



State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

1 WEST WILSON STREET,
ROOM 551
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MADISON, WI 53701-2659
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Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Quarterly Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

APPROVED ON AUGUST 19, 2020.

Action and Motion Items

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** David Morstad will draft a letter to the Governor's office to offer GCPD's first person expertise and experience as a resource for the impact of COVID on people with disabilities and any policy or legislative issues, which may affect people with disabilities.
2. **Action Item:** DHS support staff will set-up weekly Executive Committee meetings and bi-monthly GCPD meetings through June 2021 as requested by GCPD.
3. **Action Item:** The Executive Committee make a recommendation to the full Committee on what the organization, structure, and function of GCPD's subcommittees should be.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Tom O'Conner made a motion to approve the June quarterly meeting agenda. Daniel Laatsch seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Maureen Ryan made a motion to approve the May quarterly meeting minutes. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** John Olson made a motion to approve the 2019 annual report as presented. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** John Olson made a motion authorizing the Executive Committee to discuss and negotiate with the Governor's Office and DHS leadership on what GCPD needs in order to fulfill a larger responsibility, to gain clarity on what they would like for GCPD to do, and to make recommendations to the full Committee



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on how GCPD moves forward in this capacity. Sandy Popp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Motion Item:** Gail Bovvy made a motion for the GCPD Executive Committee to meet monthly through September 2020 and for the full Committee to meet bi-monthly through June 2021. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **Motion Item:** John Olson made a motion that the Executive Committee make a recommendation to the full Committee on what the organization, structure, and function of GCPD's subcommittees should be. Maureen Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. **Motion Item:** Maureen Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions, David Morstad, Chairperson

Committee members present: David Morstad; Sandy Popp; Margaret Kristan; Pearl Fessenden; Maureen Ryan; Nancy Leipzig; Ramsey Lee; Rhonda Staats; Daniel Laatsch; Tom O'Connor; Wenona Wolf; John Olson; Gail Bovvy; and Ben Barrett.

Committee members absent (excused*): Kimberlee Coronado; John Hartman; and Dan Idzikowski.

Committee liaisons present: Colleen Larsen, Wisconsin Technical Colleges and Sarah Lincoln, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Committee liaisons absent (excused*): Eva Kubinski, Department of Public Instruction.

Guest: Julie Blasky.

DHS staff support present: Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resource (BADR).



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II. Meeting was called to order at 1:04 P.M.

The meeting was available via phone at 1-844-708-2569 and Meeting ID: 912 5530 5376 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve June Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Tom O'Conner made a motion to approve the June quarterly meeting agenda. Daniel Laatsch seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve of May 2019 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Maureen Ryan made a motion to approve the May quarterly meeting minutes. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities

- No public comment was received.

VI. Review and Approve GCPD 2019 Annual Report

- David Morstad extended a thank you to Sandy Popp for her assistance with drafting the 2019 annual report.
- John Olson made a motion to approve the 2019 annual report as presented.
 - Maureen Ryan asked about the status of GCPD's subcommittees to work on advocacy and work plan goals as listed in the work plan.
 - Sandy Popp stated that the subcommittees were discussed at the December quarterly meeting and GCPD decided to scale the number of subcommittees back.
 - Maureen Ryan asked if the annual report was on a calendar year or state fiscal year basis.
 - David Morstad stated the annual report is on a calendar year basis.



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- Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.

VII. Discuss COVID-19 and Impact on People with Disabilities

- David Morstad asked GCPD Council representatives to share Council feedback on issues regarding your constituent populations and the COVID 19 situation.
 - **Council on Physical Disabilities** – Many people with physical disabilities are homebound and afraid to go anywhere. Concerns growing about out-of-state visitors coming into town and COVID spreading. There are also less volunteer drivers as many are scared to transport high-risk people during the pandemic. Private pay accessible transportation is often too expensive for people with physical disabilities. There has also been voucher program for neediest residents, which has been lost, and has had a significant impact on accessible transportation for people with disabilities.
 - **Statutory Council on Blindness** – Food and transportation access has been an issue during the pandemic for people who are blind and visually impaired. People who are blind and visually impaired have also been experiencing extreme mental health issues due to social isolation.
 - **Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing** – Mask requirements are making it difficult for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to communicate. Deaf and hard of hearing community is frustrated with technology and accessibility including difficulty securing interpreters and overall lack of experience providing interpretation services remotely, smartphones, or video relay.
 - Pearl Fessenden shared that she has sewed 1,000 masks of which 150 had the shields in them to communicate with people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Pearl Fessenden stated using pipe



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cleaners and shaving cream has helped with keeping the masks with clear shields from fogging up.

