



Council on Physical Disabilities Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019
9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Madison Concourse Hotel
1 W Dayton St
Madison, WI 53703

Action Items and Motion Items

Action Items

1. **Action Item:** The Council will send a thank you card to John Meissner in recognition of his service and dedication to the Council.
2. **Action Item:** The Council will send a thank you card to Jeff Fox for his continuous support of the Council and volunteerism towards the Emergency Preparedness Toolkit.
3. **Action Item:** Taqwanya Smith will send contact information for the program area working with transit for seniors or persons with disabilities.
4. **Action Item:** Ben Barrett to send the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities, 2019-2021 to Wisconsin state legislators.
5. **Action Item:** Ben Barrett will contact the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Chairperson, Sandy Popp, to inform her that the Council accepts the transfer of responsibility of the Dan C. Johnson Award.
6. **Action Item:** The Council will invite an IRIS representative to a future quarterly meeting to answer questions and discuss long-term care.
7. **Action Item:** It was decided that the Transportation Committee, specifically Noah Hershkowitz and Charles Vandenplas will work together to proposed accessible parking language changes.
8. **Action Item:** The Council's active committees (Transportation and Emergency Preparedness) will draft respective sections of the 2018 annual report, related to the work of their committees, at their upcoming monthly committee meetings.

Motion Items

1. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Jason Ostrowski to approve the January quarterly meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ron Jansen. Motion carried.



2. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Roberto Escamilla II to approve the October quarterly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Noah Hershkowitz. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Karen Secor to accept the transfer of responsibility of the Dan C. Johnson Award from GCPD. The motion was seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried.
4. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Charles Vandenplas to have Noah Hershkowitz chair the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Roberto Escamilla II. Motion carried.
5. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Gabriel Schlieve to have Charles Vandenplas co-chair the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Secor. Motion carried.
6. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Gabriel Schlieve to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Nicole Herda. Motion carried

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions by: Ben Barrett, Chairperson

Council members present: Ben Barrett, Dr. Noah Hershkowitz (via teleconference); Roberto Escamilla II (via teleconference); Karen Secor; Ronald Jansen; Charles Vandenplas (via teleconference); Jason Ostrowski; Gabriel Schlieve; Jackie Gordon; and Nicole Herda.

Liaisons present: Jody Ullman, Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance; Eric Cormany, Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance; Heather Bruemmer, Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long-Term Care; Taqwanya Smith, Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and Eva Kubinski, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

DHS staff support present: Amber Mullett, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Sara O'Donnell, DHS, BADR; Maia Stitt, DHS, BADR; Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR; and Gary Roth, DHS.

Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) Service Provider: Margo Lucas.

Guests: Levi Sable; Sheri Siemers; Kathy Johnson; Nancy Schlieve; and Tim Ringhand



Meeting Called to Order

II. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by Ben Barrett, Chairperson.

- The meeting was available via in-person attendance and via teleconference by calling 1-608-316-9000 and using the participant code of 5096927. It was also available via [Skype](#).

III. Review and Approve January Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- A motion was made by Jason Ostrowski to approve the January quarterly meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ron Jansen. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.
- Lisa Sobczyk introduced Maia Stitt, the Physical Disabilities Program Coordinator in the Office on Physical Disabilities and Independent Living.

IV. Public Comment on Issues Affecting People with Physical Disabilities

- There is a lack of understand and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Council should consider addressing this issue by educating the general public in order to increase awareness.
 - What are the ADA requirements for service animals, airlines, businesses, and hotels? What resources are available to consumers and citizens alike?
- Council members shared personal stories and issues they've experienced due to minimum requirements mandated in the ADA.
- Members would like the Council to increase its advocacy efforts and teach others how to navigate accessibility issues.
 - It was suggested that the Council use their website resource page to share information with the public.
 - If the Council decided to address this issue further they need to be mindful of accessibility for all. They'll also need to decide what they will be advocating for and how they will direct inquiries or complaints.
 - One of the first initiatives could be to contact a representative from the Hotel and Lodging Association and invite them to attend an upcoming Council meeting in order to establish a working relationship and begin having conversations surrounding accessibility issues at hotels.
- For more information individuals are encouraged to contact Disability Rights Wisconsin, Mid-Atlantic ADA, or Great Lakes ADA Center.



