

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Council

AGENDA – Meeting #61

November 28, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Milwaukee Public Library Central Branch, Meeting Room 1

814 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

10:03 am

Call to order

- Introductions
 - Kay Rhode, WCBVI Outreach O&M Consultant (Representing Higher Education)
 - Kedibonye Carpenter, WSPEI Statewide Family Engagement Coordinator (Representing Parents)
 - Linda Vincent, Management Librarian, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (DPI Representative)
 - Cheryl Orgas, Executive Director, ABLE (Representing NFB Organization)
 - Pete Dally, Director, WCBVI (DPI Representative)
 - Meghan Fredel, O&M and TVI Consultant, WCBVI Outreach (Representing WAER Organization)
 - Dawn Soto, Outreach Director, WCBVI (DPI Representative)
 - Barb Van Haren, Director, Special Education Team, DPI
 - Nissan Bar Lev, Special Education Director, CESA 7 (Representing Special Education)
 - Amanda Jordan, Administrative Assistant, WCBVI
 - Phone-Brenda Fogel, Special Services Supervisor, MPS (Representing School District)
 - Phone-Rita Igl-Riekkoff, TVI, MPS (Public Input)
 - Phone-Martha Farley-Berninger, Director, Interlibrary Loan & Resource, Reference and Loan Library (DPI Representative)
 - Phone-Chris Zenchenko, DNR (Representing Wisconsin Council of the Blind)

- Public input and comments
 - Rita Igl-Riekkoff – re: the MOU from May. Questions and concerns re: what is happening in the state with the criteria for visual impairment. Several questions – Summarize how WI is moving forward with the criteria. As it is written, it seems to not be in line with IDEA. Nissan Bar Lev – please expand on where you see the discrepancies? RR – IDEA – VI definition cannot be modified regardless of the severity. The five medical criteria from the Ophthalmologist does modify the definition (such as with acuity). Barb Van Haren – I can share with you that upon receipt of the OSEP memo re: VI, reviewed it with the compliance team, and issued the memo. We will be discussing that a bit more today, along with the accompanying FAQ sheet that will be released in the near future. Dealing that way rather than opening up Wisconsin's criteria for all disability areas. Giving as much guidance as possible through the MOU and the FAQ sheet. FAQ sheet is in progress and hope to be released. If you would like to send any of your concerns to the department, BVH will share with the compliance team. RR – more questions.
 - Lisa Tomberlin – read her request to the Council (copied at the end of the minutes)

10:10 am

Council Business Items

- Schedule Upcoming Meetings (Spring and Summer)
 - March – WSBVI – March 21

- June – Madison – June 13
- Discussion re: meeting times – Kay Rhode – could we look at 2-6 instead? Perhaps that would work better for the TVIs and Parents. Chris Zenchenko – could work better for the public comment for the end of the meeting instead. Mandy will pose that question to the Council when she sends out the minutes.

10:20 pm

Library Updates

- Linda Vincent, Management Librarian, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
 - New staff members – Outreach Librarian Becky Manz has moved to the Bayview Library. New Outreach Librarian is Katie Malloy who just started. She is new to WTBBL. She is learning the systems currently. New Office Assistant James Zolo.
 - Working with the National Library Service – MOCA (MOBILE CARtridge hub) Testing – A prototype that the NLS has where you can download right to the device. Just started testing this.
- Martha Farley Berninger, Director, DPI Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning
 - New Contract Specialist Jeff Jones (who is currently at WCBVI) starting next week. New Operations Program Associate started yesterday – Amanda Urbancic. Will be sending out Newsline subscriber packets.
- Cheryl Orgas – Braille Challenge in Milwaukee hosted by ABLE and Vision Forward
- CO and LV – Braille Games in March again this year with the Milwaukee Public Museum. All are welcome with this amazing opportunity. All students receive a book. Last year the book was tactile butterfly linked with the butterfly exhibit. Try to have theme around subject areas for students who are blind or visually impaired to build a knowledge base for subjects that their sighted peers are familiar with.

