



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OCTOBER 13, 2025

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, October 13, 2025. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Felicia Clayborne
Sherry Mickelson
Leon Todd

Commissioners Excused:

Barbara Leigh

Staff Present:

Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*

Staff Present, Continued:

Julie Lara, *DHHS*

Attendees:

Tina Anderson, *DHHS*
Toto Chanthavixay, *DHHS*
Christopher Fox, *MCTS*
Catherine Moe, *DHHS*
Rebecca Rabatin, *Independence First*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Julie Lara, Office Support Assistant II took roll call. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

Approval was tabled due to lack of quorum. To be revisited in the November meeting.

III. CHILDREN'S DISABILITY PROGRAM DIRECTOR TOTO CHANTHAVIXAY, DIRECTOR DUTIES AND GOALS

Director Toto Chanthavixay provided an overview of the Children's Disability Program under CYFS, including:

- **Programs Covered:**

- Children's Long-Term Support Waiver (Medicaid Based)

- Children's Community Options Program (Non-Medicaid)
- Birth to Three Program (early intervention)
- **Key Updates:**
 - Waitlist reduced from 800 to under 100 children.
 - Successfully completed a corrective action plan issued by the state.
 - Created an Enrollment Specialist Team to ensure continuous enrollment and service delivery.
 - Audit scores improved from 44% (2023) to 93% (2025).
- **Future Goals:**
 - Maintain waitlist under 100.
 - Expand enrollment team as needed.
 - Continue collaboration with community partners.
- **Discussion Highlights:**
 - Chair Falk-Palec commended the improvements and asked about future prevention of corrective actions.
 - Director Toto confirmed a sustainable plan is in place.

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

- a. **Informational Item**, Chris Fox, Paratransit Compliance Audit Manager, gave his Paratransit Update report. September 2025 Stats are 31,873 rides (87% of pre-COVID levels).

On time performance dropped to 88.59% (goal: 93%). The Same Day Pilot had 344 trips in September, the program is not funded in the 2026 budget. The cost per trip is \$136.00 vs. \$53.00 for standard paratransit.

Budget Impacts, \$14 million shortfall despite \$9 million ARPA funds. The full fare is proposed to increase from \$2.00 to \$2.75 in 2026. There are 6 routes proposed for elimination and 5 to be modified. Concerns raised are accessibility for blind/visually impaired organizations. Potential impact on access to Moss Universal Park. Same-day pilot hours clarified (7 a.m.-5:59 p.m.). And Transdev will not strand riders after hours.

- b. Informational Item, Recreation Update,** Jacqueline Formanek, Director for the Office for Persons with Disabilities, reported Easter Seals is hosting a One-day respite camp on November 28, 2025, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Underwood facility. There will also be Winter Camp at the Underwood facility from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. starting December 22, 2025, through January 2, 2026.

There was strategic discussion regarding the future of the Wil-O-Way facilities and programming.

Splash pad funding was removed from this year's November 2025 budget for both Wil-O-Ways facilities. It may be revisited in 2026.

The Mitchell Airport Park is aware of the playground accessibility issues. The park was contacted by the City of Milwaukee about the curb ramp and crosswalk. Independence First offered to support advocacy.

V. ACTION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Action Item, Planning November Meeting:** Chair Falk-Palec invited suggestions for the November meeting agenda. Chair Falk-Palec requested the following topics:
- Splash pad funding update
 - Housing rehab program follow-up
 - Zoo EV charging station accessibility
 - Moss Universal Park progress
 - Potential social gathering (suggested by Commissioner Onama)
- b. Discussion Item, Public Comments:** No discussion, no comments

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Todd moved, Mickelson second)

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 PM

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Monday, November 10, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara, Office Support Assistant II