



1 WEST WILSON STREET, ROOM 551
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COUNCIL ON
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) Teleconference Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Action and Motion Items

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** CPD's Executive Committee will write a letter to leadership in the Wisconsin legislature on concerns related to in-person testimony.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the January Quarterly meeting agenda. Nicole Herda seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the December Quarterly meeting minutes. Jeff Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Kathy Johnson made a motion for CPD's Executive Committee to write a letter to leadership in the Wisconsin legislature on concerns related to in-person testimony. Nicole Herda seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Nichole Herda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roberto Escamilla II seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions, Jason Ostrowski, Chairperson

Council members present: Ben Barrett; Karen Secor; Jason Ostrowski; Kathy Johnson; Gabriel Schlieve; Jeff Fox; Charles Vandenplas; Roberto Escamilla II; Jackie Gordon; and Nicole Herda.

Council members absent (excused*): Noah Roberts.

Liaisons present: Taqwanya Smith, Department of Transportation; Jeremy Kaukl, Department of Safety and Professional Services; Craig Wehner, Wisconsin Department for Workforce Development; Heather Bruemmer, Board



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on Aging and Long-Term Care; Dr. Elizabeth Watson, University of Wisconsin Whitewater; and Colleen Larsen, Wisconsin Technical College System.

Liaisons absent: Eric Cormany, Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Eva Kubinski, Department of Public Instruction.

DHS staff support present: Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resource (BADR); Ashley Walker DHS, BADR; Amber Mullett DHS, BADR; and Katherine Cullinan DHS, BADR.

II. Meeting Called to Order

Jason Ostrowski, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

The meeting was available via phone at 1-844-708-2569 and Meeting ID: 864 2214 6836 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve January Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the January Quarterly meeting agenda. Nicole Herda seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve December Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the December Quarterly meeting minutes. Jeff Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

V. Public Comment on the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities, 2019-2021

- No public comment was received.
- A CPD member, Kathy Johnson discussed the need to address the issue that individuals with disabilities are having with their basic rights being taken away and the requirement for in-person testimony putting individuals at greater risk.
- Kathy Johnson advised the Council to write a letter to leadership in the Wisconsin legislature on concerns related to in-person testimony.



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- Kathy Johnson made a motion for CPD's Executive Committee to write a letter to leadership in the Wisconsin legislature on concerns related to in-person testimony. Nicole Herda seconded the motion. Motion Carried. See Motion Item 3.
 - The Executive Committee will draft the letter to leadership in the state legislature. See Action Item 1.

VI. CPD Liaison Updates

- **Taqwanya Smith, Department of Transportation (DOT):** Connect 2050 is the current update to the federally required statewide long-range multimodal transportation plan. The plan covers all modes of transportation for the entire state of Wisconsin. Comments are being accepted throughout the planning process. A second round of public involvement and the [draft plan \(https://connect2050.wisconsin.gov\)](https://connect2050.wisconsin.gov) is anticipated by Summer of 2021. The Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050 planning process is underway. Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050 will replace Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 as the statewide long-range rail transportation plan. The entire planning process is scheduled to be completed by January 2022. It will include an equity review of the plan focusing on communities in the state who are traditionally underserved by transportation. For example, seniors and people with disabilities.
- **Elizabeth Watson, University of Wisconsin (UW) Whitewater:** The UW System Directors are meeting weekly to ensure ongoing access for students and accessibility issues with technology and remote learning. There will be an Accessibility Check Analysis Audit in January 2021 to analyze accessibility compliance across the 13 campuses. The audit will include Section 508 Compliance and Standards for Accessibility. UW System campuses are COVID-19 test sites and open to the public for testing.
- **Jeremy Kaukl, Department of Safety and Professional Services:** DSPS planners continue to work from home or wear masks in the office. The Commercial Building Code Committee will be a meeting in February and continue to focus on the 2021 International Code Council Codes that



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has been adopted into Wisconsin Commercial Building Code. Focus given to the changes in clear floor spaces and turn spaces in rooms.

