



# State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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

Voice: 608-261-7816  
TTY: 608-267-9880  
Fax: 608-266-3386  
[www.pdcouncil.state.wi.us](http://www.pdcouncil.state.wi.us)

## **Quarterly Meeting: Friday, July 29, 2011**

Heartwood Conference Center & Retreat  
N10884 Hoinville Road, Trego, WI 54888

Meeting called to order at 9:10 AM.

Motion to approve agenda: Tyler/ Duranceau—passed  
Move elections to after lunch. Break at 11:30 for check out.

Members present: Ben Barrett, Jeff Fox, Chris Duranceau, Tobie Tyler, Marge Liberski,  
Joanne Zimmerman, Jon Baltmanis, John Meissner, Karen Secor

Liaisons present: Marty Evanson,

Staff present: Dan Johnson, Molly Michels

Guest present: Steve Smart, Amber Mullett, Andy Janicki, Pamela O'Brien, Dennis  
Liphart, Sally Scheidegger

Motion to approve minutes: Tyler/Liberski—passed

New business:

Karen Secor requests a discussion on smart meters and dirty electricity.

Karen discussed her experience with trying to get a smart meter removed from her home.  
She also talked about measuring the electricity in her outlets and installing filters in her  
home.

<http://www.stetzerelectric.com/>

Motion to have Karen follow up with staff to have an expert at the next meeting to talk  
about smart meters and dirty electricity. Secor/Fox—passed

Proposed WCPD letter about accessibility to Capitol building read by Ben Barrett.  
During the winter protests, the Capitol was inaccessible to people with physical

disabilities. Police cars were blocking the curb cuts on the sidewalks. Motion to send letter to the Department of Administration and Department of Commerce. Request by Marge Liberski to add a request to improve communications accessibility for the deaf. Jon Baltmanis suggested that a second letter be written to discuss the accessibility for the deaf. John Meissner suggested that the communications accessibility issue be included in the current letter, followed up by a letter about day-to-day communications at the Capitol. All of these issues are related to the ADA. Motion to send the current letter to include the communications accessibility for the deaf under the shared rubric of the ADA. Fox/Secor—passed.

Marty Evanson: Department of Commerce is no longer the DOC. It is now the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Safety and Buildings is part of this new Department. Economic Development moved to the WI Economic Development Corporation. Public Facilities is now in the WEDC. The Division of Housing is now part of the Department of Administration. They are awaiting the appointment of a Division Administrator. The consolidated plan will be part of the DOA. The Division of Housing has developed a new brochure: Program Guide.

Molly and Dan discussed the future of the MIG, Pathways to Independence and the Department of Health Services.

For the past ten years, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has been awarded an annual Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The purpose of this grant was to develop policies, programs and services that support Medicaid-reliant people in their employment efforts and as they move towards economic security. Calendar year 2011 is the final year of funding to over 40 state MIG programs.

During the MIG grant period, Wisconsin has led the nation in total awards (over \$47 million) and in meeting the legislative intent of the program through implementation of the following, as just two examples:

- An effective Medicaid “buy-in” program that provides Medicaid funded long-term care and health services to workers with severe disabilities who would have to significantly reduce their work effort to avoid loss of such coverage due to earnings and savings. The Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) is the nation’s third largest with over 17,000 participants and over \$158 million in service expenditures in 2009.
- A strategic plan that includes consideration of all publicly funded systems and disability stakeholders statewide, and that reflects and supports the broader strategic plan of the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment. The Pathways to Independence Strategic Plan was developed in 2005 and remains the foundation for the project’s wide array of activities. The Pathways MIG assures positive outcomes for people with disabilities and for the businesses that employ them. As a result, the state’s labor force has

increased and diversified, access to healthcare and employment services is protected and businesses that intentionally employ people with disabilities can expect their bottom line to improve, as demonstrated in credible research.

Important work remains to be done. As successful as Wisconsin's MIG has been in developing the tools that support employment and economic advancement of people with disabilities, this group remain very vulnerable. As reported by the federal Department of Labor, the unemployment rate for persons with a disability was 14.5 percent in 2009, well above the figure of 9.0 percent for those with no disability. But perhaps the greatest single problem may be the federal government itself, from which laws, regulations and policies designed to help people with disabilities actually provide an economic disincentive to work, beginning with the problem in how "disability" is defined by SSA, as a complete inability to work substantially. People with disabilities, provided the right supports, want to work and can contribute to Wisconsin's economic recovery. We just need to work on developing cost-neutral, cost-effective supports, and getting ineffective and expensive rules and policies out of their way.

As MIG completes eleven years, unfinished work includes our need to:

- Fully integrate the Medicaid infrastructure into a true cross-agency (DHS, DWD DOC and DPI) system that assists public services consumers from primary school through retirement;
- Partner with the UW and Technical College systems so that graduates can work in pre-secondary, secondary and post secondary systems, MA, VR, the workforce and the business community, with a focus on advancing jobs in the community for people with disabilities;
- add cost-neutral employment support services to the MA benefit package and establishing a sustainable foundation for employment services and support in Wisconsin's mental health and long-term care systems;
- develop a means for the Medicaid buy-in program to be available into retirement while permitting retirees access to public healthcare and long-term support programs and at no additional cost to the public; and
- identify and put in place the opportunities for employment supports suggested in the recent health care legislation.

State Plan:

Jon Baltmanis discussed the need for family caregivers to receive training for providing care and support to their family members. Jon asked if the level of training could also be increased for the Family Care social workers. Dan Johnson suggested that increased training for consumers be added to the state plan. There is a Family Care and IRIS ombudsman program for people with disabilities through Disability Rights Wisconsin. There is a new rate structure for residential care. The MCOs are required to provide whatever is necessary to maintain care for that person.

Committees met to discuss their state plans for the WCPD action areas.

Motion to nominate Ben Barrett as Chairperson, Jon Baltmanis as Vice Chairperson and Marge Liberski as Secretary. Meissner/Fox-- passed.

Executive committee: Ben, Jon, Marge, Joanne, Sandy, John, Jeff.

**Pathways Regional Coordinator updates:**

Dennis Liphart and Sally Scheidegger gave updates on what's happening in the northwestern part of the state.

Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer counties have bus services that cross county lines to serve all three counties. There are also now buses that go into Duluth to allow for transportation to Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Pathways regional coordinators worked to build partnerships with businesses to embrace accessibility. They work as colleagues with other businesses to increase the level of accessibility.

Access to Community Employment: joint project between North Country Independent Living, UW Superior and U of M Duluth to develop a field station. The Universities were using sheltered workshops as graduate internships. Young professionals were being trained in sheltered workshops rather than community employment. ACE has taken best practices (independent employment, community/integrated employment, micro-enterprises) and is training students in developing those best practices.

Families and self-advocates are lining up to do integrated employment. The expectation has changed significantly from even 5 years ago. Families are making informed choices.

The ACE program staff members have been asked by the community rehabilitation providers to advise them on how to develop integrated employment opportunities. The CRP are beginning to shift from thinking that the clients work for them to realizing that they work for the person who wishes to be employed. Community members are being asked to come into classrooms to discuss employment.

Northern coalition Enterprise Development Group is looking at service learning as a model. It is a way for students to get out into the community to get experience by providing services. It is also a way for the communities to get services. It can be an opportunity for students to learn from community members who have disabilities. The business school could send students to help people start micro-enterprises. It is a way for people with disabilities to get into the community and have internships. The UW Superior service learning coordinator has spoken with the group.

Enterprise Development Group will continue to meet and act after Pathways ends in December.

WCPD members discussed various models for creating integrated employment models in CRPs. Dennis talked about how to encourage self advocacy and train people in effective advocacy models.

Sally Scheidegger discussed what is happening in the Northwest region of the state. They have focused on transition and inclusionary models of employment. They work as ambassadors to connect Madison to the communities throughout the state. The Northwest region has also developed a coalition of 50+ people who will continue to meet after Pathways ends in December.

The NW region has had 27 trainings on integrated employment and community since 2009. They also have a transition conference that started in 2009. They planned for 90 people and ended up with 200 people. In 2011, UW Eau Claire took the conference on as part of Extension. They expect 500 people to attend in the fall.

### **Discussion with Andy Janicki, Accessibility Coordinator for the DNR.**

Accessible cabins around the state. A fully accessible house designed for people who do not have the means to camp in traditional ways. Accessible picnic tables and fire rings. Lowered countertops, sinks and ranges. Cabinets have been removed. There are loops on the refrigerator to open them. Bedrooms have two hospital beds and hoist lifts. There is room for 6 people. Roll in shower and commode chair. There are 7 state parks with accessible cabins. Applications are available online and may be submitted on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Some parks fill up within a week of that date. Fee is \$30 per night.

Rustic cabins are in two locations around the state. 13x19 foot log cabin. Double size bed, bunk beds, table and electricity. Located near an accessible restroom facility. There are also accessible campsites. They include firm, stable surfaces and electricity. They are phasing in universal tables instead of just an accessible table. There are also raised fire pits.

WCPD members discussed the need for increased park access for adapted RVs.

Jon Baltmanis said that the WCPD lobbied to require someone with a physical disability on the State trails board. He also asked about how the Council could help Andy with the expansion of accessibility in the state.

There are some accessible flowage areas. Some include crushed granite trails. There are raised pit toilets. There are two sets of three accessible group campsites.

Accessible trails: there are over 600 miles of accessible trails in the state. They have various surfaces: pavement, limestone, crushed granite. Various slopes ranging from easy to difficult and various distances from ½ mile to 100 miles. Marge Liberski said that hand rails would be useful to someone who is an above knee amputee because slopes are difficult.

Hunting opportunities: A,B and C class permits depending on type of disabilities. There is an early October hunting season. Crossbows and hunting from vehicles may be permitted. There are also fishing opportunities. Different levels of permits and allowance of trolling. There are allowances for motorized vehicle use on state lands for hunting fishing and recreational purposes. Various types of vehicles allowed. Restrictions are set by the property managers.

The new ADA requirements have to do with power driven mobility devices and allow people to go out on state trails in any type of vehicle, including side-by-side ATVs and Segways. In WI, the vehicle must be able to be registered. Golf carts, riding lawn mowers are not acceptable.

There are accessible fishing areas: piers, docks, etc. They have lowered railings and holes for resting fishing poles. There are also accessible boat access points.

There are ways to increase beach access including beach wheelchairs with large inflatable tires that can go over sand and into the water.

Adaptive kayaks have raised backs, outriggers and paddle adaptations. Cross country sit skis are throughout the state.

Disability Advisory Council is an advisory group for the DNR. They work to set policy regarding accessibility within DNR. The meetings are open to the public.

Cabins are built through volunteer contributions and state stewardship matching grants. The DNR does not provide any general purpose revenue funds for building accessible cabins.

Open the Outdoors: [www.dnr.wi.gov/org/at/af/open/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/at/af/open/)

There is also a link on the DNR website front page.

Andy Janicki: Andrew.Janicki@wisconsin.gov

Motion for the Council to produce a letter to send to the chair of the DNR disability Advisory Council regarding the need for increased number of accessible campsites and RV parking. Copy Andy Janicki. Ben Barrett and Dan Johnson will draft the letter. Fox/Duranceau—passed.

Motion to ask the DNR to appoint a liaison to the Council and recommend that the assignment be given to Andy Janicki. Baltmanis/Fox—passed.

Motion to adjourn Fox/Duranceau—passed.

Invite Karen to join the next exec committee call.

Include Andy on the mailing list.