10:25 am

DPI and WCBVI Updates

- Barb Van Haren, Director, DPI Special Education Team
 - Federal Update – US Department of SE and OSEP have announced the new assistant secretary Johnny Collett. Former KY State Director of SE. Then SE Liaison to CCSSO. Very pleased with this appointment.
 - Regulatory reform taskform looking at repealing, replacing or modifying any outdated regulations, etc. 72 documents were rescinded through this regulatory reform act. There is an accompanying document for each area and why they were rescinded. All the items were either outdated, had been replaced by new guidance, had outlived their purpose. These did not have an impact on the field. There is a second round of regulatory reform that we need to be very aware of, that is currently being gone through. We will be paying attention.
 - WI had to submit a plan under ESSA, submitted September 18 and should hear back regarding plan approval this month. One of the ESSA impacts is the 1% Cap – only 1% of students in a particular subject area may take the Alternate Assessment (DLM) otherwise must submit a waiver request. Wisconsin is just over the 1% cap traditionally and anticipated. Around 1.2% take DLM. As part of this law DPI must notify each LEA that exceeds the 1% (which is approximately half of LEAs) and ask them to review those students who are designated for the Alternate Assessment to be sure they meet the ESSA requirements. Then the district verifies to DPI that they have designated Alternate Assessment properly through an IEP meeting and process.

- Staffing updates – Lee Sappola, Office Operations Associate. Also announcing a new ID consultant and a new Data Analyst/Evaluation Consultant this week.
- Encourage everyone to take a look at two areas on the website – CCR IEPs and Co-teaching areas have both been updated. CCR IEP site has a new bookmark, so please update any bookmarks for those. <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/college-and-career-ready-ieps>
- Cheryl Orgas – In terms of the waiver – is there some subtle pressure for teams to not ask for the Alternative Assessment due to those limits? BVH – we have always had the 1% limit in the law, so that isn't new. In the past, we could only *count* 1%, and now it is 1% *participation*. It is an IEP team decision, so there isn't pressure to alter the decisions. Just need to assure that the students who are participating are those with the most significant cognitive disabilities (using an alternate curriculum, etc). Helping the IEP team make the right decision. There is no penalty for the school districts, the state answers for the 1%, but our role is to assist the districts in making those decisions properly. NBL – the CCR IEP assists the teams, requires specification and helps the teams to be sure to meet the prescribed guidelines.
- Adding an Assistant Director position – fourth position – Designated for School Improvement. We are in the process of identifying districts needing the most intensive supports to increase outcomes (SE and Title 1). Part of the role of this position will be to assist that improvement work. Also has an element of assisting the two state schools as a DPI liaison to the schools to help DPI be more responsive to the schools. An opportunity to drill down more to the school level in providing assistance. Also made a concerted effort to reach out to AWSA in providing support.
- NBL – CCR IEPs – There is a segment that I am hopeful will lead to better relations between staff and parents. Family Engagement, as a new item – Read from a consultant at an electronic IEP company – “For the goal on attention, the parents will play board games, and student will practice listening and repeat back instructions...Parents involved in recording with written documentation...Teacher will monitor and support progress...” When parents are connected to learning, kids do better. <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/ccr-iep-family-community-engagement>
- Peter Dally, Director, Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - WSBVI Principal, Susan Tucker, began at the end of October. She comes from the Racine School District, and has also worked in Kenosha and Lakeview School. 9 years experience as an SE Director, Principal, Diagnostician. Brings a good set of skills. She has already made serious inroads into building relationships with students and staff. Driven to succeed, while studying the systems before making changes.
 - Goalball teams – The men's team took first. The women sixth. A very tough division, and with new players. Have an extracurricular juggernaut at the school. Do not underestimate the power these programs have for our students with visual impairments. Important outside the direct sporting activity, in increasing their interest and care in community, schoolwork, etc. A big part of the achievement measures that students can use to push themselves. Forensics and Swim upcoming, and anticipate continuing their success from the previous years. CZ – recalling visiting the other schools, observing difference in school cultures, meeting other students with visual impairments. It was important.
 - Meghan Fredel, new hire in Outreach as O&M and VI Consultant working in Short course, etc. No bounds to her energy and intelligence, and is a great person to have on the team.
 - WISE Data State Reporting – Snapshot December 5 – At WSBVI have transitioned to Infinite Campus SIS. A very arduous task in trainign staff, but also in the integration

between IC and Wise Data. Immense challenges in working between the systems at WSBVI and with School Districts. A lot of manual data reporting corrections.

