



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

DRAFT Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, from 2:05 PM to 4:35 PM

GCPD Members Present

Dan Laatsch, Tiffany Payne, Ramsey Lee, Cindy Bentley, David Morstad, William Crowley, Dan Witt, Dan Idzikowski, Ashley Mathy (BPDD), Patty Zallar (SCOB), Nancy Leipzig, and Chelsea Polaske.

GCPD Members Absent: Ben Barrett, and Rhonda Staats.

Liaisons Present: Sarah Kuehn, DWD; and Eva Kubinski, DPI.

Guests Present: Jon Schroder, Wisconsin Eye; Lawrence Brown, and Mark Hubbard.

Captioner Present: Margo Lucas

DHS Staff Present: Lisa Sobczyk, and Angela Brenna.

Call to Order and Welcome

- GCPD Chair Dan Laatsch called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM. Introductions and rollcall were conducted. The meeting was made available via Zoom and Phone with Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.
- Zoom meeting guidelines reviewed.
- Noted that Wisconsin Eye was streaming meeting.

Review and Approve the August 27, 2025, GCPD Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Amendment: Agency liaison updates (item 10) moved earlier in agenda (item 5)
- Typo correction noted GCPD listed incorrectly as "GPCD"
- Public comment section clarified -open for one hour, Chair will call on members of the public.

- **MOTION: Ramsey lee made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Nancy Leipzig seconded. Motion carried.**

Review and Approve May 14, 2025, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- **MOTION: Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the May 14, 2025, GPCD Quarterly Meeting Minutes. David Morstad seconded. Motion carried.**
- Reviewed Action Items from the May 14, 2025 Minutes:
 1. Sarah Kuehn will email Angela (DHS Support) a copy of the CIE bi-annual plan, Angela will email plan to GCPD Members for review and input. It will include ways to submit feedback. **Done.**
 2. DHS Staff Angela Brenna will invite full membership to the United Councils and change the dates to monthly. **Done.**
 3. DHS Staff Angela Brenna will add two agenda items to the Executive Committee Meeting Agendas Items. **Done.**
 4. Advocacy Day Legislative Listening Session planning to the Exec and Quarterly Meetings going forward. **Continue Discussion with United Councils Workgroup.**
 5. Revise GCPD State Plan. **Continue Discussion.**
 6. DHS Staff Angela Brenna will send out a fourth quarter calendar save the date and meeting information. **Continue discussion on dates.**

Public Comment (Time 2:25 PM to 2:35 PM)

- Lawrence Brown (DJ Larry Love): Raised concerns about the sole Fiscal Employer Agent (FEA) contract for IRIS, and about elimination of paper timesheets with electronic visit verification (EVV). Requested clarification on participant approval role. Expressed desire to serve on GCPD (application already submitted to Governor's Office).
- Mark Hubbard (via support): Commented on long-term care system fragmentation (IRIS vs Family Care). Suggested considering blended approaches to ensure choice. Will submit additional comments by email.
- DHS Staff Angela Brenna shared contact information for written submissions – at angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Updates from GCPD Agency Liaisons

- Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Sarah Kuehn
 - Published 2025 [CIE report and 2026–27 plan](#); link shared in chat.
 - Planning October Disability Employment Awareness Month events statewide.
 - Success stories to be released (Project SEARCH, CIE).
 - Major initiative: replacing outdated DVR case management system (“IRIS”) with new VISTA system (rollout expected by 2027).
 - Internal survey on technical specifications for statewide services in progress.
- WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Eva Kubinski
 - DPI reorganized (Special Education now part of “Student Engagement” section). State Special Education Director position open.
 - Federal special education funds were released Aug 1 following lawsuit resolution.
 - Wisconsin FACETS continues free weekly webinars for families.
 - New resources forthcoming:
 - Guidance on Act 20 reading requirements for students with sensory disabilities.
 - Tools for Functional Behavioral Assessments and Positive Behavior Interventions.
 - Emphasis on reducing seclusion and restraint.
 - Tiffany and Nancy raised questions on behavioral supports and funding sustainability. Eva confirmed districts remain underfunded (state covers ~25–30% of costs).
 - Eva Kubinski provided written notes that are attached to the GCPD Quarterly Meeting Follow-up Email.
- Other Liaisons Colleen Larson and Elizabeth Watson not present. No updates shared.