V. Review and Approve October Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Roberto Escamilla II to approve the October quarterly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Noah Hershkowitz. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

VI. Membership and Appointments

- The Council received John Meissner's resignation letter and would like to send him a thank you card in recognition of his service and dedication to the Council. See Action Item 1.
- The Council would also like to send Jeff Fox a thank you card for his continuous support of the Council and volunteerism towards the Emergency Preparedness Toolkit. See Action Item 2.
- DHS support staff provided an update on Council membership and appointments.
 - Cassi Fenili is the Director of Gubernatorial Appointments in Governor Tony Evers office. DHS support staff have been notified that she is the assigned contact for Council appointments.
 - An initial request was sent to Cassi asking to schedule a meeting to discuss each of the governor appointed councils/committees, membership requirements, and vacancies. DHS support staff have not yet received a response. In the meantime, all appointments will stay as is, until further guidance is provided by the governor's office.

VII. Council Liaison Updates

- Eva Kubinski, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
 - Carolyn Stanford Taylor is the newly appointed state superintendent.
 - The annotated list of recent Special Education Team bulletins was shared with Council members
 - Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
 - The United States Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling on what it means to provide a FAPE to a student with a disability through an individualized education program (IEP) tailored to the student's unique needs.



- Transportation
 - Some students with disabilities require transportation as a related service as part of their IEP. Students with disabilities are entitled to transportation as a related service only if the IEP team has determined that transportation is necessary for the student to benefit from special education.
- Medicaid
 - Wisconsin's Medicaid program interfaces with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state special education law.
- Jody Ullman, Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI)
 - Eric Cormany has filled Jody Ullman's previous position, and together the two will be alternating attendance at the Council's quarterly meetings.
 - 13.32 waiver from the federal government – Authorization to come up with an alternative to strike ADA adherence – Wisconsin has a rate insurance program that ideally is intended to at least level out premium payments.
 - OCI insures the insurance companies – insurance companies are responsible to pay up until a certain point and then OCI takes over any remaining costs – this helps keep premiums lower – other states have done it and it seems to work.
 - The Affordable Care Act (ACA) involves three key entities: insurance companies, health.gov, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – individuals who are enrolled in ACA and have subsidies are experiencing issues with the system not reading the subsidy and billing the full cost.
- Heather Bruemmer, Wisconsin Board of Aging and Long-Term Care (BOALTC)
 - IRIS and Family Care ombudsmen have been busy providing advocacy services and connecting consumers with the necessary resources.
 - The ombudsmen for Medicare counseling continue to provide services. Open enrollment finished in December, so they were busy handling a high number of calls.
- Taqwanya Smith, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - Phase one of the ADA Transition Plan has finished. This includes curb ramps and sidewalks that are connected to state highways and then working with local government if there is cross jurisdiction.



- There are 45,000 sidewalks connected to state highways that either have no curb ramps, or the curb ramps are not up to code. These will be corrected during the next six years.
- The second phase of the ADA Transition Plan includes rest areas. DOT is currently surveying different areas to determine whether or not they are compliant. The Council is encouraged to provide feedback on whether or not they've identified everything connected to accessibility.
- The third phase of the ADA Transition Plan will be buildings.

VIII. Committee Updates

- Ben Barrett, Transportation Committee
 - John Meissner was the chairperson for this Committee and since he's resigned the Council will need to discuss next steps moving forward.
 - Noah Hershkowitz has agreed to continue co-chair the committee, but that means another member will have to serve as a co-chair too.
 - Work Plan for Transportation Section of State Plan
 - The Committee will need to create their work plan, which outlines the strategies and objectives that will be completed to achieve transportation goals in the State Plan.
 - Universal Parking Signage
 - The Committee would like to move forward with drafting language that would require signage in access aisles of accessible parking spots that say "No Parking." To make this change the Council will need to work with DOT on a rule change. The Committee plans to look at what's currently in place and then recommend revised language for consideration by DOT.
 - Accessible Parking Visor Card
 - The Committee would like to continue working on creating an accessible parking visor card for law enforcement agencies and individuals to use as an educational tool and resource.
 - Taqwanya Smith will send the contact information for the program area that works with transit for seniors or persons with disabilities. See Action Item 3. This same program area also works with Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities.



- Karen Secor, Emergency Preparedness Committee
 - The Council received a copy of the thank you card Jan Devore sent in response to the flowers and letter of thanks the Council sent her when she announced her retirement. Jan played an essential role in helping the Council secure funding for the toolkit.
 - Toolkit Outreach Updates
 - On This Leg Amputee Support Group – Paddock Lake
 - There were 17 attendees and the presenters had good interactions and conversations with the group.
 - FOCUS Conference
 - The Council had an exhibit booth where they displayed their toolkit and resource materials. High attendance was reported.
 - Two Rivers Senior Center
 - Presentations held at various senior meal sites.
 - Sawyer County
 - Emergency vehicles were provided copies of the visual communication tools during the Fire Association meeting in January.
 - The Health and Human Services Department in Hayward will be conducting a functional exercise on January 29. The agency will be staging a drill in which a bomb explodes during the Barnebirkie race and sends a flood of wounded victims into the department.
 - Winnebago County Health Department
 - Oshkosh will be conducting a preparedness presentation/training on February 20 to train nurses, social workers, and other facility staff that work in independent living apartments. Those staff members will then work with the residents at each apartment complex to prepare and plan.
 - Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE)
 - DHS support staff, Maia Stitt, attended the conference and distributed 25 toolkits to teens and parents who attended her presentation.



