



## State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

1 WEST WILSON STREET, ROOM  
551

POST OFFICE BOX 2659  
MADISON, WI 53701-2659

Telephone: 608-266-9354

Website: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd)

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

Wednesday, August 16, 2023  
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

#### Action and Motion Items

##### A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** DHS support staff will send out an email to full membership requesting members for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workgroup and solicit a lead.

##### B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Katherine Schneider made a motion to approve the GCPD August 16, 2023, Quarterly meeting agenda. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the May 17, 2023, GCPD Quarterly Meeting minutes. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Ramsey Lee made a motion for the committee to developing a workgroup to work on the logistics of the Falconer and Blakeley Award. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

##### C. Meeting Minutes

#### I. Welcome and Introductions, Margaret Kristan, Chairperson

**Committee members present:** Margaret Kristan; Ben Barrett; Ramsey Lee; Tiffany Payne; Dan Witt; Julie Blasky; Katherine Schneider; BJ Ermanc; Dan Idzikowski; and David Morstad.

**Committee members absent (excused\*):** Stacy Stone; Pearl Fessenden\*; Gail Boy; John Hartman\*; Rhonda Staats\*; Nancy Leipzig\*; Justin Koestler; and Dan Laatsch\*.

**Committee liaisons present:** Eva Kubinski; Sarah Kuehn.

**Guests:** Jeff Fox, Council on Physical Disabilities Vice Chair; and Amy Puda, DHS Homeless Services Manager.



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**Captioning Services:** Margo Lucas.

**Interpreting Services:** PIE Interpreting Services: Sandy Peplinski and Derrick Cainion.

**DHS staff support present:** Ashley Walker, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resource (BADR); Angela Brenna, DHS, BADR; Zachary Davenport, DHS, BADR; Jason Anderson, DHS, BADR; Amber Mullett, DHS, BADR; and Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR.

#### II. **Margaret Kristan, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.**

The meeting was available via phone at 1(669) 254-5252 and Meeting ID: 160 667 0038 and via [Zoom](#).

#### III. **Review and Approve August 16, 2023, Quarterly Meeting Agenda**

- Katherine Schneider made a motion to approve the GCPD August 16, 2023, Quarterly meeting agenda. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

#### IV. **Review and Approve May 17, 2023, Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the May 17, 2023, GCPD Quarterly Meeting minutes. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

#### V. **Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities**

- No public comment received.

#### VI. **Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Benefit Presentation**

- Amy Puda, DHS Homeless Services Manager presented a PowerPoint on the Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Benefit. The PowerPoint will be emailed to DHS support staff to share with the Committee.



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#### VII. GCPD 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- The Committee discussed moving forward to announcing and educating about bringing back the Falconer and Blakeley Award at the upcoming October in-person summit and then have more time to gather nominations and giving the award out in the upcoming year.
  - Discussed possibly announcing at the Aging and Disability Network conference in the Spring 2024 or during the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Anniversary in July 2023.
  - DHS support staff will submit a proclamation by the Governor.
  - The Committee decided to forward with announcing the Falconer and Blakeley Award at the upcoming Unified Voices: engage for Change, In-person Summit and move forward with a Proclamation announcing GCPD 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - Ramsey Lee made a motion for the committee to developing a workgroup to work on the logistics of the Falconer and Blakeley Award. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
  - Ramsey Lee and Ben Barrett stated they would like to be a part of the Workgroup.
  - DHS support staff will send out an email to full membership requesting members for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workgroup and solicit a lead. Action Item 1.

#### VIII. Unified Voices: Engage for Change, In-person Summit

- The Summit will be held at the Double Tree East hotel in Madison, October 3-5, 2023. The registration will come out in the next few weeks and will be open to all Committee Members to register and attend.



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#### IX. Discuss GCPD Work Plan and Policy Initiatives

- The Committee discussed the GCPD Work Plan and the need to update the strategies and deliverables in the Work Plan. Also discussed moving forward with Policy Initiatives and taking this discussion to the Executive Committee.

#### X. GCPD Special Election

- Nominations are closed for the GCPD Special Election and Tiffany Payne was announced as the newest member of the GCPD Executive Committee, replacing John Hartman. Tiffany Payne accepted the nomination and position.

