



**COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2025**

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, April 14, 2025. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*
Shaneika Baldwin
Felicia Clayborne
Barbara Leigh
Sherry Mickelson
Rose Onama
Leon Todd

Commissioners Excused:

Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*

Commissioners Excused, Continued:

Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
John Haupt

Staff Present:

Amos Besaw, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Julie Lara, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public:

Julie Bastin, *EXP*
Fran Musci, *MCTS*

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. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2025, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the March 10, 2025, meeting was postponed until May to allow corrections.

III. SPLASH PAD UPDATES

EXP, Julie Bastin presented her report on the splash pads for Wil-O-Way Underwood and Wil-O-Way Grant. The Commission chose Concept #3, "Life on the Pond," for both designs. As the designs are still being finalized, budget proposals for the splash pads have been shifted from the 2025 budget to the 2026 County budget.

Ms. Bastin and her team aim to complete 90% of the Underwood Park design by 2026 to include it in the County Budget, with construction hopefully starting the

same year. She suggested staggering construction at the two sites to keep both facilities open to the public.

During the meeting, Ms. Bastin discussed the need for canopy structures to provide shading, as other County splash pads lack this feature. Chair Falk-Palec emphasized the importance of involving Easter Seals in the decision-making process. Interim Director Formanek confirmed that the design concepts are based on Easter Seals' suggestions.

A meeting needs to be scheduled with the Office for Persons with Disabilities Interim Director, Ms. Bastin, the Commission, and the Parks Department to discuss storage solutions for the canopy structures and finalize any remaining changes. Ms. Bastin emphasized that the proposal must receive approval and be submitted to the County Board by November to secure funding for the upcoming year. If approved, the funds would become available in January 2026.

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

- a. Transit Plus Report, Informational Item, Fran Musci, Director of Paratransit/Transit Plus:** Fran Musci, Director of Paratransit/Transit Plus, reported that van services provided 32,126 rides in March 2025, a substantial increase from February's 29,677 rides. On-time performance improved to 95.1%, although a tablet outage caused some disruptions. A new batch of tablets has been acquired to address ongoing communication issues with the server, and Transdev is working to resolve these problems as they arise.

The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) is partnering with Transdev's leadership team to improve key performance indicators (KPIs) such as on-time performance and ride duration. While these metrics are essential for riders, they can negatively impact productivity.

- **In the Transit Same Day Pilot program**, MCTS expanded services in March, allowing more riders to schedule same-day trips. This resulted in a tripling of ridership, with 88 rides for 117 passengers. By mid-April, they had provided 61 trips for 72 passengers, and if this trend continues, they could reach around 120 rides by month-end. Rider feedback has been positive, and MCTS is satisfied with the program's growth and ridership feedback.
- b. Recreational Update, Informational Item, Jacqueline Formanek, Interim Director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities,** announced that all three summer respite camp sessions at the Grant and Underwood facilities are fully booked. Public interest in the excursion camp is growing, although promotional materials are unavailable.

This year's March Spring Break respite camp was a success. It featured indoor and outdoor activities, as well as field trips to Discovery World and the Milwaukee County Zoo. The department plans to continue similar offerings during breaks and may introduce an after-school program.

Registration for Free Friday Summer Sailing is now open but filling quickly.

The Wil-O-Way Camp Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be on May 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Underwood facility. Donations will be accepted at the door.

The prom will be held on April 26, 2025, at the Wilson Park Senior Center from 5 to 8 p.m., and it will include dinner, dancing, and music. Registration is open until the night of the event.

The Director is pleased to announce the continued partnership with the Milwaukee Brewers, offering discounted and free tickets for the season. Fran Musci requested the Interim Director, Jacqueline Formanek provide her event flyers to inform Transdev drivers, as scheduling is needed for significant evening events to inform Transdev drivers, so they are aware of the events as they don't have a lot of drivers scheduled in the evenings so they would need to be informed.

V. ACTION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **ARPA Housing Update, Informational Item:** ADS Administrator Tina Anderson was unavailable to attend today's meeting. Chair Falk-Palec requested to have her item added to May's agenda.
- b. **Business Cards and Name Tags, Discussion Item:** Interim Director Jacqueline Formanek shared templates for Commission name tags and business cards with the Commission for their review and selection. The Commission expressed approval for the displayed name tags. Chair Falk-Palec proposed sending a questionnaire to the Commissioners to assess whether they would like business cards and, if so, what information they would like included. There was some concern about including personal information on the business cards since, in the event of an investigation, such information could be subject to an open records request, which would require Milwaukee County to grant access to their phone and email records.
- c. **Action Item, Planning May Meeting:** The Commission would like to invite Administrator Tina Anderson to provide an update on ARPA housing. We also welcome Jessica Kowalski, the new Deputy Director of Administration, to discuss her role, share her goals, and outline her plan to support the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Lastly, we invite Director Bekki

Schmitt to review the 2024 ADRC Listening Sessions and discuss future sessions.

d. Discussion Item, Public Comments: There were no public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Todd Moved, Perkins Second)

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Monday, May 12, 2025, AT 1 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara
Office Support Assistant II