



Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

GCPD Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

GCPD Members Present:

- Ben Barrett, Tiffany Payne, Ramsey Lee, Ashley Mathy, Margaret Kristan, Dan Witt, Cindy Bentley, David Morstad, Dan Laatsch, BJ Ermenc, Patty Zallar, Rhonda Staats, Dan Idzikowski, and Justin Koestler.

GCPD Members Absent (excused*):

- Stacy Stone, Pearl Fessenden, and Nancy Leipzig*

GCPD Liaisons Present:

- Sarah Kuehn, and Eva Kubinski.

DHS Support Staff Present:

- Zachary Davenport, and Angela Brenna.

ASL Interpreters Present:

- Kim Barr and Chantel Weidmeyer

Call to Order and Welcome

- Dan Laatsch, GCPD Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05. The meeting was made available via Zoom and phone at (669) 254-5252 with Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

Review and Approve January 30, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- **Motion:** Ben Barret made a motion to approve the Quarterly Meeting Agenda with an edit to the day. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review and Approve November 2024, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** David Morstad made a motion to correct the minutes to make them accessible to screen readers and table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting. Margaret Kristan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities (10:20-10:30)

- No public comment received.

Liaison Updates

- **Elizabeth Watson, UW-System Liaison**
 - Provided notes prior to the meeting. See attached.
- **Eva Kubinski, WI Department of Public Instruction**
 - Provided updates at the meeting. She also provided written updates. See attached.

- **Colleen Larson, WI Technical College System Liaison**
 - Provided notes prior to the meeting. See attached.
- **Sarah Kuehn, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Liaison**
 - DVR is rebranding. They will request input once they are ready. Changing the name and the slogan. Changing the language. Central office is being moved to the fourth floor at GEF 1.
 - DWD and DVR are reviewing all policies to ensure best practice, accessibility and transparency.
 - Sarah shared how DVR determines eligibility based on disability and categories. She shared information that can be found here : [Policy Guidance and Eligibility](#)
 - DVR/DWD is changing their case management software.

Update from GCPD Committees

DHS Support requested members indicate your current or desired GCPD subcommittee or workgroup membership by completing the form at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com>.

- **Opportunities and Access Committee**
 - David Morstad provided updates from the Opportunities and Access Committee. He said that he reached out to AT Council Chair, Jim Denham, to follow-up on the Workplan goal to collaborate with AT Council on how to advise the state and local government leadership on ADA Title II digital accessibility rules.
 - David also said he discussed with Jim how to promote the broadband expansion. He shared the AT Council recognizes this goal as a large endeavor.
 - David mentioned that they are putting the Disability Panel goal on hiatus
 - David shared that the group would need to discuss and learn more about the Medicaid telehealth barriers and has given the AT Council and Laura Plummer, DHS AT Council Support, a standing invitation to the Opportunities and Access Committee meetings.
 - Ramsey Lee shared information about the [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Grant \(BEAD\)](#).
- **Executive Committee**
 - Dan Laatsch shared updates from the GCPD Executive Committee. Next Executive Committee meeting will be on February 19, 2025.

Update on Engage for Change

- DHS Support and Dan Laatsch shared updates on the Unified Voices: Engage for Change event that will happen on April 29 through May 1, 2025, in Marshfield, WI.
- Members discussed the difficulty of finding public transportation to Marshfield.
- **Action Item:** DHS will resend registration to GCPD
- **Action Item:** DHS will add a question regarding help with transportation.

Presentation on the Budget by Arielle Exner, Legislative Direct, DHS

- See The Budget Cycle Power Point and Talking Points provided with the Minutes.

- Eva Kubinski shared the DPI State Budget found here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/StateFinances/CurrentBiennialBudget.aspx>
- Justin Koestler shared the DOA Current Biennial Budget found here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/StateFinances/CurrentBiennialBudget.aspx>
- Arielle Exner will take more questions by email. Send any questions to DHS Support Angela Brenna, at angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Update from GCPD Workgroups

- ***Transportation Workgroup***
 - Ramsey Lee provided an update to the committee. He shared that SCOB has a pedestrian safety committee.
 - ADA Transition Plan WisDOT members can always provide comment and feedback
 - Ramsey Lee shared information about the Wisconsin Statutes s.85.21/s.85.215 that provide funding for specialized transportation services across WI. The annual 85.21 allocation has not increased in the last five years. From 2000 to 2022 the 60+ population increased from 909,367 to 1,519,222, a 67% increase. This trend means that the demand for specialized transportation will continue to grow.
- ***Employment Workgroup***
 - Dan Laatsch provided updates. He shared they are in the process of identifying the appropriate legislator to support the State Use Program.
- ***Falconer and Blakeley Awards Workgroup***
 - Tiffany Payne provided updates on the Falconer and Blakeley Awards Workgroup She shared the next meeting is on February 4, 2025, from 2-2:30 PM.
 - Tiffany shared that the nomination period isn't open yet but if members have nominations, they can send them by email to her and cc DHS Staff.
- ***United Councils Workgroup***
 - Dan Laatsch provided updates. Dan reported that he will be chairing the workgroup that is replacing the previous meetings titled, "Cross-Council." GCPD will play a lead role in uniting the six OPIL supported councils. The workgroup will meet on February 6, 2025.

Council Updates

- ***Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD)***
 - Ben Barrett provided updates to members. He shared that the next CPD Quarterly meeting will be in Madison prior to IL Days. He shared that CPD will be attending and that GCPD is also invited to attend IL Days.
- ***Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB)***
 - Patty Zallar shared that the last quarter meeting they updated their Workplan to intersect with GCPD. SCOB will have an Executive Committee meeting in February then Quarterly meeting in March.

- ***Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH)***

- BJ Ermenc provided updates. She shared that they are updating their workplan to align with GCPD. Focusing on goals of Deaf, HOH, Deafblind. BJ shared information about a transportation event that will be happening soon.
- Action Item: BJ will share flyer for transportation event to DHS Support to share with full committee.

- ***Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD)***

- Ramsey provided information from the BPDD Workshop about Federal Medicaid Updates. Slides from the presentation can be found here: [How to Tell Your Story to Policymakers Slides](#)

- ***Council on Mental Health and State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse***

- Members discussed representation from these councils and the need to fill these positions on GCPD.
- ***Action Item:*** Dan Laatsch will reach out to WCMH and Alcohol and Drug Addiction to see if there are members who would like to be member liaisons.
- ***Action Item:*** Cindy Bentley will reach out to her NAMI contact and share DHS Support information.

Discuss 2025 GCPD Quarterly Meeting Dates

- ***Action Item:*** DHS Support Angela Brenna will send out March 13, 2025, 10-1:00 – virtual GCPD Quarter Two Meeting Invitation. Angela will send out a Third quarter poll to members to determine the meeting dates.

Recap Action Items

- Dan Laatsch reviewed action items with the committee.

Adjourn

- ***Motion:*** Ramsey Lee made a motion to adjourn. Tiffany Payne seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Notice of Accessibility

The GCPD is administratively attached to the Department of Health Services. If you need an interpreter, alternate formats, or other accommodations to participate, please contact Angela Brenna by phone at 608-266-0128 or by email at angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

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