



GCPD 2015 Annual Report

This report serves as an overview of activity and accomplishments of the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities during the 2015 Calendar Year.

Membership

GCPD held its annual elections at the first meeting of the year (March) with the following results: Chair – Nancy Leipzig, Vice-Chair – Sandy Popp, Executive Committee Members at Large – John Hartman, Ben Barrett, and Lee Young.

GCPD had two long-term committee members retire. Alex Slappey served on the committee and the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Tom Fell served as a member at large for many years and was instrumental in improving services for individuals with traumatic brain injury in the 1970s and beyond. GCPD will be recognizing Tom and his wife, Judy, in 2016 for their commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

The Governor appointed David Morstad to the GCPD as a member at large. Several other committee applications are currently being vetted by the Governor's office. The Chair of GCPD has had several phone conferences with the Governor's office to receive updates and share information about committee membership, which will continue in 2016.

Currently, GCPD has vacancies representing the Council on Mental Health, Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and State Council on AODA. GCPD also has up to five at-large vacancies. Of the current membership, 75% have a disability. Membership will continue to be a focus in 2016.

Activities and Accomplishments

GCPD had four quarterly general meetings in 2015, three held in Madison and one held in Green Bay. GCPD also held five Executive Committee meetings during the course of the year.

Topics covered during meetings included fall within focus areas of the GCPD work plan.

Employment

- Extensive work on MAPP reform including meeting with legislators, work with DHS fiscal policy representatives, and development of talking points (AB 414)
- Updates and information on progress with PROMISE Grant (GCPD acts as Advisory Committee for the grant)
- WIOA – provided input on DVR plan

Long Term Support

- Provided input on the DHS Transition Plan for Home and Community Base Waiver changes for Family Care and IRIS
- Provided input on the IRIS waiver
- Act 55 (State Budget)
 - Supported the proposal to expand Family Care statewide and existing structure of ADRCs
 - Discussion and development of activities to address concerns, including process to share communication with Lt. Governor's office and DHS
 - Provided questions and input to DHS for development of new program
- Met with representatives from Mental Health Section, Bureau of Managed Care and shared input, ideas on the new section.

Transportation

- Requested audit of MTM transportation and received overview of audit results
- Received update on DVR changes related to WIOA, provided comment to DVR on the proposed changes
- Received presentation from DOT Special Plates Unit, follow up on the statutory requirement of a fee for temporary special parking permits.
- Provided letter of support to require external advocacy for NEMT grievances/complaints

Housing

- Housing for All and Visitable Wisconsin – received an overview and assigned a GCPD member to represent on the Housing for All advisory committee (to become a standing GCPD agenda item)
- Provided comment on AB 568 (landlord/tenant rights) with suggestions to limit the potential negative impact for people with disabilities

Education

- Received updates from Youth Leadership Forum, continue to provide support
- Leadership and participation on the ADA Legacy Tour
- Received overview of ABLE Act
- Presentation and discussion on Voter ID requirements with suggestion to have breakout session on this topic at future disability-related conferences (e.g., Employment First)

Recognitions

- The Michael J. Falconer Award for Distinguished Service was presented to long-time GCPD member Joe Mielczark
- The Richard Blakely Organizational Achievement Award was presented to Plantables (from Hudson WI). <https://www.plantables.net/>

Respectfully submitted: Nancy Leipzig, GCPD Chair
February 25, 2016