

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES -  
DRAFT****Virtual Meeting**

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	<b>Chair:</b> Ashley Mathy <b>Vice Chair:</b> Felicia Clayborne;
<b>Present:</b>	Cheryl Funmaker, Andy Thain, Nathan Ruffolo
	<b>Staff Liaison:</b> Beth Swedeen

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<b>Additional Board members present:</b>	Sydney Badeau, Shanice Baquet, Anna Eggebrecht, Steph Mlodzik, Cindy Piotrowski, Hector Portillo, Julie Strenn, Lisa Stephan, Hope Swanson, Kate Szidon, Tricia Thompson, Andy Thain
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<b>Staff Present:</b>	Beth Swedeen, Fil Clissa, Molly Cooney, Sally Flaschberger, Tami Rogers, Tami Jackson
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1. **Check-in:** Ashley called on people to share how they are coping during these stressful times.
2. **Fiscal updates:** Beth shared an update that the federal health and human services department is recommending zeroing out DD Councils and other disability and aging programs for federal fiscal year 2026 and going to a state system where all the groups would need to apply for funds. It is unclear what this structure would be, as no structure is currently in place. She shared this is only a draft of the department recommendations, and Congress ultimately decides on what to fund. Beth said board members can reach out to their networks to talk with members of Congress about this, and have their own meetings with Congressional reps to educate on what DD councils and other disability programs do. She also said BPDD has not received funds past March 14 of this year. BPDD's accountant says we will be out of funds by mid to late September if we don't receive the remaining funds for FFY2025. We were told those should come in late May, but there have been no written assurances. This Administration has cut or delayed funds in other areas.

### 3. **Upcoming meetings and activities**

The Executive Committee discussed whether to move to virtual meetings in the foreseeable future until further funding is available. This means going to virtual for the planned Milwaukee meeting and either having a virtual community conversation or having local Milwaukee groups conduct their own conversations with people they serve (Shanice's idea).

Nathan put forward a motion to move to virtual format and further look for cost savings/not commit to additional expenses until we have assurance of further funding. Several members of the board commented that if the current structure is disbanded because of lack of funds, it will be very

difficult to regain the structure and staff, even if funds are restored in the future. The Exec committee voted 5-0 to adopt Nathan's proposal.

A number of board members who had ideas for continued funding volunteered to be part of an adhoc funding committee. They are: Shanice Baquet, Julie Strenn, Steph Mlodzik, Cindy Piotkowski, and Nathan Ruffolo. **If others want to join, contact Beth.**

Motion and second to adjourn at 1:52 . Unanimously passed.

Here is a good article about what the federal Administration's efforts to change disability and aging programs would do: <https://mailchi.mp/aapd/explaining-the-hhs-draft-budget-and-why-it-is-harmful-to-disabled-people?e=e2a456295a>