



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

DRAFT Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

GCPD Members Present

Tiffany Payne, Ramsey Lee, David Morstad, Dan Witt, Nancy Leipzig, Chelsea Polaske, Rebecca Rabatin, Ben Barrett, Bill Connley, Ashley Mathy, and Dan Idzikowski.

GCPD Members Absent: Dan Laatsch, Cindy Bentley, William Crowley, Patty Zallar (SCOB), and Rhonda Staats.

American Sign Language Interpreters: Carly and Kim

Liaisons Present: N/A

Guests Present: N/A

Captioner Present: Margo Lucas

DHS Staff Present: Angela Brenna, Ashley Baker, and Zachary Davenport.

1. Call to Order

- GCPD Vice Chair Tiffany Payne called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM
- Introductions and rollcall were conducted.

2. Approve Today's Agenda

- **MOTION:** Dan Witt made a motion to approve the November 19, 2025, GCPD Quarterly Meeting Agenda. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Approve Past Meeting Minutes

- **MOTION:** Nancy Leipzig made a motion to approve the August 27, 2025, GPCD Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Reviewed Action Items from the August 27, 2025, Minutes:
 - Angela Brenna DHS Staff to:
 - Send out Q4 meeting calendar “save the date.” (Completed)
 - Distribute election process details to members. (Completed)
 - Collect nominations. (Completed)
 - Send out update of GCPD Membership (Completed)
 - Tiffany Payne will send reminder email regarding attendance (Completed)
 - Executive Committee developing a Checklist for Peer Support Orientation (working document)

4. Public Comment (Time 10:25 AM to 10:35 AM)

- No public comment received.

5. Updates from GCPD Agency Liaisons

- **Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Sarah Kuehn**
 - DVR will be starting a waiting list for services and held a public comment period on this subject on November 13th, 2025. Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) will also be holding a meeting to make comments on the subject as well. GCPD will discuss this more during Item 11.
- **WI Technical College System, Colleen Larson**
 - No updates reported to GCPD.
- **WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Eva Kubinski**
 - No updates reported to GCPD.
- **Universities of Wisconsin, Dr. Elizabeth Watson**
 - No updates reported to GCPD.
- **MOTION: Dan Idzikowski made a motion to request DHS to appoint a liaison to GCPD for the purpose of providing policy updates from Division of Medicaid Services, Division of Quality Assurance and Department of Public Health. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

6. Updates from GCPD Executive Committee

- Review and Finalize GCPD Roles and Responsibilities: Updated by Executive Committee to be in plain language. DHS support staff went over GCPD Roles and Responsibilities document.
 - **MOTION: Ben Barrett made a motion to approve DHS Support staff adding the updated GCPD Roles and Responsibilities document to the GCPD Website and allowing for editing and adding item to the document as needed. Dan Idzikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Review and Discuss New Member Peer Support Orientation:
 - David Morstad suggested having an organization chat available for new Committee members would be useful.
 - Chelsea Polaske suggested having a formal orientation process with the GCPD Chair/Vice Chair and being matched with a mentor/peer to assist with guiding and education for new members.
- Update on GCPD Elections: Tiffany Payne sent an email to full Committee membership as a reminder to vote by November 28th, 2025.
- **ACTION: Tiffany Payne will complete the draft of the New Member Peer Support Orientation within the next week and will send to the GCPD Chair to review and to push out to the full committee for review.**

7. Awards Ceremony

- Nancy Leipzig gave an overview of the awards ceremony and background of GCPD. Awards were presented by Ramsey Lee and David Morstad.
- Richard Blakeley Organization Achievement Award
 - Center for Inclusion, Transition, Education and Employment (CITEE)
- Micheal J. Falconer Distinguished Service Awards
 - Jeff Fox
 - Julie Blasky

8. Updates from GCPD Disability Council Representatives

- Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD), Ramsey Lee

- CPD is currently working on several projects. Request for stakeholders for the Digital Accessibility Project.
- Statutory Council on Blindness, Patty Zallar:
 - Update given by DHS Staff, focusing on being testers in the Digital Accessibility Project and focusing on policy and outreach regarding Medicaid and engaged in United Councils Workgroup and would like to attend GCPD meetings in the future.
- Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, Ashley Mathy
 - BPDD will be having a virtual meeting in the next few days.

9. Update from Transportation Workgroup

- Update given by Ramsey Lee, focusing on advocacy and education around transportation. Would like to plan to be engaged in 'A Week Without Driving' even in the fall of 2026 and will need to start planning for this event. Public transportation is exempt from the new Medicaid ID number requirements in 2026.

10. Update from United Council Workgroup

- Follow-up on Legislative and Program Advocacy-Discussion and Action.
- Discussed a bill that would allow a hospital the right to appoint a legal decision maker to place that individual out of the hospital and into assisted living or group home setting, etc. Many advocacy organizations are opposed to this bill due to not having a Power of Attorney (POA) in place and not having large support systems and this bill allows someone to be appointed without their consent. There is a legal process already in place that protects the rights of people with disabilities (i.e. POA) and this bill may diminish that importance. This discussion will continue at the Executive Committee Meeting.

- Discussed DVR facing an order of selection (waitlist) due to insufficient fundings. Link to press release: [Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Faces Funding Shortfall, Leading to Waitlist for New Participants](#). Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council (WRC) will have a public comment period on the DVR subject at the meeting tomorrow 12:30 PM-12:45 PM.
- GCPD discussed moving forward with drafting a letter regarding the DVR waiting list. Discussed requesting data from DVR liaison as needed for the letter.
 - **ACTION: Nancy Leipzig volunteered to draft a letter regarding the DVR waiting lists and will share with Executive Committee and then Vice Chair will sign off on the letter prior to sending.**
 - **MOTION: Dan Idzikowski made a motion for GCPD to advocate with the Governor's Office, the Secretary of Workforce Development, and Lieutenant Governor's Office to allocate sufficient funding for DVR to avoid waiting lists and address any waiting lists that are already in place for DVR services. Dan Witt seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **ACTION: DHS Support Staff will send out United Council Meeting invites for 2026.**

11. Review and Update the GCPD Workplan

- DHS support staff went over workplan priority areas which include supporting accessible affordable housing, mental health services, opportunities and access to services and resources, employment and transportation, and direct care workforce shortage.
- Discussed the need to focus and slim down the workplan actions and priorities to be able to tackle some of the advocacy issues. Discussed adopting the workplan as it is and breaking down the topics with specific actions. Discussed taking out the irrelevant items in the workplan and keep it evolving.
 - **ACTION: David Morstad will bring proposed language for updating the GCPD Workplan to the GCPD Executive Committee for further discussion.**

12. Stakeholder Engagement

- Discussed the need to engage current council representative membership and liaison positions that are currently vacant.

13. Create GCPD Schedule of Meetings for 2026

- **ACTION: DHS Support staff will send out proposed meeting dates/times for 2026.**

14. Review Action Items from the Meeting

- **ACTION: DHS Support staff will email out action items from today's meeting.**

15. Plan the Next GCPD Quarterly Meeting

- Discussed moving this forward for further discussion at the GCPD Executive Committee.

16. Adjourn

- **MOTION: Ramsey Lee made a motion to adjourn. Dan Idzikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM

Minutes prepared by Ashley Baker, DHS Staff Support on November 19, 2025, and will be approved at next GCPD Quarterly Meeting.

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.