



1 WEST WILSON ST, ROOM 437
POST OFFICE BOX 7851
MADISON, WI 53707-7851

State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

Voice: 608-261-7816
TTY: 608-267-9880
Fax: 608-266-3386
www.pdcouncil.state.wi.us

Quarterly Meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2010
Madison Concourse Hotel 1 West Dayton Street,
Madison, Wisconsin, USA 53703
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ben Barrett, John Baltmanis, Tobie Tyler, Jeff Fox, Karen Secor, John Meissner, Sandy Stokes, Charles Vandenplas, Joanne Zimmerman, JorJan Borlin

Liaisons Present: Noah Hershkowitz, Craig Wehner, Marty Evanson, Vincent Fisher, Barbara Belling, Heather Bruemmer, Larry Swaziek

Staff Present: John Reiser, Nancy Owens, Dan Johnson, Amber Jensen

Via Live Meeting: Elisha Harig-Blaine, National Low Income Housing Coalition

Meeting called to order at 9:03

Stokes/Tyler: Motion to approve the agenda. Approved.

Tyler/Stokes: Motion to approve minutes from last meeting. Approved.

Discussion of committee list

Add Karen Secor to Emergency Preparedness

Please look at the list and send changes/additions to Amber, Amber will send a revised list out to the group.

Discussion of lack of broadband in the northern region of the state. Could stimulus money be used to bring updated technology to people in that area so they are connected to that area of the state? John Reiser stated that the Governor acquired money to expand broadband throughout the state. Does not solve the issue of individuals having out dated computers and computer programs. Issue for the agenda at the summit in November?

Discussion of the 2011 meeting dates:

Jan 27th

April 14th (date voted on for the Legislative breakfast)

July 28th

October 27th

Liaison Updates:

Larry Swaziek, Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division: Parking proposal to commercial parking code has made it to hearing, but no response yet. Moving forward with visitability. See Larry's handout from commerce, annual report.

Craig Wehner, WDA Director, DVR: DVR is currently serving 15,500 individuals with plans, ARRA money will have some carry over, during the next 2 years will be able to increase to about 16400, then after that slowly decline again. There continues to be a wait list, 700-1000 people taken off wait list each month. Around 5000 individuals are currently on the wait list. Individuals in category 2 are the people who will be taken off the wait list.

Barbara Belling, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance: Office is working very hard on healthcare reform, just awarded a one year, \$637,000 from Health and Human Services for consumer assistance grant to improve complaint system. The grant will allow them to hire 2 people for consumer education and outreach statewide, also contract with ABC for Health to work on enrollment issues.

Heather Bruemmer, WI Board on Aging and Long Term Care: They have been testifying in support of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. Working hard to make sure there is money there to protect most vulnerable groups.

Jeff Fox, report from the Governor's Committee: Youth leadership was very successful this year. John Reiser stated that the Governor's Committee could use the input and energy from liaisons from other committees. What can the PD council do to support them? Leadership of this council could engage the council of the GCPD and offer support. Invite them to the PD council meetings. Could there be a GCPD member liaison to the PD council?

The Wisconsin Way: *Jim Wood*

See the PowerPoint for list of players and detailed data.

- Their group conducted opinion, economical and demographic research and concluded that Wisconsin is in deep trouble due to an increase in need for services and a decrease in ability to pay for services.
- People over age of 65 expected to double between 2000 and 2030. This will lead to no significant growth in income tax base. The current state deficit at \$2.5 and \$3 billion.
- National debt is a major political issue, one of every 4 dollars spent in WI are federal dollars.
- WI Way designed to be a public outreach process, started with a series of town hall meetings, what works, what doesn't work, how we should address issues. April of 2010 released a blue print for change. See handout for data.
- Question from Joanne Zimmerman on how the word was put out to people with disabilities around the state. Mr. Wood stated that people with disabilities were not specifically targeted. John Reiser suggested contacted ILC to get word out to individuals with disabilities.
- As result of research the group concluded that the people of Wisconsin want economic development, tax reform and modernization, government reform and modernization. 3 guidelines were adopted:
- measurable greater governmental efficiency and cost reductions have to be an essential component of the blueprint

- every effort must be made to assure that specific governmental services are funded by the most appropriate funding source
- we will grow the tax base in WI by encouraging business growth and job creation but do so with a commitment to facts and fiscal responsibility
- Can you permanently reduce property tax in WI by 25%? People don't want to lose services but are fine with consolidation of services. Disconnect between what people say they care about (services) yet those services are determined by people elected in the spring elections...only 1 in 10 eligible voters in Wisconsin voted in the spring election last April.
- Example of how change the current process, the UW needs to develop new degree program, Bachelors program in 3 years so they can go out into the workforce and have the right to return for the 4th year at some point in the future.
- Next steps: hosted economic summit series with the UW system and results will be proposed to the new Governor.

Mark O'Connell

- The Wisconsin Way is collection of facts and recommendations to get WI to a different place.
- Joanne Zimmerman raised questions stating that students with only 3 years of education would lead to students not being selected for jobs due to lesser of an education. Jon Baltmanis suggested reading the entire report and then draw a conclusion, Jon stated we need to think outside the box and look down the road and get others to think this way as well.
- Karen Secor commented that the presentation gave her hope for the state, that there was hope for doing something that actually makes a difference. Karen also asked about the 10 job areas, Mark commented that the information has been updated and should be available on the DWD website standard categories for jobs, projected job growth information.
- Ben Barrett asked if Mark could come back in the future once the group has had time to digest the information and find out the results of the election. Mark will be happy to return.
- Mark suggested going to www.iouusathemovie.com, explains where we are as a nation and correlates where we are as a state.

Homeless By the Numbers: *Adam Smith, Wisconsin Department of Commerce*

See handouts: Homelessness in Wisconsin

Discussion of housing services and emergency housing shelters. Emergency shelter utilization, first point of contact for people seeking shelter, any given year served about 17,000 individuals in emergency shelters, has increased over the past couple years given economic times. 87% of clients exit and do not return. 13% cycle in and out of shelters repeatedly. Clients with repeat stays have the highest rates of mental health issues, disability, and veteran status. Office does not provide services for permanent housing for homeless individuals. Not enough housing to provide those in need. Funds were received from HUD to build more units. This time of year applications sent to HUD to develop permanent supportive employment to continue funding for next year. Milwaukee, Racine, Dane county, balance of the state....all these areas able to get funds to develop new units last year.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP): *Maggie Carden, Wisconsin Department of Commerce*

See PowerPoint presentation

Program cycle is July 1, 2009-June 30 2012, but will be ending sooner than that, funded with ARRA funds. Focus is on housing stabilization, designed to be a bridge to long-term system and does not come

with a lot of wrap around services. Services provided: rent assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance. Eligibility: must meet HUDs definition of homelessness, see handout for full definition. 7416 households have received HPRP assistance to date. 8080 adults, 6703 children. See PowerPoint for information regarding participants with disabilities. Funds will run out in May. Some different funding may be available in July for prevention, but not to the extent that was available through HPRP.

Noah Hershkowitz asked how fast rapid re-housing is. Maggie stated the turn around is generally within one month of entering a shelter.

Overview of Wisconsin's Economy and Employment: *Eric Grosso, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*

See PowerPoint presentation

- Eric prefaced his presentation by saying that he is not an expert in disability and can only speak to what the data tells him.
- Job base is currently 5-6% lower compared to state of recession. We are beginning to see recovery, but very slowly. No good idea of when a more robust recovery will happen. 2013-2014 to return to 2007, pre-recession levels.
- Job growth by industry sector growth, December 2009 (bottom of economic downturn) through August 2010. Recovery is more robust that it was in late 2009. Construction and manufacturing are growing right now. Represent 20% of states job base but 50% of job losses. Not expecting too many barriers to their growth. Access to capital and cash is biggest hindrance.
- Projections for 2018 vs 2008 job base educational requirements...see slide in PowerPoint. Data does not account for labor shortages, assumes that all positions will be filled.
- Average hourly wage is currently increasing, but too soon to say why it is happening.
- Projection data available for local areas on how they will perform will be available.
- Labor force participation rate defined as those who are likely to be working or seeking work. State as a whole is 70% participation rate. Majority of 30% who are not seeking work are retired, others have given up. Data comes from a survey sent to 1,200 households in WI, 65,000 nationally.
- Unemployment rate of people with disabilities in the summer of 2009 at 17%, current overall unemployment rate is 9.5%.
- Educational attainment of people with disabilities is lower than the general population. Page 6, ages 25-34 who were employed look at differences between people with disabilities and no disability.
- Future workers will have a need to have some post secondary education to fulfill the needs of the future workforce.
- Page 8 – see where individuals with and without disabilities are working

