



# Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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

## **GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 2:05 PM to 3:30 PM**

### **Executive Committee Members Present**

- Dan Laatsch, Dan Witt, and Ramsey Lee.

### **Executive Committee Members Absent**

- Ben Barrett and Tiffany Payne.

### **GCPD Voting Members Present**

- Cindy Bentley, and Ashley Mathy.

### **Guests**

- Chuck Fehl, Statutory Council on Blindness.

### **DHS Support Staff Present**

- Zachary Davenport, and Angela Brenna.

### **ASL Interpreters Present**

- Chantel Wiedmeyer, Kim Barr, and Carly Bieri.

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

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

- Dan Laatsch, GCPD Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:14 PM. Introductions and rollcall were conducted. The meeting was made available via Zoom and phone with Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

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

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

### **Review and Approve the Minutes from the Previous Executive Committee Meeting**

- Dan Witt made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Previous Executive Committee Meeting. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.



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

- Ramsey Lee and Cindy Bentley shared that the BPDD is launching webinars on the proposed Federal Medicaid spending cuts. Ramsey and Cindy will share information about how to attend the webinar with DHS Staff to share with full GCPD.

## Reports from GCPD Committees and Workgroups

- Dan Laatsch provided updates from the United Councils Workgroup. DHS Support emailed notes from the meeting to the full GCPD Membership. During the United Councils meeting, ILCW shared support for closing the three state centers and shifting that funding toward home and community-based services. Dan Witt shared that the governor has implemented a minimum fee schedule for residential service providers funded by approximately \$250 million.
- Ramsey Lee provided updates from the Transportation Workgroup. DHS Staff Support emailed members notes from the meeting for their reference.
- Dan Laatsch provided updates on the Employment Workgroup. Dan will follow-up with Nancy Leipzig to find out if the meetings are continuing and when they are happening.
- DHS Support provided updates on the Award Workgroup. Their next meeting still needs to be scheduled.
- DHS Support provided updates on the Opportunities and Access Committee. They have not scheduled meetings for 2025 as they have not agreed on what goals they will tackle.
- Executive Committee Members discussed creating another workgroup to tackle items from the GCPD State Plan instead of continuing the Opportunities and Access Committee. The Workgroup could form to address current issues 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.
- ***Dan Witt made a motion to write a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor in support of funding for home and community-based living. The motion was seconded by Cindy Bentley. Motion carried.***

## Legislative Updates

- Dan Witt reported that the governor has implemented a minimum fee schedule for residential service providers, funded by approximately \$250 million. This initiative is planned to be included in the biennial budget, potentially totaling around \$500 million over two years.
- Dan Witt suggested that GCPD analyze this initiative and provide feedback, either in support or with suggestions for fund usage. He proposed presenting the development of the minimum fee schedule to the full group. Dan Laatsch recommended adding this item to the agenda for the next GCPD Executive Committee meeting.
- There is an increase in General Purpose Revenue dollars to WI IL Centers.



- On February 18, 2025, Governor Evers delivered his budget address. The WI State budget covers a 2-year period from July 1 of the odd-numbered year through June 30 of the next odd-numbered year. DHS Support will review the budget and provide a summary to Executive Committee at the next meeting.

### **Engage for Change Summit Updates**

- DHS Support Zachary Davenport emailed registration for the event to members. Dan Laatsch is on the planning committee.

### **Review Action Items from Meeting**

- Ramsey Lee and Cindy Bentley will send information about the BPDD Medicaid Webinars to DHS Support Staff to share with full GCPD Membership.
- Dan Laatsch will draft a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor in support of shifting Medicaid funding to Community-Based Services.
- Dan Laatsch will contact Nancy Leipzig regarding the Employment Workgroup schedule and work items.
- DHS Support will review the budget and provide a summary to Executive Committee at the next meeting
- DHS Staff Support will send out calendar invitations to the next GCPD Quarterly Meeting.

### **Draft Next GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Agenda**

- Members drafted the Executive Committee Meeting Agenda.

### **Adjourn**

- Dan Witt made a motion to adjourn. Cindy Bentley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.