



# State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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**Legislative Breakfast and Quarterly Meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2011  
The Madison Club, 5 East Wilson Street, Madison, WI 53703 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 9:43 AM

Members present: Charles Vandenplas, Sandra Stokes, Joanne Zimmerman, John Meissner, Jeff Fox, Jon Baltmanis, Ben Barrett, Karen Secor, Lewis 'Tobie' Tyler

Liaisons present: Tom Heffron, Barbara Belling, Heather Bruemmer, Patti Glassburn (for Marty Evanson, Larry Swaziek

Staff present: Molly Michels, Dan Johnson, Nancy Owens, John Reiser

Others present: Linda Arnold, American Red Cross; Dewey Radair; Michael Steinhauer, Dane Co. Emergency Management; Russell King, Dane Co. Emergency Management; William Parke-Sutherland, ILCW; Ashley Siefert, Senator Larson's office; Mike Bachhuber, ILCW.

**Debriefing of legislative breakfast:**

Good turnout at breakfast: 16 members of the legislature were represented.

Next year, members should call their own representatives.

Discussions were very good at the tables.

Spreadsheet that has the legislative information should include which committees they are on.

Discussion of having Council members switch tables to discuss all of the issues with all of the reps.

Sen. Jauch (staff), Sen. Lassa (staff), Rep. Honadel (staff), Sen Larson (staff), Rep. Barca, Rep. Berceau, Rep. Bewley, Sen. Darling (staff), Sen. Hansen, Sen. Holperin, Rep. Krusick (Rep and staff), Sen. Miller (staff), Rep. Milroy, Rep. Molepske, Rep. Van Roy, Rep. Zepnick.

Rep. Molepske discussed putting forth visitability legislation.

Rep. Bewley asked to be invited to the Housing For All committee meetings.

Rep. Van Roy seemed receptive to the discussion of MAPP enhancements.

John Reiser discussed MAPP enhancements: premium based on earnings, unearned income and retirement. Unearned income contributes 80% to the premium calculation. Retirement income will seriously increase the premium.

Self-directed support of personal care, if provided by a family member, could be enough unearned income to increase premium or make the person ineligible for the program.

Proposed: cap on premiums, treats income as income, create portal to allow SSI 1619 people to join the program (Medicaid participants who do not receive a cash SSI payment) This would allow SSI 1619 participants to save money. Secretary Smith has been briefed and seems in favor of the proposed enhancements.

Proposal for everyone to have a premium to participate in MAPP. Most participants do not pay a premium now. A \$10-\$25 per month premium would make the program more fiscally sound.

Proposals will also allow a portal for high earners to join MAPP.

Spousal income would also be disregarded as income. It does not eliminate the marriage penalty, but helps decrease it.

Current administration has asked how many of the 250,000 jobs created should be people with disabilities= 15,000 based on the proportion of Medicaid recipients in the state.

Representative Barca is very interested in the Council. He worked for 10 years at a camp for kids and young adults with disabilities.

Representative Krusick said that AB81 will be reintroduced (parking bill). The Executive Committee has indicated its continued support. Rep. Krusick's office contacted the Council to discuss the bill.

Discussion of co-sponsoring a letter with Disabled Veterans of America regarding transportation issues. Charles Vandenplas will follow up. Transportation has been cut in half, the Veterans' Museum funding has been significantly cut. There are two veterans homes (King and Monroe) that are struggling financially, new home in Chippewa Falls was just approved and would likely be run by a private company.

*Motion to sign on to a letter of support for the WI Disabled Veterans of America transportation funding. Baltmanis/Tyler—passed.*

Madison Club is a good venue. Council would like to be there again next year.

*Motion to approve agenda: Vandenplas/ Zimmerman—passed*

*Motion to approve minutes: Zimmerman/Tyler—passed*

No new business.

**Membership and liaisons updates and planning: Dan Johnson**

Two vacancies on the Council. Governor's designee is a member of the Council plus 13 other members. Staggered 2 year terms. Working on getting Noah Hershkowitz appointed as a full member. There is another applicant. Members serve until there is a new appointment.

As of July 1, 2011, there will no longer be a Department of Commerce. The housing group may go to WHEDA or DOA. It is unknown at this time. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation will replace the DOC.

Commerce Divisions:

Business Development

Housing and Community

Environmental Regulatory Services

Safety and Building

ERS and SB are moving to new Dept of Safety and Professional Services. (former Dept of Regulation and Licensing)

Council will have to request liaisons from housing and safety/buildings from the Secretaries of their new Departments.

**Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities: Linda Arnold, American Red Cross, Badger Chapter; Michael Steinhauer, Dane County Emergency Services**

(see presentation)

ARC has a statutory responsibility for providing immediate emergency services after a disaster.

Sheltering needs and practices have changed and become more complex.

ARC follows seven principles of ADA.

FEMA and the national disability organizations have worked together to set up functional needs shelters in the communities after a disability. Michael Steinhauer recommended that Council members contact their county emergency management offices to be sure that they are aware of the document *Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters*, November 2010.

Functional Needs Support Services are services that enable children and adults to maintain their usual level of independence in general population shelters. This includes medical equipment and supplies and personal assistance services. Jeff Fox said that funeral homes often have durable medical equipment that could be borrowed. Personal assistance services may still be paid in a shelter environment.

Shelters become a single point of services for the community. This requires an integration of community stakeholders in the shelter to provide services.

Shelter intake and assessment tool is used to assess the functional needs of shelter residents.