#### XI. Discuss 2023 Winter Election

- The Committee discussed the 2023 winter election of GCPD Chair and one Executive Committee Member-at-large seat.
  - Discussed moving forward with the election in the later summer/fall of 2023 instead of winter and the need to amend the bylaws as necessary.

#### XII. Updates from Chairs of GCPD Sub-Committees, Workgroups and Outreach

- ***Opportunities and Access Sub-Committee; Katherine Schneider:*** The Sub-Committee meets on first Thursday of month, bi-monthly from 10:00 AM-11:00 AM. The Sub-Committee is still focused on the recommendation of the reinstatement of the ADA Compliance officer/digital access coordinator and on how to give the Attorney General's office the power and capacity to investigate civil rights complaints, particularly those about disability issues. Discussed lived experience needed in post education experience.
- ***Transportation Workgroup; Rhonda Staats:*** No report.



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- **Employment Workgroup; Nancy Leipzig:** Report Attached: In July, the State Use Board approved all recommendations except one, and that is the recommendation to include a representative from an advocacy organization on their Board. Our State Use Board subcommittee is meeting 8/24 to review feedback (from basically one Board member). I don't know if there's been any action taken to find a legislative sponsor yet, that might be happening behind the scenes.
- **A Home for Everyone Conference:** Ben Barret and Ramsey Lee gave an update on the conference they attended and stated it was worthwhile for them to attend. Information and resources will be sent out as they become available.

### XIII. Liaison Updates

- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** – Discussed the top things happening in DVR. Continue to recruit, hire and train staff, making progress on Career Pathways Advancement grant, Working on Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027 State Plan, Implementing DEI Action Plan, monitoring consumer services and spending patterns, conducting leadership training for all DVR managers, ALJ refresher training on vocational Law.
- **Department of Public Instruction (DPI)** – Addressing Special Education Teacher turnover and shortage of licensed replacements: Due to the ongoing shortage of Special Educators in Wisconsin's public school districts, DPI has developed several resources regarding attracting, preparing and retaining Special Educators and Related Services providers  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/resources-attract-prepare-and-retain>, One resource provides information about how school districts can leverage their IDEA funds to attract, prepare and retain these providers  
[https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/IDEA\\_Allowables\\_to\\_Attract\\_Prepare\\_Retain\\_Special\\_Educators\\_Related\\_Services\\_Providers.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/IDEA_Allowables_to_Attract_Prepare_Retain_Special_Educators_Related_Services_Providers.pdf). WI DPI Special Education Council recommendations for Professional Development for those who support students with disabilities  
[https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/Council\\_Professional\\_Development\\_Recommendation\\_Final\\_January\\_2023.pdf#msdyntrid=7qNKiDXDBrJj](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/Council_Professional_Development_Recommendation_Final_January_2023.pdf#msdyntrid=7qNKiDXDBrJj)



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1mXeT5JMzrYXJRreXoqHb69IQ2mXZHg: The Council provided the two following recommendations. First, the council on special education recommends to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction a focus on professional development that is provided and implemented with building level/district teams of general education teachers, special education teachers, building and district administrators, and paraprofessionals. Second, the Wisconsin Council on Special Education recommends DPI explore ways that general education staff build their understanding of their collective responsibilities under IDEA to provide supplementary aids and services (e.g., accommodations) to students with disabilities and increase their capacity in providing access to age and grade level standards in the regular education setting through educator preparation and professional development.

- **Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)** – No Liaison Update to Review.

#### XIV. Council Updates

- **Council for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind (CDHH)** – No Council Report to review.
- **Statutory Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)** - No Council Report to review.
- **Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD)** – Distributed over 120 Emergency Preparedness Toolkits at A Home for Everyone Conference and will be networking at the upcoming Self-Determination conference.
- **Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB)** – No Council Report to review.
- **Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)** - No Council Report to review.



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### **XV. Discuss GCPD Membership and Attendance**

- The Committee didn't get to this agenda item due to time restraints. This item will be taken up at the GCPD Executive Committee Meeting.

### **XVI. Adjourn**

- The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM**