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## **GCPD Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

### **Action and Motion Items**

#### **A. Action Items**

1. **Action Item:** DHS Support will work with the Cross-Council Chairs and Tyler Wilcox, ILCW Executive Director, to get a schedule of Council meetings on the Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) website.

#### **B. Motion Items**

1. **Motion Item:** David Morstad made a motion to approve the July 31, 2024, GCPD Quarterly Meeting Agenda. Rhonda Staats seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the May 2024, GCPD Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Cindy Bentley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Dan Idzikowski made a motion to approve the GCPD Workplan incorporating the additions and edits discussed during the meeting, while also allowing for flexibility to accommodate potential changes in the future. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **C. Meeting Minutes**

##### **I. Welcome and Introductions, Rhonda Staats, Vice Chairperson**

**Committee members present:** Margaret Kristan, Ben Barrett; Ashley Mathy, Rhonda Staats, Ramsey Lee, Tiffany Payne, Nancy Leipzig, Justin Koestler, Dan Witt, Daniel Idzikowski, Patty Zallar, Julie Blasky, Cindy Bentley, and David Morstad.

**Committee members absent (excused\*):** BJ Ermenc\*, Dan Laatsch\*, Eva Kubinski, Pearl Fessenden, and Stacy Stone.

**Committee liaisons present:** Sarah Kuehn, Elizabeth Watson.

**Guests:** Representative Jimmy Anderson, Bea Frazier, Joalyn Torgerson, Lynn Gilpin-Parks, Jessica Smith, Rebecca Coyne, Dan Parks, Ryan Yates, Bryen

**Interpreting Services:** Nicole Keeler and Carly Bieri.

**DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport, Lisa Sobczyk, Amber Mullet, Karen Odegard, and Angela Brenna, DHS, BADR.

**II. Rhonda Staats, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.**

The meeting was available via phone at 1(669) 254-5252 and Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716 and Zoom: <https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/16117861716>

**III. Review and Approve July 31, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Agenda**

- David Morstad made a motion to approve the GCPD July 31, 2024, Quarterly meeting agenda. Cindy Bentley seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

**IV. Review and Approve May 2, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the May 2, 2024, GCPD Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Cindy Bentley seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

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

- Ramsey Lee shared that the IRIS 5-year plan is open for public comment.
- Ramsey Lee shared that he is on the planning committee for A Home for Everyone Conference and will keep the group updated.
- Ashley Mathy highlighted the importance of increasing the IRIS budget and their use of plain language in communications.
- Dan Idzikowski proposed that the GCPD comment on the IRIS budget and incorporate it into the workplan.
- Patty Zallar recommended the need to amend state statutes to benefit organizations like Beyond Vision.
- Public comment received via email, will be reviewed at next Executive Committee Meeting.

**VI. Discuss GCPD Work Plan**

- The Committee discussed and edited the Draft of the GCPD Workplan. Dan Idzikowski made a motion to approve the GCPD Workplan incorporating the additions and edits discussed during the meeting, while also allowing for flexibility to accommodate potential changes in the future. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- Key Issues and Goals added/edited during the meeting:

- GCPD will continue to establish itself as the Committee of Councils, and be responsible for organizing cross council collaboration.
- Transportation
  - Members discussed the need for funding to ensure adequate transportation options are available.
- Employment
  - Advise DOA on State Use Program
  - Review updates on CIE, Act 178 data and infographics.
  - Support Work Incentives Counseling and Planning.
- Housing
  - Members discussed the impact of rising costs and insufficient incomes.
- Caregiver/Direct Care Shortage
  - Members highlighted the crisis stemming from low wages and high vacancy rates.
  - Ensure adequate funding within the Long-term Care System.
- Opportunities and Access
  - Will include digital accessibility and broadband as critical issues.
- Mental Health
  - Members discussed engaging with organizations such as NAMI to promote peer support.

## **VII. Award Ceremony**

- GCPD presented the Richard Blakeley Organization Achievement Award to:
  - Kwik Trip
  - Elite Cognition
- GCPD presented the Micheal J. Falconer Distinguished Service Award to:
  - Ben Barrett
  - Representative Jimmy Anderson
  - Dr. Elizabeth Watson

## **VIII. Updates from Chairs of GCPD Sub-Committees and Workgroups**

- **Opportunities and Access Sub-Committee; David Morstad**

- David Morstad shared that the committee is interested in expanding it's initiatives beyond Concordia University.
- The Committee is also interested collaborating with AT Council on digital accessibility.
- **Transportation Workgroup; Rhonda Staats**
  - No update to report.
- **Employment Workgroup; Nancy Leipzig**
  - Nancy Leipzig shared that the Workgroup is working on a letter to support reform on the State Use Program. They are in the process of identifying the appropriate legislator and department to move those recommendations forward.

## **IX. Liaison Updates**

- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**
  - The self-employment toolkit is being revised to simplify access for individuals with disabilities, addressing complexity in the fee schedule.
  - A public hearing for the toolkit revision is scheduled for August 12th, with the new policy to be available online.
  - Feedback has been gathered from the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council and CAP to assist consumers in the self-employment process.
  - A self-employment analyst has joined to lead the toolkit revision work group, aiming to increase self-employment cases for DVR.
  - Allison Gordon has been appointed deputy administrator following recent retirements and role changes within the department.
  - A comprehensive needs assessment is required every three years, with PCG conducting this year's assessment, due by January 1, 2025.
  - Surveys are being distributed to gather feedback on DVR services for the assessment.
  - The Department of Workforce Development is implementing state interviews to address turnover issues and improve job retention.
  - The speaker will transition to focus on the Integrative Employment Act 78 work group, managing activities across multiple departments.
  - An annual report for the CIE initiative was submitted to the legislature, detailing three comprehensive action areas for increased public accessibility.
  - Efforts are underway to ensure the CIE web page is accessible to the public, in collaboration with Laura Plummer.

- **Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)** – No Liaison Update to Review.
- **WI Department of Public Instruction** – No Liaison Update to Review.

#### **X. Council Updates**

- **Council for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind (CDHH)** - Jason Anderson provided an updated from CDHH. The council intends to develop a new strategic plan, which will be referred to as a work plan, aligning with other DHS initiatives. They reviewed last year's work plan and this year's objectives to identify elements that resonate well with the deaf and hard of hearing community. Their goal is to pinpoint priority areas and gather relevant information to ensure it aligns with the SHIP.
- **Statutory Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)** - No Council Report to review.
- **Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD)** – Ben Barrett provided an update to Committee members.
- **Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB)** – Patty Zallar provided an update to Committee members. SCOB is developing a workplan that includes collaboration and participation opportunities.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

- Nancy Leipzig made a motion to adjourn. Tiffany Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.