- Toolkit Distribution Strategies
 - Outreach efforts are being tracked internally and data has been pulled to be included in the annual report and state plan.
 - The toolkit could be specialized for schools or businesses; the Committee just has to be strategic about how they approach the schools.
 - Since its inception, the toolkit has built a network full of connections and continues to lead to more requests and presentations.
- Grant Application
 - The Council submitted another grant application requesting funding for more toolkits and additional staff support. If awarded the funding then the Committee will need to convene via conference call and organize a plan of execution.

IX. Distribute Final State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities

- Members received a copy of the final State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities, 2019-2021 and are encouraged to distribute it to their networks.
- Ben Barrett will send the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities, 2019-2021, to Wisconsin state legislators. See Action Item 4.

X. Working Lunch: Dan C. Johnson Award – Request from Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities

- Dan Johnson’s wife, Kathy Johnson, has proposed that the award created by the Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) in honor of her late husband be transferred to the CPD.
- Kathy Johnson attended the quarterly meeting to discuss the award and introduce herself to members of the Council who never knew Dan or his family. She provided insight into Dan’s life, both personally and professionally, and explained her reasoning for why the award was best suited for CPD.
- A motion was made by Karen Secor to accept the transfer of responsibility of the Dan C. Johnson Award from GCPD. The motion was seconded by Jason Ostrowski. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- The Council decided to create a workgroup in order to begin the transition process.
 - Karen Secor, Ben Barrett, Kathy Johnson, and Jackie Gordon have offered to be on the workgroup.



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- The workgroup will work on creating a timeline, establishing a plan, and developing the award criteria to better capture the ideal candidate that represents who Dan was and what he stood for.
- The workgroup plans to have its first conference call on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 pm.
- The Council would like to hold the award ceremony during the last quarterly meeting of the year, which takes place in October. If that timeline doesn't work out logistically then the Council will plan for January 2020.
- Ben Barrett will contact the GCPD Chairperson, Sandy Popp, to inform her that the Council has decided to accept the transfer of responsibility of the Dan C. Johnson Award. The Council will also be in contact to discuss the transition process and if any members of GCPD want to continue being involved they are welcome to join the workgroup meetings. See Action Item 5.

XI. Electronic Visit Verification Advisory Workgroup Report

- The 21st Century Cures Act mandates that states implement electronic visit verification (EVV) for all Medicaid personal care services and home health services that require an in-home visit by a provider. EVV must be implemented by January 2020 for Medicaid-funded personal care services, and January 2023 for home health care services.
- There will be town hall meetings held quarterly throughout the state to gather progress reports and there are plans to have participation from individuals who use personal care services in order to collect their input.
- The Council would like to invite an IRIS representative to one of their quarterly meetings to answer questions and discuss long-term care. See Action Item 6.

XII. Discuss Universal Sign for Parking Language

- The Council was informed that accessible parking language in the rule they wanted amended is also included in three state statutes, which may require these statutes to be modified.
- John Meissner was the lead on this initiative and since he resigned the Council needs to determine whether or not they'd like to continue moving forward.
 - It was decided that the Transportation Committee, specifically Noah Hershkowitz and Charles Vandenplas will work together to proposed accessible parking language changes.. See Action Item 7.



XIII. Committee Assignments and Schedule

- DHS support staff reviewed the list of committees and discussed current engagement. As a reminder, Council members are required to serve on one of the two active Council committees. Once the Council has full membership they will reconvene the other two committees that are currently inactive.
- A motion was made by Charles Vandenplas to have Noah Hershkowitz chair the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Roberto Escamilla II. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.
- A motion was made by Gabriel Schlieve to have Charles Vandenplas co-chair the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Secor. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.
- The Transportation Committee will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m.- 11:00a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29.
- The Council's active committees (Transportation and Emergency Preparedness) will draft respective sections of the 2018 annual report, related to the work of their committees, at their upcoming monthly committee meetings. See Action Item 8.

XIV. Adjourn

- A motion was made by Gabriel Schlieve to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Nicole Herda. Motion carried. See Motion Item 6.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.