

State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

1 WEST WILSON STREET,
ROOM 551
POST OFFICE BOX 2659
MADISON, WI 53701-2659
Telephone: 608-266-9354
Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd

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

**Thursday, January 5, 2023
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

APPROVED 2/2/23.

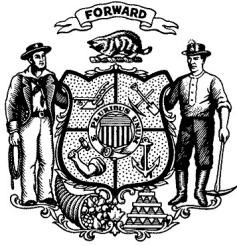
Executive Committee Action and Motion Items

A. Executive Committee Action Items

- 1. Action Item:** Margaret Kristan is meeting the Attorney General's Office to discuss potential legislation on January 10, 2023 and will report back to the Executive Committee about the meeting.
- 2. Action Item:** Due to time constraints the Executive Committee agreed to discuss the GCPD staff position at the next Executive Committee meeting on February 2, 2023, meeting. This will be added to the February meeting agenda.
- 3. Action Item:** DHS support staff will send out a summary of biennial budget or policy initiatives GCPD Council liaisons and Subcommittees sent to GCPD to consider supporting, leading, or collaborating on.
- 4. Action Item:** David Morstad will be meeting with Lois Harrison with Concordia University to discuss specific objectives for the GCPD educational training/presentation and will report back to the GCPD Executive Committee.
- 5. Action Item:** Executive Committee members will send revisions to the GCPD 2022 Annual Report to DHS support staff by January 27, 2023.

B. Executive Committee Motion Items

- 1. Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to approve the January Executive Committee meeting agenda. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the December Executive Committee meeting minutes. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.



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C. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Executive committee members present: Margaret Kristan; Ben Barrett; Rhonda Staats; and Ramsey Lee.

Executive committee members absent (excused*): John Hartman*.

Guests: Daniel Idzikowski, GCPD Member-at-Large; David Morstad, GCPD Member-at-Large; Beth Swedeen, Survival Coalition Executive Director; Kimberlee Coronado, GCPD Member-at-Large; Lawrence Brown, Community Member; Tiffany Payne, GCPD Member-at-Large; Tom O'Connor, GCPD Member-at-Large; and Karen Odegaard, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health Services (DHS).

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

II. Margaret Kristan, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.

The meeting was made available via phone at (669) 254-5252 with Meeting ID: 161 640 1752 and via [Zoom](#).

III. Review and Approve January 5, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- Rhonda Staats made a motion to approve the January Executive Committee meeting agenda. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve December 1, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

- Ramsey Lee made a motion to approve the December Executive Committee meeting minutes. Ben Barrett seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.



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V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities

- Lawrence Brown stated he would like to bring attention to transportation safety on the roadways with the Non-Emergency Medical Provider (NEMT) Veyo and the transportation provider not taking specific accommodations into consideration (e.g., tie downs and safety concerns).

VI. Presentation from Survival Coalition on State of Wisconsin 2023-2025 Biennial Budget

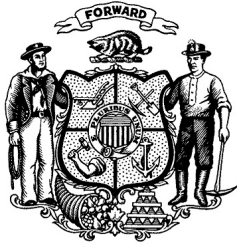
- Beth Swedeen, Co-Chair of Survival Coalition, presented on the State of Wisconsin 2023-2025 Biennial Budget and timeline.
 - Survival Coalition is focusing their budget recommendations and asks on Adult Long-Term Care; Children Long-Term Waiver Services; Caregiver Workforce; Education; Transportation; Employment; and Mental Health.
 - Another focus of Survival Coalition is accessible voting.

VII. Review and Discuss State of Wisconsin 2023-2025 Biennial Budget and Policy Recommendations Submitted by GCPD Council Representatives and Sub-Committees

- The Executive Committee discussed GCPD Sub-Committee policy recommendations related to GCPD's work plan and state budget recommendations.

GCPD Sub-Committees

- The Transportation Sub-Committee presented the following recommendations:
 - Collaborate with DHS and MTM/Veyo to ensure Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) forms promote more inclusive prompts to allow a member's needs are met correctly. For example, rather than yes and no questions, allow some areas of explanation of needs. In addition, the Sub-Committee is recommending that



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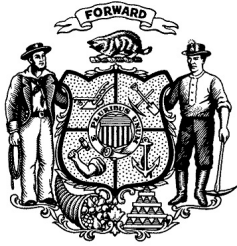
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riders special requests be sent to vendor in a different format to ensure riders needs are met.