- **Heather Bruemmer, Board on Aging and Long-Term Care:** COVID-19 Vaccines are rolling out to assistive living and nursing home residents; 65+ are the next group; anyone has the right to refuse the vaccine. Ombudsmen are working on Compassionate Visits with families and visitations. The open enrollment for Medigap Helpline with Medicare has been successful thus far.
- **Colleen Larsen, Wisconsin Technical College System:** Many Technical colleges across Wisconsin are still virtual or a combination, based on types of instruction, and continue to expand providing laptops and hotspots due to remote learning and rural living. Growing emphasis on transition services and college wide universal design efforts. A series of accessible guides have been created by the disability services committee, eg. Guide for Student Records and Confidentiality.
- **Craig Wehner, Wisconsin Department for Workforce Development:** Services are still being offered virtually and through in-person social distancing. Enrollment numbers are slightly down, not as many new referrals coming into the system due to medical needs of consumers and the risk of COVID-19. DWD has reach ninety four percent of goal for placement rates. Some consumers continue to request for cases to be put on hold. Currently starting to discuss the 2021 State Needs Assessment required by RSA. Assessment addresses what populations are being served/underserved, strengths and weaknesses and future planning. Assessment is completed by an outside organization.
- **Amber Mullett, Department of Health Services:** Amber Mullett is working minimal hours within the COVID-19 Response Unit, and sharing the Council's Emergency Toolkit and resources. Beginning future conversation about what pandemic recovery will look like throughout Wisconsin and what system changes need to be addressed.



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VII. Discuss Status of the CPD State Plan for People with Disabilities, 2022-2024

- **State Plan Committee Update:** Kathy Johnson, Chair of the State Plan Committee, stated that the Committee has been working on an outline for the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities, 2022-2024.
 - The State Plan encompasses in the following categories: Living Independently; Employment; Emergency Preparedness; and Transportation. The goal of the State Plan Committee is to have a draft of the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities completed for review by the Executive Committee in March 2021 and by the full Council at the April Quarterly meeting.
- Jason Ostrowski spoke about disability related parking laws and regulations in Wisconsin. Jason Ostrowski encouraged council members to review the attached Parking Permit Bill for future Council discussion.

VIII. Discuss YouTube Channel

- The Council's YouTube Channel has been created, and link to the channel was sent out to full Council. Jason Ostrowski will be the lead in monitoring the Channel and uploading trainings/videos.

IX. Discuss Recruitment Activities

- The Council discussed member recruitment and continuing to observe what part of the state needs representation: southwestern area of the state.
- The Council Discussed utilizing social media, links on the website, and YouTube videos to assist with attracting membership.
- DHS support staff shared that there are currently three vacancies on the Council that need to be filled (two consumer vacancies and one service provider vacancy).
- Jason Ostrowski shared that he drafted membership flyers that are current being reviewed by DHS support staff for accessibility.



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- Jason Ostrowski also suggested and updating the CPD Training Binder and accessing the binder on a USB drive.

X. Discuss State of Medical Care for People with Disabilities

- The Council discussed issues in long-term care facilities and overall barriers individuals with disabilities are facing during the pandemic.
 - Jason Ostrowski shared a personal story about being allergic to a medication he was given and carelessness by the doctor not reading his chart.
 - Transportation companies that bill for medical appointments are folding. Requirements for insurance are increasing and effecting the business staying around, and not a lot of medical rides happening due to COVID-19.
 - Concerns with premiums not being collected and it having a ripple effect in the future on lack of services or money throughout the state.
 - Nichole Herda shared concerns with changes with medical supplies: individuals not being able to access supplies and items being denied by insurance.
 - Mental Health providers are booking appointments at least 2-3 months out.
 - Insurance companies are starting to not cover virtual appointments and want in-person check-ins. Importance emphasis on statewide broadband access.
 - The Council discussed partnering with the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities as they are sending out a survey regarding healthcare access and issues being faced by people with disabilities during the pandemic.



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- Amber Mullett discussed the level of disruption and the break from normal. Policy groups and Governor's Office are being mindful about the least restrictive environments, working remote, and allowing accommodations and opportunity.

XI. Discuss Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP), Insurance, Financial Planning

- The Council discussed education to Council membership on MAPP, insurance, and/or financial planning. Jackie Gordon shared having an Elder Law Attorney that was willing to come and speak at the next Council Quarterly Meeting in April.
- The Council discussed the Aging and Disability Resource Center as being a starting point for individuals with disabilities that have questions about MAPP or enrollment/eligibility.

XII. Discuss Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

- Jason Ostrowski led discussion on the EVV program and monthly planning meetings he has been attending on behalf of the Council.
 - EVV is currently in a soft launch phase, and anticipating a full launch by the end of the calendar year. Currently, conducting user trainings to avoid confusion with logging in and out of the system. Concerns with home care agencies stating that providers are frustrated with the system and/or thinking of closing. Concerns with possible caregiver shortages due to these big changes and concerns; and something to be aware of and keep an eye on.

XIII. Adjourn

- Nichole Herda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roberto Escamilla II seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4

The Council adjourned at 11:20 A.M.