GCPD Elections

- Elections scheduled for December 2025. Positions: Chair and one Executive Committee at-large member (currently Ben Barrett’s seat.)

- Chair Dan Laatsch announced he will not seek reelection. He will remain as past chair to support transition. Members expressed appreciation for Dan's leadership.
- Nominations open immediately; close October 31.
- Voting window: Nov 3 – Nov 21, 2025.
- Nominations to be submitted to DHS Staff Support Angela Brenna.
- David Morstad made a motion to adopt election timeline and process outlined by GCPD Chair Dan Laatsch. Tiffany Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Action Item: DHS Staff will send out solicitation for nominations.

Roles, Membership, and Governance

- GCPD Officer Engagement and Support Strategies
 - Members discussed the need to clarify roles and responsibilities of the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Committee.
 - Action: An updated list of office and Executive Committee duties will be sent out by DHS Staff Support Angela Brenna
 - Discussion included adding the responsibilities of the United Councils Workgroup explicitly into the Executive Committee
- GCPD Workplan Discussion
 - Vice Chair Tiffany Payne suggested identifying the top three priorities each year to measure success.
 - Members agreed on the importance of increased outreach to the Governor's Office and state legislators, including scheduling meetings with policy analysts.
- Composition Bylaws
 - Discussion held on whether the bylaws should be updated to reflect current practice, including clarifying membership structure and Executive Committee roles.
- Executive Committee and Subcommittees
 - Members discussed clarifying the responsibilities of Executive Committee members and leadership roles.

- Agreement that the Executive Committee would collectively draft clearer descriptions for these roles.
- Current Member Openings
 - Two voting Member-at-Large positions remain vacant.
 - Statutory council vacancies:
 - State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) – vacant.
 - Council on Mental Health – still vacant, recruitment ongoing.
 - Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing – vacant, recruitment ongoing.
- Onboarding of New Members
 - Members emphasized the need for a structured onboarding process with peer support and mentorship.
 - Clarification is needed for new members on topics such as bylaws, open meetings law, and committee responsibilities.
 - Action: Executive Committee to consider creating an orientation or mentorship system so new members better understand responsibilities and expectations.

Update from United Council Workgroup, DHS Staff Angela Brenna

- Angela noted continuation of monthly meetings, role in shaping advocacy priorities.
- Next meeting Thursday, August 28, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM via Zoom.
- **Motion:** Ramsey Lee moved that the GCPD United Councils Workgroup draft comments in response to the WisDOT ADA Transition Plan. Dan Idzikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Update from Transportation Workgroup, Ramsey Lee

- See the notes from the Transportation Workgroup meeting 8-6-25 attached to the GCPD Quarterly Meeting Follow-up email.

Update from Awards Workgroup, Tiffany Payne

- Awards workgroup will meet this week to reschedule awards ceremony and will follow-up with updates to GCPD soon.

Updates from GCPD Council Representatives

- Statutory Council on Blindness, Patty Zallar
 - SCOB is working on their public comment for the WisDOT Transition Plan.
- Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, Ashley Mathy
 - Self-Determination Conference is October 21-22, 2025.

Review Action Items

- Angela Brenna DHS Staff to:
 - Send out Q4 meeting calendar “save the date.”
 - Distribute election process details to members.
 - Collect nominations.
 - Send out update of GCPD Membership
- Tiffany Payne will send reminder email regarding attendance
- Exec Committee developing a Checklist for Peer Support Orientation

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM

Minutes prepared by Angela Brenna, DHS Staff Support on August 29, 2025 and will be approved at next GCPD Quarterly Meeting in December.

About the GCPD

The GCPD advises the Governor and state agencies on issues that affect people with disabilities. The GCPD also reviews disability-related legislation, promotes effective programs and increases public awareness about the needs and abilities of people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

To learn more about GCPD’s history, mission, and work, [visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd)

Notice of Accessibility

If you need an accommodation to take part in this meeting, contact Angela Brenna by phone at 608-266-0128 or email angelag.brenna@dhs.wisconsin.gov.