- Advocate for DHS/ Veyo utilize “plain language” within their complaint process and resolution letters.
- Establish braided funding for accessible transportation in Wisconsin. The intent of this recommendation is to optimize currently available transportation resources and funding to best addresses the growing barriers accessing transportation for people with disabilities statewide.
- Advocate for an increase in reimbursement rates for existing transportation partners
- Advocate for DHS to increase the Gas Milage Reimbursement rate, GMR for members who use their own vehicles to get to their medical appointments.
- Advocate for state agencies to generate and fund incentives to attract drivers into the transportation workforce.
- The Opportunities and Access Sub-Committee presented the following recommendations:
 - Advocate to provide the Attorney General of Wisconsin with the authority to pursue civil rights complaints.
 - The Sub-Committee has drafted a policy brief with information about how other states address civil rights issues and various structures.
 - The Sub-Committee has made contact with the Attorney General’s office to see if they plan to reintroduce state legislation to expand their authority to pursue civil rights complaints.
 - Margaret Kristan is meeting the Attorney General’s Office to discuss potential legislation on January 10, 2023 and will



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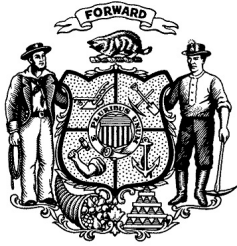
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report back to the Executive Committee about the meeting.
See Action Item 1.

- Advocate for funding and position authority for Department of Administration or DHS to hire an Americans with Disabilities Act Digital Access Coordinator.
 - During the pandemic there were a lot of issues related to people with disabilities not being able to access information on state government websites and inaccessible documents.
 - The Sub-Committee drafted a policy paper in support of this position and outlining additional recommendations for ensuring public health information is accessible:
 - Create a policy (similar to IN.gov Accessibility Policy, available at <https://www.in.gov/core/accessibility.html>) that would show Wisconsin is committed to inclusion and universal access in all of its services and programs. It would include a pledge to develop and maintain accessible state government web pages and services so that they are accessible to persons with all abilities. This would show the state's commitment to all users using their websites having the right to obtain information and services independently and conveniently.
 - DHS adopt "plain language" protocol for all public health information and the Governor's office adopt this protocol for all public health related executive orders.
 - All state government documents be made accessible for deaf-blind, Deaf, blind, and visually impaired individuals.



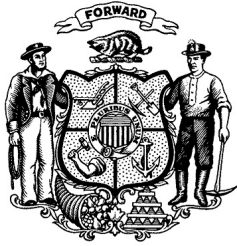
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- State agency websites where information is posted should be fully accessible to people with disabilities who utilize assistive technology and screen readers to navigate websites. There should also be a way for people with disabilities to request documents in an accessible format if the materials on the website are not accessible.
- Public health information and executive orders should be readily available in Spanish and other languages so people can understand the preventive measures they should be taking to protecting themselves and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Reinstatement of the Wisconsin Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Office or Coordinator Position.
- Charge a state agency with oversight of all state agencies' websites, communications, and forms to ensure compliance with ADA, Sections 504, and 508.
- Create a checklist to ensure universal access and inclusion are considered when state statutes or administrative rule changes are being considered.
- Run some focus groups or create a series of webinars to instruct Medicaid-funded health care and long-term care providers about mandatory compliance with the ADA and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including allowing support people and caregivers to accompany people with disabilities to appointments.
- Monitor the quality of Medicaid and long-term care programs throughout the state of Wisconsin more closely.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of all people with disabilities in Wisconsin by acknowledging and overcoming ableism, structural racism and other inequities, and promoting health equity.



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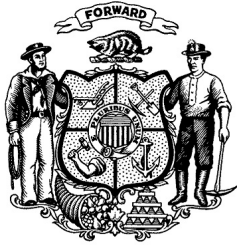
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- Recommend that the GCPD Executive Committee assist with coordinating an annual state hosted summit of all the statutory disability committees and councils to promote alignment of priorities and statewide activities.

Council Liaisons

- The Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH)
 - CDHH discussed the need for adequate funding for the Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP). TAP provides telecommunication devices and hearing aids to people who are hard of hearing and at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. The program has expensed all of its State Fiscal Year 2023 funding and now has a waitlist. The program will not receive additional funding until State Fiscal Year 2024.
 - CDHH is requesting GCPD advocate for additional funding for TAP and support CDHH who is advocating for additional funding.
- Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) is focused on the following issues and would request GCPD's support as appropriate:
 - Increase in affordable accessible housing;
 - Address the need to improve crisis response;
 - Increase outpatient and preventive services,
 - Improve collaboration within service systems; and
 - Increase the overall availability of mental health services and supports.
 - WCMH will take the lead on these initiatives and GCPD Executive Committee is in support of these items and supports Kimberlee Coronado participating on an upcoming newly established Mental Health Taskforce.
- Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD): Supports the requirement that businesses install universal changing stations and offering tax credits to businesses to aid with the installation and upkeep. CPD either wants to advocate to get the



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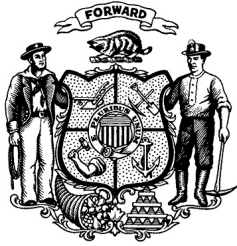
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Universal Changing Station bill re-introduced or get this change made in accessibility building codes through administrative rule.

- CPD invited GCPD or GCPD members to work with CPD on the Universal Changing Station Language. If the bill is reintroduced CPD is asking for GCPD to support this legislation.
- The Executive Committee also discussed the previously drafted Budget Proposal to Staff the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities and Increase its Operating Budget.
 - Due to time constraints the Executive Committee agreed to discuss the GCPD staff position at the next Executive Committee meeting on February 2, 2023, meeting. See Action Item 2.
 - Margaret Kristan will work with DHS support staff to put together a summary of which State of Wisconsin 2023-2025 Biennial Budget policy initiatives that GCPD will support, lead, and collaborate on. See Action Item 3.

VIII. Discuss Department of Health Services (DHS) General Updates

- Amber Mullett, Section Chief, Office for the Promotion of Independent Living, shared DHS updates.
 - Governor Evers is continuing to have 'Doing the Right Thing' listening sessions: [Official Website for Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Budget Listening Sessions](#).
 - \$17.3 million in grant funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services has been awarded so far. [American Rescue Plan Act: Medicaid HCBS Grants Supporting Quality and Innovation | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#).
 - Several new staffing appointments at DHS and other state agencies: Sarah Valencia to the Department of Health Services (DHS) as our new assistant Deputy Secretary; Jamie Kuhn to DHS as the new Medicaid Director; and Gynger Steele has stepped into



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a new role as the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) administrator.

IX. Discuss Next Steps on 2023 Concordia University Educational Presentation(s)

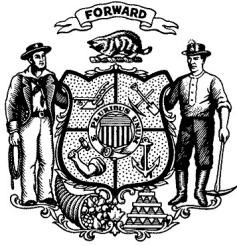
- David Morstad updated the Executive Committee on next steps to pursue the Concordia University Educational Presentation.
 - The educational presentation will be on a Wednesday from 3:00 PM- 5:00 PM and will be a panel presentation style.
 - Possible dates being March 9, 2023, or April 4, 19, and 26, 2023.
 - The presentation will focus on communication needs for all disability groups and some focus on the Council for Physical Disabilities Emergency Preparedness Toolkit.
 - David Morstad will be meeting with Lois Harrison with Concordia University to discuss specific objectives for the GCPD educational training/presentation and will report back to the GCPD Executive Committee. See Action Item 4.

X. Discuss GCPD 2022 Annual Report

- The GCPD Executive Committee did not get to this agenda item.
 - Executive Committee members will send revisions to the GCPD 2022 Annual Report to DHS support staff by January 27, 2023. See Action Item 5.

XI. GCPD Logo Update

- Jill O'Leske, Impact Design, has been in contact with Ben Barrett about GCPD logos. New logos are being completed or revised due to accessibility issues and distinguishing certain patterns and graphics.
- The GCPD logos remain on track to be presented at the upcoming February 15, 2023 Quarterly meeting.



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XII. Draft February 2, 2023, GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

- The Executive Committee drafted the February 2, 2023, Executive Committee meeting agenda and agreed to extend the meeting to 3:30 PM:
 - Welcome and Introductions
 - Review and Approve February 2, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
 - Review and Approve January 5, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities (1:10 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.)
 - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Presentation
 - Discuss Department of Health Services (DHS) General Updates
 - Amber Mullett, Director, Office for the Promotion of Independent Living
 - Review and Discuss State of Wisconsin 2023-2025 Biennial Budget and Policy Recommendations
 - Update on GCPD AG Policy Brief
 - Discuss GCPD Staff Position Budget Proposal
 - Discuss and Review GCPD 2022 Annual Report
 - Update on Next Steps on 2023 Concordia University Educational Presentation(s)
 - Review and Approve Draft February 15, 2023, GCPD Quarterly Meeting
 - Draft March 1, 2023, GCPD Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
 - Adjourn



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XIII. Adjourn

- Rhonda Staats made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ramsey Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 P.M.