The Three Words to describe the 2010 Election: Anger, Apathy and Amnesia. Analysis and Predictions: *Gary Goyke*

- Mr. Goyke read the state statute on the purpose of the council. The advice of the council will be needed more in the coming months than ever before.
- The PD Council can not be a council making endorsements, but encouraged the members to be a council that speaks up on issues that are important to the group and those they represent.
- Question from Marty Evanson regarding next steps with the transition to new governor. After Nov 2nd the new governor will assemble a team, Mr. Goyke encouraged the council to notify the teams of strong support for issues that are important to the group.

Call with the National Low Income Housing Coalition: *Elisha Harig-Blaine*

- About the organization: Elisha is the outreach associate covering WI. NLIHC started in 1974. They combine public education with policy analysis.
- Cornerstone piece of research put out is annual report called Out of Reach.
- About 1000 members around the country, have 59 state programs in 38 states.
- Role with establishing of neighborhood stabilization program, 25% is targeted to very low income households.
- Tenants in a foreclosed property now have the right to stay in the property due to efforts of the NLIHC.
- National housing trust fund, established in Sept 2008, working to identify dedicated sources of income to fund the trust fund.
- Over 2300 agencies signed on to support the trust fund.
- Policy agenda has strong focus on housing needs of extremely low income households.
- Numbers from annual report is done by American Communities' Survey Data using national data that can be broken down to state, county, metro area.
- Nlihc.org for more information.
- Jeff Fox asked: Do you see any more increases in section 8 vouchers? Campaign to increase by 250 new vouchers in FY 11.
- Elisha's materials will be sent to the group after the meeting

Committee Reports:

Transportation Committee, John Meissner: Committee had a conference call on the October 27th, Wausau Tech College parking that was taken away, disabled parking space was removed and made green space, and the disabled parking spots were moved back to general parking, further away from the building entrance. The group is going to talk to Robin Jones, Director of the DBTAC - Great Lakes ADA. New waysides going in on Interstate 94 has parking far from the building due to green space between parking and the building, no parking near the door. Will this be a trend? John Meissner is also going to mention this issue to Robin.

How to set up meetings for subcommittees...send Amber dates/times that you would like to have a meeting, she will set up the call info and send along to the group. Person asking for the call to be arranged will be given the host code.

How to get a person with a disability on committees that involve design...parking at tech schools, wayside design. Jon Baltmanis suggests working on issues that will not cost money due to the state budget. Vincent Fisher suggested keeping an eye out for community meetings that take place for DOT projects (such as expansion of roads, waysides...).

Emergency Preparedness Committee, Karen Secor

See form from Dane County website www.countyofdane.com/emergency

Other committee members, Karen has 2 names of people to contact, questions were asked of Karen: what is our focus...Karen wants more information to give to people that she is inviting to the committee. Jeff Fox suggested coming up with an agenda of exactly what would be discussed. How to get people who are already busy interested in spending more time on something. Joanne Zimmerman shared that there are times when the group is active and times when they are not. Vincent Fisher suggested getting in touch with division of state patrol to be on the committee or as a resource. Superintendent Dave Collins of the

State Patrol, Darrin Price (over state troupers). Karen looking for an activity to do related to emergency preparedness.

Survival Coalition-Ben Barrett, Jeff Fox and Jon Baltmanis would like to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45