Support shared information about [US DOT issues Final Rule](#) establishing Accessibility Standards for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way. This will increase accessibility



for transit users by providing local government and other owner-operators of the public right-of-way clear, inform, and technically defined standards of accessibility to guide their design decisions for new construction and alternations of transit stops in the public right of way.

- DHS Support shared information about [The Federal Trade Commission will require software provider **accessiBe** to pay \\$1 million](#) to settle allegations that it misrepresented the ability of its AI-powered web accessibility tool to make any website compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) for people with disabilities. This is vital for the state agencies to have the ability to make their website or apps accessible and educate/reminds the contractors that AI is not the solution or shortcut to fix accessibility issues.

Draft Next GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- Members will provide input on agenda items after the full GCPD Meeting.

Adjourn

- Dan Witt made a motion to adjourn. Tiffany Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.