In the past, health services people were only able to follow symptom based protocols and not provide health interventions. Now the health services volunteers are able to provide services to the extent of their licenses. Shelters are not able to accommodate individuals who require constant medical supervision, hospital care, or those who are a danger to themselves or to others. Otherwise they identify what will make a shelter livable for a person and try to accommodate those needs. If someone is unable to be in the shelter, ARC will find an appropriate sheltering location.

Service animals are allowed in shelters. Pets are not allowed in the shelter, however service animals are not considered pets. No certification is necessary to prove an animal is a service animal and shelter staff may not require documentation. Two questions may be asked: 1) Do you need this animal because of a disability? 2) What work or tasks has the animal been trained to perform?

There is now a shelter application for smart phones or iPads. It may be found at iTunes.

**Michael Steinhauer, Dane County Emergency Management:**

There is much guidance for planning.

Nearly every day, counties and cities are being sued for lack of planning around emergency preparedness by civil rights or disability advocacy organizations.

FEMA has changed the term from 'special populations' to 'functional needs'.

Dane County prefers the term 'special populations' to continue.

Advocacy must be prior to sheltering needs. Personal emergency preparedness means food and water, smoke alarm, medication, first aid kit, flashlight, fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide detector, battery operated radio.

People need to change their behavior and will listen best to advocates and peer-to-peer.

Reception centers are the new approach as a first step in an emergency.

When sirens go off, people should seek more information to determine what the required action is.

If you are asked to leave your home, be sure to bring your pets. The Humane Society in Dane County will be prepared to take the animals. Exception is monkeys.

The first goal of emergency management is to avoid shelters and work on community re-integration.

Dane County Emergency Management provides medical personnel and has supply trailers for the shelters.

*Motion to have the next meeting at the Heartwood (?) Resort in Trego. If it cannot be at that resort, meeting will be in Madison. Meeting on July 15, 22 or 29<sup>th</sup>. Fox/Secor—passed.*

*January meeting would be done via virtual meeting/ video conference. Fox/Baltmanis—passed.*

## **Budget Repair Bill and Biennial Budget: William Parke-Sutherland, Independent Living Council of Wisconsin.**

(see presentation)

Council members discussed the affects on transportation, education, health care, Medicaid programs, mental health, and women. The Council also discussed the inequitable balance between corporate versus personal income tax.

Sandra Stokes mentioned the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign which collects information on campaign contributions. [www.wisdc.org](http://www.wisdc.org)

For more information:

<http://www.il-wisconsin.net/advocacy/>

[http://www.dawninfo.org/co/sc/survival\\_coalition.cfm](http://www.dawninfo.org/co/sc/survival_coalition.cfm)

*Motion to support Survival Coalition position on the budget issues. Fox/Tyler—passed.*

*Motion to send a letter to Joint Finance Committee conveying the WCPD position on budget issues. Fox/Barrett—passed.*

### **Update on parking**

Department of Commerce responded that the parking requests are already covered by ADA. Hearing comments and agency responses on administrative rules must be signed off by Secretary and then to the Legislature. WCPD could send a letter to the Secretary requesting that it be revisited. Larry can let the group know what committees will be reviewing the rules. If there is no public comment within 30 days, there will not be a hearing. ADA says that all parking lots must be accessible and lined appropriately, so the DOC says that there is no need for a state rule to require existing buildings to have striping and accessible spaces. Existing buildings need to adhere to the code from the time when the building was built. The question is whether or not the state should have the authority to make existing buildings meet the current code. WCPD is arguing that the state should have enforcement authority to bring the building parking lot up to current ADA standards.

*Motion to send letter to the Department of Commerce Secretary to ask that the state have enforcement authority to bring the building parking lot up to current ADA standards, copy to Governor Walker's office. Meissner/Tyler—passed (also copy Tom Nardelli, Division Administrator for Safety and Buildings)*

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

Karen Secor attended a meeting with Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee March 1<sup>st</sup>, others in April and May to write a grant to get funding to do public health preparedness (pandemic, etc.).

**Housing:**

Joanne sent the minutes of the Housing for All Advisory Council. Goals align with WCPD goals.

ADD Housing for All Advisory Committee Goals from Joanne.

*Motion to join the NLIHC for \$50. Fox/Stokes—passed*

Next meeting:

Robin Jones from Great Lakes ADA.

Andy Janicki from DNR on recreational sites.

**Liaison updates:**

Tom Heffron gave an update from WTCS. This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WTCS. The 2010-2011 enrollment is 500,000, including 20,000 students with disabilities. There have been increases in the number of students who are veterans and those who have traumatic brain injuries, mental health issues, autism spectrum disorder and multiple disabilities.

The state budget proposal includes 30% cut in state aids, a 2 year freeze on local tax levy, and possible enrollment caps, layoffs, reductions in services, reduced courses and programs.

The proposed reductions in federal money for Carl Perkins funds will affect WTCS Disability Services.

The WI GI Bill at UW and WTCS is only getting 18 cents on the dollar for veterans educational benefits attending school. The reset is paid by technical college and UW and other students (tuition).

*Motion to add support for money to the WTCS programs to train in-state workers to take jobs that are being created by new businesses in WI. Add this to letter to Joint Finance Committee. Jon Baltmanis will draft the letter. Meissner/Baltmanis—passed*

Heather Bruemmer:

AARP presented 8,000 people per day turning 65 in US. Accurate numbers will come from the US Census which has not been released.

Homeless conference is July 26 in Steven's Point. Home for Everyone conference July 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to adjourn: Fox/Zimmerman—passed*