- ***Discuss Meeting with Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's Office Regarding COVID and People with Disabilities***

- David Morstad provided a brief summary of the conference call he and Margaret Kristan participated on with the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's Office on June 3, 2020.
- David Morstad said that if GCPD wants to be a go to source for the Governor's Office, GCPD needs to change the way it operates. The bottom line is that GCPD is being asked to consider saying yes to a far more significant role in advising the Governor's Office on the matters that are affecting all people with disabilities.
- Margaret Kristan stated that a finer point she took away from the meeting was that the GCPD uniquely positioned because it has broad representation from a variety of stakeholder organizations representing consumers with a wide variety of levels of ability and disability, to provide input and feedback from a variety of stakeholder organizations,
- David Morstad stated that he feels the Governor's Office is looking for some fairly specific action steps to be taken by GCPD. David Morstad said he thinks the letters that GCPD had written in the past, has been one of the Committee's strengths. But the fact of the matter is this, if the Governor's Office is saying would GCPD step up and play a more active role than it has in the past?
- David Morstad then stated that if GCPD steps up to this challenge it will require GCPD to change the way in which it operates. As a result, the Executive Committee is recommending the Committee considering the following items at today's meeting.



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- Number one would be to approve this new pathway forward s GCPD and essential saying yes to the Governor's Office. David Morstad stated he thinks this is the chance of a lifetime to do exactly what GCPD was formed to do.
- Second, is to discuss sending a letter to the Governor's Office highlighting what GCPD can offer to the Governor's Office.
 - David Morstad will draft a letter to the Governor's office to offer GCPD's first person expertise and experience as a resource for the impact of COVID on people with disabilities and any policy or legislative issues, which may affect people with disabilities. See Action Item 1.
- Third, given how much GCPD may be asked to do and how quickly the Committee may be asked to respond to situations, GCPD may need to meet more frequently.
- Fourth, is what the role of the Executive Committee would have to change dramatically as well.
 - Maureen Ryan stated that if GCPD was to pursue a path forward that GCPD should request from the Governor's Officer statutory protection for GCPD and a qualified, full-time staff person.
 - Daniel Laatsch also stated that open meeting requirements could be a barrier to GCPD being more responsive.
 - Margaret Kristan stated that she felt GCPD meetings being accessible and open to the public as a strength of the Committee.
 - Nancy Leipzig stated it might be beneficial for GCPD to check with other Governor's Committees for People with Disabilities in other states to see how they work with the Governor's Offices. Kansas is a good state to further examine.



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- John Olson made a motion authorizing the Executive Committee to discuss and negotiate with the Governor's Office and DHS leadership on what GCPD needs in order to fulfill a larger responsibility, to gain clarity on what they would like for GCPD to do, and to make recommendations to the full Committee on how GCPD moves forward in this capacity. Sandy Popp seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.
- GCPD also further discussed item three, in relation to the full Committee and Executive Committee needing to meet more frequently to be more responsive to the Governor's Office as well as making recommendations as to how to address needs of people with disabilities during the pandemic.
 - David Morstad stated that GCPD meetings would continue to be held virtually for the foreseeable future, at least through next summer.
 - GCPD members discussed the Executive Committee meeting weekly from June through September in order to be more responsive to current events and the Governor's Office.
 - GCPD members discussed meeting on a bi-monthly basis from now through June of 2021.
 - Gail Bovvy made a motion for the GCPD Executive Committee to meet monthly through September 2020 and for the full Committee to meet bi-monthly through June 2021. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.
 - Meeting dates are as follows:
 - August 19, 2020;
 - October 21, 2020;



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- December 2, 2020;
 - February 17, 2021;
 - April 21, 2021; and
 - June 10, 2021.
- DHS support staff will set-up weekly Executive Committee meetings and bi-monthly GCPD meetings through June 2021 as requested by GCPD. See Action Item 2.



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- ***Review and Approve GCPD Member Expectations Document***

- David Morstad stated the GCPD member expectations document was revised as discussed by members at the last quarterly meeting.
- GCPD members discussed holding on approving this document as member expectations may change based on GCPD's new expanded role.

- ***Discussion on Committee's Subcommittees***

- David Morstad asked GCPD members if they felt GCPD should keep its subcommittees intact or should this be examined further at a later date in relation to the new or additional work GCPD may be doing in the near future.
- John Olson made a motion that the Executive Committee make a recommendation to the full Committee on what the organization, structure, and function of GCPD's subcommittees should be. Maureen Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 6 and Action Item 3.

VIII. Disability Vote Presentation

- Barbara Beckert from Disability Rights Wisconsin gave a presentation on disability vote.
- Disability Vote handouts were distributed to GCPD members.

IX. Council and Liaison Updates

- The Committee ran out of time and did not get to this agenda.

X. Adjourn

- Maureen Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 7.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.