



## State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

1 WEST WILSON STREET,  
ROOM 551  
POST OFFICE BOX 2659  
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Telephone: 608-266-9354  
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### Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Bi-Monthly Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 19, 2020  
1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

#### Action and Motion Items

##### A. Action Items

1. **Action Item:** David Morstad said the Executive Committee will examine the opportunity to become a member of Survival Coalition and get answers to key questions raised.

##### B. Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** Maureen Ryan made a motion to approve the August bi-monthly meeting agenda. John Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** John Olson made a motion to approve the June quarterly meeting minutes. Maureen Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** John Olson made a motion for GCPD to become a member of Survival Coalition. Sandy Popp seconded the motion. Committee discussion ensued. Motion did not pass.
4. **Motion Item:** Pearl Fessenden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

##### C. Meeting Minutes

#### I. Welcome and Introductions, David Morstad, Chairperson

**Committee members present:** David Morstad; Sandy Popp; Margaret Kristan; Pearl Fessenden; Maureen Ryan; Nancy Leipzig; Ramsey Lee; Rhonda Staats; Daniel Laatsch; John Olson; Gail Bovy; Dan Idzikowski; and Ben Barrett.

**Committee members absent (excused\*):** Tom O'Connor; Kimberlee Coronado; John Hartman; and Fred Ludwig.



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**Committee liaisons present:** Colleen Larsen, Wisconsin Technical Colleges; Sarah Lincoln, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Eva Kubinski, Department of Public Instruction.

**Guests:** Jason Ostrowski, Wisconsin Council and Physical Disabilities and Roger Frings, Statutory Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse.

**DHS staff support present:** Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resource (BADR); Maia Stitt, DHS, BADR; and Amber Mullett, DHS, BADR.

#### II. Meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.

The meeting was available via phone at 1-844-708-2569 and Meeting ID: 983 4094 4707 and via [Zoom](#).

#### III. Review and Approve August Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda

- Maureen Ryan made a motion to approve the August bi-monthly meeting agenda. John Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

#### IV. Review and Approve of June Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- John Olson made a motion to approve the June quarterly meeting minutes. Maureen Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.
  - David Morstad stated that action items 1 and 2 were completed. David Morstad stated that action item 3 had not yet been completed. The Executive Committee has not yet examined Subcommittee structure of GCPD.

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

- No public comment was received.



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#### VI. GCPD Executive Committee Updates

- David Morstad stated the items the Executive Committee has been working on including:
- David Morstad also stated that he attended meetings of the Board of People with Disabilities (BPDD) and the Statutory Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse.
  - David Morstad stated that BPDD encouraged GCPD to be members of Survival Coalition.
    - John Olson made a motion for GCPD to become a member of Survival Coalition. Sandy Popp seconded the motion. Committee discussion ensued. Motion did not pass. See Motion Item 3.
      - Maureen Ryan stated that Survival Coalition requires active participation, including weekly conference calls, participating on committees, and questioned whether GCPD has the capacity to do so.
      - Dan Idzikowski stated there is a distinction between providers of services to people with disabilities versus being a voice of people with disabilities. Dan Idzikowski also state there are members of Survival Coalition, who do not actively participate or occasionally participate.
      - David Morstad said the Executive Committee will examine the opportunity to become a member of Survival Coalition and get answers to key questions raised. See Action Item 1.

#### VII. Presentation on Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities

- Lisa Sobczyk with DHS, BADR presented on the impact of COVID on people with disabilities and older adults.



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- Lisa Sobczyk also presented on the survey results on food access for people with disabilities during the pandemic.

#### VIII. Facilitated Discussion on DHS Response to COVID-19

- Amber Mullett stated that the COVID-19 pandemic was the longest running disaster in Wisconsin's history requiring significant cross agency coordination and collaboration.
- Amber Mullett with DHS, BADR discussed her role within the DHS COVID response team where she is helping to lead in the area of Harm Reduction & Prevention. Additional workstreams include: testing, contact tracing and surveillance.
- Amber Mullett stated that DHS is committed to working with diverse partners and stakeholders, including our committees and councils, in order to assure the needs of diverse communities are represented in the COVID response work. As a result, Amber Mullett is happy to serve as a liaison to GCPD with issues related to COVID and more generally about suggestions to advance policies and programs for people with disabilities during the pandemic.
- Dan Idzikowski asked questions about the bioethics team and the State Disaster Advisory Committee.

#### IX. Liaison and Council Updates

- **Liaison Updates**
  - **Department of Public Instruction (DPI)** – Eva Kubinski shared Forward Wisconsin documents and webpage and discussed guidance issued by DPI on students returning to school.
  - **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** – Sarah Lincoln shared DVR report with the Committee.
  - **Wisconsin Technical Colleges** – Colleen Larsen stated that the Technical Colleges are lending computers and hotspots to students



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so they can participate in classes and activities remotely. The Technical Colleges are trying to do as much as they can remotely. This has allowed the Technical Colleges to focus on online classes and materials being fully accessible. Colleen Larsen reported some students with disabilities are doing very well in this environment and others are really struggling. However, this has been hard for trades and hands on majors and the Technical Colleges have resumed some of these classes in a hybrid format with some in-person as well as remote learning. The Technical Colleges also setup their food pantries in their lobbies so students can access them even though the campuses were closed.

- **Council Updates**

- **Board on People with Development Disabilities (BPDD)** – Gail Bovy thank David Morstad for attend a recent BPDD meeting. Gail Bovy stated that the BPPD asked her to emphasize the need for GCPD to work with Survival Coalition.
- **Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD)** – Jason Ostrowski shared that the Council is need of members so please share this information with individuals you think may be interested in serving on CPD. Jason Ostrowski also stated that there are issues related to COVID-19 and people with disabilities that CPD should work with GCPD on.
- **Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB)** – Rhonda Staats shared that SCOB is focused on accessibility of state documents especially those that are forward facing. Rhonda Staats stated the first agency SCOB is working with is DHS due to the current pandemic and the need for this information to be accessible.



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- **Statutory Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCODA)**
  - Election of officers will occur at the next SCODA meeting. Roger Frings stated there are some opportunities to collaborate on COVID issues.

#### X. Discuss Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities

- The Committee did not have time to address this agenda item.

#### XI. Adjourn

- Pearl Fessenden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:38 P.M.**