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

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

Action and Motion Items

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** DHS support staff will send out policy updates by email to Committee Members.

B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the GCPD January 17, 2024, Quarterly meeting agenda. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to approve the November 15, 2024, GCPD Quarterly Meeting minutes. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to have the next GCPD Quarterly meeting on April 24, 2024, at the ADILN Conference in La Crosse. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** Tiffany Payne made a motion to adjourn. BJ Ermenc seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions, Dan Laatsch, Chairperson

Committee members present: Margaret Kristan, Ben Barrett; Ashley Mathy, Dan Laatsch, Rhonda Staats, Ramsey Lee, Tiffany Payne, BJ Ermenc, Nancy Leipzig, Justin Koestler, Cindy Bently, Dan Witt, Daniel Idzikowski, Patty Zallar and David Morstad.

Committee members absent (excused*): Julie Blasky*, Eva Kubinski, Pearl Fessenden, Stacy Stone, and John Hartman.

Committee liaisons present: Sarah Kuehn, and Colleen Larson.

Guests: Kevin Coughlin, and Tyler Wilcox.

Captioning Services: Margo Lucas.

Interpreting Services: Chantel Wiedmeyer and Carly Bieri.

DHS staff support present: Ashley Walker, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resource (BADR); Jennifer Anderson, DHS, BADR; Jason Anderson, DHS, BADR; Angela Brenna, DHS, BADR; Zachary Davenport, DHS, BADR; and Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR.

II. Dan Laatsch, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The meeting was available via phone at 1(669) 254-5252 and Meeting ID: 161 1786 1716 and Zoom: <https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/16117861716>

III. Review and Approve January 17, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Ben Barrett made a motion to approve the GCPD January 17, 2024, Quarterly meeting agenda. David Morstad seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve November 15, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- Rhonda Staats made a motion to approve the November 15, 2024, GCPD Quarterly Meeting minutes. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities

- Tyler Wilcox, Independent Living Council of Wisconsin (ILCW) Program Coordinator, shared that public comment will open in April 2024 on the WI State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL.) For more information, visit <https://il-wis.net/independent-living-council/about-the-council/>.

VI. Kevin Coughlin, Program Initiative Advisor-Executive, Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)

- Kevin Coughlin presented information about the WisCaregiver Careers Certification Program for Direct Care Professionals. Caregivers receive free CDCP training and certification through WisCaregiver Careers and earn a \$500 bonus. More information at <https://www.wiscaregivercdcp.com/>.

VII. Discuss GCPD Work Plan and Policy Initiatives

- The Committee discussed the GCPD Work Plan and the need to update the strategies and deliverables in the Work Plan. Also discussed moving forward with Policy Initiatives and taking this discussion to the Executive Committee. GCPD members asked DHS Staff to send policy updates by email to members. See Action Item 1.

VIII. Discuss GCPD Annual Report

- The Committee reviewed and discussed the Draft 2023 Annual Report.

IX. Updates from Chairs of GCPD Sub-Committees and Workgroups

- **Opportunities and Access Sub-Committee; David Morstad**
 - David Morstad shared that he and Cindy Bently will be Co-Chairing the Sub-Committee. Sub-Committee will be continuing discussion on future collaborations with Concordia and other post-secondary institutions. On April 26, 2024
- **Transportation Workgroup; Rhonda Staats**
 - No update to report.
- **Employment Workgroup; Nancy Leipzig**
 - Nancy Leipzig shared that the Workgroup is working on a letter to support reform on the State Use Program.
- **Blakeley and Falconer Award Workgroup, Rhonda Staats and Ben Barrett**
 - DHS Support received emails from members who are interested in being on the workgroup. DHS Support will schedule the first meeting in February.

X. Liaison Updates

- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** – Discussed the top things happening in DVR. Continue to recruit, hire and train staff, making progress on Career Pathways Advancement grant, Working on Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2027 State Plan, Implementing DEI Action Plan, monitoring consumer services and spending patterns, conducting leadership training for all DVR managers, and refresher training on vocational Law.
- **Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)** – No Liaison Update to Review.
- **WI Department of Public Instruction** – No Liaison Update to Review.

XI. Council Updates

- **Council for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind (CDHH) – BJ (Elizabeth) Ermenc:** There are no key policy issues under consideration at this time.
- **Statutory Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)** - No Council Report to review.

- **Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD)** – Distributed Emergency Preparedness Toolkits at A Home for Everyone Conference and Self-Determination conference in 2023.
- **Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB)** – Patty Zallar shared that SCOB has many new members.

XII. Adjourn

- Before Adjoining, Rhonda Staats made a motion to have the next GCPD Quarterly meeting on April 24, 2024, at the ADILN Conference in La Crosse. Nancy Leipzig seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- Tiffany Payne made a motion to adjourn. BJ Ermenc seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM