

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Chair: Ashley Mathy **Vice Chair:** Felicia Clayborne

Present: Hope Swanson, Sydney Badeau, Lisa Stephan, Julie Strenn, Cindy Piotrowski, Andy Thain, Ryan McGuire, Kate Szidon, Marcia Perkins, Kevin Coughlin, Stephenie Mlodzik, Chris Wood, Kelly Weyer, Hector Portillo, Patrick Friedrich, Nathan Ruffolo, Desi Kluth, Denise Muchow, George Zaske, Tara Brzezinski,

Guests:

Absent: Tricia Thompson, Iris Jacobson, Shanice Baquet, Daniel Parker, Christi Whiting, Anna Eggebrecht, Cheryl Funmaker,

Staff Present: Molly Cooney, Jennifer Neugart, Fil Clissa, Beth Swedeen, Tami Rogers, Jeremy Gundlach, Kaitlin McNamara,

Chair Ashley Mathy called the meeting to order at 12:17 PM.

1. Action Items:

- Approve May 2025 minutes – Motion made by Sydney Badeau, seconded by Cindy Piotrowski.
- Vote on new Board leadership (Chair/Vice Chair) – Sydney Badeau has been elected Board Chair. Patrick Friedrich has been elected as Vice Chair.

2. Public Comments:

- No Public Comments

3. Chair Report:

- Board Chair Ashley Mathy discussed her concern for the recent changes to Medicaid policy.
- Ashley mentioned the September retreat and is excited to see everyone in person.

4. Diversity Committee Report:

- Chair Andy Thain gave an update on the previous day's committee meeting. The Diversity Committee had a long conversation about the intersection of disability and housing issues.
- The Committee will be continuing their work but want to look into more housing policy options going forward.

5. Executive Director Report:

- ED Beth talked about the Executive Committee's decision to keep things virtual because of unsure funding. The September retreat will be only one day and will be in Madison. The focus will be on things we have accomplished, connecting, and planning for future uncertain times.

- Beth also welcomed our newest board member, Denise Muchow. Denise and the board all introduced themselves. Denise's official start date as a board member will be in September.
- Beth also thanked Ashley Mathy and the entire executive committee for their hard work and leadership over the last couple years but especially during 2025.
- Beth informed the board that we are vacating our office space to save money for more programming. The self-determination conference will still be happening for anyone wondering.
- Our partners at DPI have increased their funding for the Families Supporting Families grants for this next year. Our partnership for internship and fellowship has continued and one of our fellowship positions has translated into employment with the state.

6. Executive Committee Report:

- The Executive committee planned this meeting and started working on the September retreat.

7. Nominating Committee Report:

- Chair Andy Thain discussed that Diversity Committee has been working with staff Molly Cooney

8. Financial Report:

- ED Beth Swedeen gave an update on BPDD's current financials. We did end up receiving the rest of our FFY 25 funding which came late.
- DD Councils are currently in the President's proposed FFY 26 budget. That doesn't guarantee we will be in the final budget. We will keep board members posted on funding whenever we learn anything.

9. Agency Updates:

Waisman Update:

DHS Update

DPI Update:

- In June 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction initiated an agency-wide reorganization. The reorganization moved DPI from its current Division and Team structures into a structure more closely aligned with other state agencies that include Divisions, Offices, Bureaus, Sections, and Units. One of the changes in this reorganization included moving supervisors and personnel from the Special Education Team to new locations across Offices, Bureaus, and Sections. The majority of Special Education Team personnel were organized into a new Division of Academics and into one of the following new organizational structures; the Office of Continuous Improvement, the Bureau of Teaching and Learning, and the Bureau of Grant Administration and Monitoring. Other members of the Special Education Team were organized to support a new Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives. The Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH), the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

(WCBVI) were organized into a new Division of Access and Opportunity. This new special education horizontal teaming structure across Offices, Bureaus, and Sections continues to provide resources, monitoring, and support to Local Educational Agencies, e.g. school districts, to meet their obligations under state and federal special education laws. In addition, all publicly facing DPI special education webpages will continue to provide information to families, educators, administrators, and community members and the DPI continues to route questions to those with knowledge about Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requirements and special education expertise in this new horizontal special education teaming structure. The reorganization was aligned with DPI's new Strategic Plan. DPI will provide more information about the reorganization and strategic plan in the 2025-26 school year.

DWD Update: No updates

DRW Update: Hope gave an update on several staffing changes at DRW. The voting coordinator left this month.

Marcia Perkins moved to adjourn, seconded by Andy Thain, meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm Unanimously passed.