



Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd ○ PO Box 2659, Madison, WI 53701

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 2:05 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Executive Committee Members Present:

- Tiffany Payne, Dan Witt, Dan Laatsch, and Ramsey Lee.

Executive Committee Members Absent:

- Ben Barrett.

GCPD Voting Members Present:

- Cindy Bentley and Ashley Mathy.

DHS Support Staff Present:

- Zachary Davenport, Lisa Sobczyk, and Ashley Baker.

American Sign Language Interpreters Present:

- Chantel Wiedmeyer and Nicole Keeler.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Welcome

- Tiffany Payne, GCPD Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:06 P.M. Introductions and roll call were conducted. The meeting was made available via Zoom and phone with Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716.

Review and Approve Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- Dan Witt made a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Agenda. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review and Approve the Minutes from the Previous Executive Committee Meeting

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan Witt seconded the motion.
- Discussion was had by the Committee about items that needed to be corrected in minutes including misspellings and grammatical errors.
 - Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes as amended. Dan Witt seconded the motion. Motion carried.



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Review Action Items from Previous Meeting

- Dan Laatsch will draft a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor in support of shifting Medicaid funding from State Institutions to Community-Based Services. ***Item pending answer from Dan.***
- Dan Laatsch will contact Nancy Leipzig regarding the Employment Workgroup schedule and work items. ***Item pending answer from Dan.***
- DHS Staff will invite Pam Bettinger (member of public who submitted comment by email) to the GCPD Quarterly Meeting on April 23, 2025. ***Item pending.***
- DHS Staff Support will add an agenda item to the full GCPD Quarterly Meeting to discuss amending the GCPD Workplan. ***Item completed.***
- DHS Support Staff send out an invitation for GCPD Members to attend a Policy Workgroup Meeting on March 28, 2025. ***Item completed.***

Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities (2:15 – 2:35 P.M.)

- Ashley Mathy shared that she was concerned with Medicaid funding being cut for disability programs and mental health services. Ramsey Lee agreed that he was also concerned.

Discuss Quarterly Meeting and Updates to GCPD Workplan

- The Executive Committee discussed items for the upcoming GCPD quarterly meeting. Agenda items are as follows:
 - Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
 - Review and Approve July Quarterly Meeting Agenda
 - Review and Approve May Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 - Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities
 - Discuss Federal and State Legislative Updates
 - Liaison Updates
 - Council Updates
 - Reports from GCPD Committees and Workgroups
 - Follow-up with Lieutenant Governor's office to see if representative can attend to discuss how to collaborative/engage in advocacy between GCPD and the Lieutenant Governor.



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- Discuss Updates to GCPD Workplan
- Discuss Next Steps with GCPD United Council Workgroup
- Adjourn

Discuss Federal and State Legislative Updates and WI Budget Items

- The Executive Committee discussed the need to continue to advocate for both state and federal changes and budget proposals. Discussed was also had about the need to advocate in-person and not just online or over the phone.
- The Committee discussed the need to focus on state proposed changes and not just federal changes. The Executive Committee discussed missing the state level cuts and changes due to all the federal advocacy happening at the same time.
 - **Action Item:** DHS support staff will send out information about impact Medicaid cuts will have on Wisconsin publication from DHS.
- May 13th the House approved a budget reconciliation proposal to cut \$880 Billion in Medicaid funding.
- The Committee discussed paying attention to what was pulled out of the 2025-2027 Wisconsin State Biennial Budget and what is still in the budget and moving forward.
 - Items include: Respite Care Grant, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Re-estimate, home-delivered meals, guardianship grants, fall prevention grants, Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), interpreter services, Independent Living Center (ILC) grants, WisTech, Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP), Adult Protective Services (APS), Alzheimer's Disease grant, and Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Service Fund. Z
- **Action Item:** DHS support staff will send a list of budget items that were removed and those that remain in the 2025-2027 Wisconsin State Biennial Budget.

Updates from the GCPD Committees and Workgroups

- Dan Laatsch provided updates from the United Councils Workgroup. DHS Support emailed notes from the meeting to the full GCPD Membership. During the United Councils meeting, ILCW shared support for closing the three state centers and shifting that funding toward home and community-based services.
 - **Action Item:** Tiffany Payne requested DHS support staff send an email to GCPD membership requesting one to two members to serve on the United Councils workgroup.
- No updates from the Transportation workgroup at this time.



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- Dan Witt stated there were no updates from the Opportunities and Access Committee.
- No updates from the Employment workgroup. The Competitive Integrated Employment Plan is out for review and public comment per email from DHS support staff.
- Tiffany Payne shared that the Awards workgroup will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be May 28th. The award ceremony will be August 27th in Madison.

Updates on Unified Voices: Engage for Change Summit

- Tiffany Payne shared several key recommendations from Engage for Change to enhance the impact and efficacy of the GCPD. These recommendations focus on clarifying roles, increasing action orientation, and fostering collaboration with other council. By implementing the recommendation, GCPD aims to be more influential advocate for Wisconsin's disability community.

Review Action Items from Meeting

- Dan Laatsch will draft a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor in support of shifting Medicaid funding from State Institutions to Community-Based Services.
- Dan Laatsch will contact Nancy Leipzig regarding the Employment workgroup schedule and work items.
- DHS support staff will send out information about impact Medicaid cuts will have on Wisconsin publication from DHS.
- DHS support staff will send a list of budget items that were removed and those that remain in the 2025-2027 WI. State Biennial Budget.
- Tiffany Payne requested DHS support staff send an email to GCPD membership requesting one to two members to serve on the United Councils workgroup.

Draft Next Agenda

- The draft Executive Committee meeting agenda for June is as follows:
 - Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
 - Review and Approve June Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
 - Review and Approve May Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities
 - Discuss Federal and State Legislative Updates
 - Discuss Revisions to GCPD Workplan



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- Discuss United Council Workgroup
- Adjourn

Adjourn

- Dan Witt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Bentley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 P.M.