



1 WEST WILSON STREET, ROOM 551  
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Website: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd)

## State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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

**Thursday, February 10, 2022  
1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

**Approved February 17, 2022**

#### **Executive Committee Action and Motion Items**

##### **A. Executive Committee Action Items**

- 1. Action Item:** Tom O'Connor will send information on H.R. 477 to GCPD membership.
- 2. Action Item:** DHS support staff will email Division of Medicaid Services requesting a presenter on behalf of GCPD on AB 934 and AB 936 at a future Executive Committee meeting.
- 3. Action Item:** The Executive Committee will provide an update at the upcoming GCPD Bi-Monthly meeting about wanting to pursue these four policy areas and strategies for addressing these issues.

##### **B. Executive Committee Motion Items**

- 1. Motion Item:** Tom O'Connor made a motion approve the February 10, 2022 Executive Committee meeting agenda. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the February 3, 2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Tom O'Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion that GCPD should pursue the following policy issue areas: Public Health Orders and Information in Accessible Formats; Mask Mandate and Communication; Telehealth and Broadband Access; and Representation of Individuals with Disabilities on the State Medical Advisory Committee. Tom O'Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried.



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4. **Motion Item:** Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the draft of the GCPD 2021 Annual Report. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom O'Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### C. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

##### I. Welcome and Introductions:

**Executive committee members present:** Rhonda Staats; Ramsey Lee; Ben Barrett; and Tom O'Connor.

**Executive committee members absent (excused\*):** Margaret Kristan\*.

**Guests:** Jeff Fox, Vice-Chair, Council on Physical Disabilities and Lawrence Brown.

**DHS support staff present:** Mikael Snitker, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR; and Ashley Walker, DHS, BADR.

##### II. Rhonda Staats Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.

The meeting was made available via phone at 1-844-708-2569 with Meeting ID: 161 640 1752 and via [Zoom](#).

##### III. Review and Approve February 10, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- Tom O'Connor made a motion approve the February 10, 2022 Executive Committee meeting agenda. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.
  - Discussion was had about possibly adding a standing agenda item *Discuss Federal and State Legislation* to Executive Committee meeting agendas as so many pieces of legislation are moving rapidly that are of importance to the Committee. This would allow the Committee to action on this issues in a timely manner.



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#### **IV. Review and Approve February 3, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the February 3, 2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Tom O'Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

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

- Lawrence Brown shared concerns about AB 934 and AB 936 that would increase paperwork needed to keep Family Care IRIS, and other Medicaid programs. Lawrence Brown stated that the requirement to have to reapply every six months would put undue burden on people with disabilities and could jeopardize their health care coverage.
  - The Executive Committee discussed having someone from the Division of Medicaid Services present at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting to on AB 934 and AB 936.
    - DHS support staff will email Division of Medicaid Services requesting a presenter on behalf of GCPD on AB 934 and AB 936 at a future Executive Committee meeting. See Action Item 2.
- Tom O'Conner shared information on H.R. 477 Ally's Act which would allow private and commercial insurance to pay for Bone Anchored Hearing Aids or Cochlear Implants.
  - Tom O'Connor will send information on H.R. 477 to GCPD membership. See Action Item 1.

#### **VI. COVID-19 and GCPD Policy Recommendations**

- ***Review and Discussion on GCPD COVID-19 Recommendations***
  - The Executive Committee discussed policy recommendations made by GCPD over the past two years.



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- Ben Barrett made a motion that GCPD should pursue the following policy issue areas: Public Health Orders and Information in Accessible Formats; Mask Mandate and Communication; Telehealth and Broadband Access; and Representation of Individuals with Disabilities on the State Medical Advisory Committee. Tom O'Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- The Executive Committee discussed strategies GCPD might implement to successfully get each of these issues addressed.
- Specifically, there was discussion about Accessible Public Health Information and that the Committee has not met with the Secretary or DHS communications staff about this issue. Discussion was also had about the Governor's office providing accessible Executive Orders but that there has been staff turnover. The Committee discussed checking to see if Executive Orders were still being published in an accessible format and if not following up with staff in the Governor's office. The Executive Committee also discussed maybe creating a document that would inform people with disabilities on how to file a complaint if state agency websites are inaccessible and requests to make information accessible is denied.
- The Executive Committee discussed utilizing the survey results and emergency communications folder as an education piece with health care providers. This would help raise awareness about masks and the communication barrier they may pose for some individuals with disabilities and alternative ways to communicate effectively.



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- In addition, the Executive Committee discussed following up with DHS on having disability representation on the State Medical Advisory Committee or having stakeholder groups such as GCPD consulted when issues will impact individuals with disabilities.
  - The Executive Committee will provide an update at the upcoming GCPD Bi-Monthly meeting about wanting to pursue these four policy areas and strategies for addressing these issues. See Action Item 3.

#### **VII. Approve Draft of GCPD 2021 Annual Report**

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the draft of the GCPD 2021 Annual Report. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.

#### **VIII. Draft February 17, 2022 GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Agenda**

- The Executive Committee drafted the February 17, 2022 Executive Committee meeting agenda. Draft agenda is as follows:
  - Welcome and Introductions
  - Review and Approve February 17, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
  - Review and Approve February 10, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
  - Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities
  - Discuss Action Items from GCPD February Bi-Monthly Meeting



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- COVID-19 and GCPD Policy Recommendations
  - Discuss Educational Video Updates
  - Review and Discuss Strategies for Advancing GCPD COVID-19 Recommendations
- Draft February 24, 2022 GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
- Adjourn
  - The Executive Committee unanimously approved the draft agenda for February 17, 2022.

#### IX. Adjourn

- Ben Barrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom O'Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:02 P.M.**