- APH FERPA Update – Announcement made at the APH/COSB Convention in October – learned the last day that FERPA releases are required from parents in order for districts to report students on the APH Census. Sent notice to field on October 23 in BVH’s weekly email. Mailing was sent to all districts in late October. Short timeframe for us to get the word out and for districts to obtain the signatures. NBL – how is this conceptually different than AEM? Dawn Soto – some of the other AEM sources have their own set of paperwork. NBL – A student who has an identified VI, the teacher can register them. CO – the resources are different. Braille materials, accessibility tools, etc. NBL – why this change this year? PD – APH received some guidance from OSEP which they passed along to the states. MJ – explained deadlines. CZ – a couple very troubling things about this. An awful lot of parents will likely disregard or ignore due to the paranoia surrounding PII. Concerned that the letter isn’t specific enough regarding the implications for each specific child, and seems more related to students in general. MJ – read the sentence related to “your child”. MPS – each TVI is doing personal contact with their case load in order to explain. WCBVI can be a resource for answering parent questions. MPS is utilizing social works to reach some families as well. BVH – will send a couple more updates that include info on this as well. KR – How will we know to do new forms when they move? MJ – will be on the website, keep it in their minds, APH resource page on WCBVI site. DS – Outreach being a resource. MJ – Outreach sending out as part of the SIS process as well. PD – direct contacts may need to be made like MPS is doing. Encourage in the weekly update to make that direct contact to explain to families. NBL – important to keep in the realm of resources for your student. KR – making sure the parents are aware of the resources your student receives. Kedibonye Carpenter – make it personal to each parent. PD – to keep it in perspective, in speaking to other State School Directors, we are in the lead pack in getting the word out to the field. KR – a pamphlet of what APH materials can provide. NBL – collect some data as to why some parents refuse. DS – having been a TVI, the history of the funds and why they are available is interesting. A lot of parents are familiar with the items, but may not realize they are APH items, and understand the whole process and history. KR – perhaps when we send the family packet in the fall. CO – when the parents understand they will be supportive. Understanding the intense effort required on the part of TVIs and Administrators. NBL – the level of trust the teachers have with parents, and the responsibility on the shoulder of the teachers. CZ – Be careful to do, if possible, once the final data has been submitted, it would be wise to do a discrepancy check to see how many students are no longer included. So we have an idea of the financial impact. MJ – I do include those reasons in the deletion. CZ – would like those numbers for the next meeting. DS – Having been a TVI and knowing the short timeline of the turnaround for this requirement, the process has been so quick in order to do a complete second mailing personalized for each school district and student was amazing. PD – a Herculean effort, with swift action on all levels. This must be done, so important to have access to these resources for these students. NBL – can certainly see why it is confusing. Parents not understanding the relation between access and funding in relation to the signature. PD – Less formal mailing perhaps describing how it effects the child, specifically for the parents. KR – perhaps with a picture of the products? NBL – What parent advocacy groups seek – informed consent. What is it – by not signing this I reduce the funding source available to the district for my child to access this material. The way it is written right now is not clear, especially as a new item. BVH – unfortunately didn’t have the luxury of forecasting this. The less formal letter could be attached to a weekly email

reminder as a resource for districts to use, rather than an entirely separate mailing. DS – making it more understandable for families. MF – when I was teaching, I didn't spend a lot of time talking to my families about APH Quota funds. They don't know the details of how their student receives the materials. DS – comes down to DSE and Vision professionals working together to create their systems as we move forward beyond this initial year. NBL – will contact director of WCASS to share a message with the DSEs. Will have a phone conference with VI staff. KC – session at IEP to explain the importance of the APH Census.

12:00 pm

WCBVI Outreach Updates

- Dawn Soto, Director, WCBVI Outreach
 - Meghan Fredel – WCBVI Outreach Dual Licensure Consultant, TVI, O&M Specialist. Broad array of talents, contributing to Short Courses, assisting with Outreach Work Groups. Vast array of technology knowledge and savvy. Working on assisting with the streamlining of Outreach services, and very helpful with working on activities. Meghan Fredel – it has been fun, thank you!
 - Working on the Assistive Technology position description. Working on inventory of AT items.
 - Holly Adams, Office Operation Associate, left last week. Will be looking to hire as soon as possible. Have been working on sharing her tasks, and phone calls/emails will go to Dawn.
 - Thursday, December 7 – Family Resource Night in Madison. Dave Hyde hosts this free event for families and children. Help parents advocate for their child and brings resources regarding specific topics.
 - Braille Challenge/Olympics February 15-16. Regional testing for the Braille Challenge. Rich history of Wisconsin students qualifying for the National Braille Challenge. Testing and Braille Games and activities.
 - Upcoming Short Courses – Winter Weekends – MF – assisting Karly Clenney. Students coming to Janesville for the weekend for activities surrounding ECC. Holiday Light Show at Rotary Garden, DLS activities. Another Winter Weekend located in northern Wisconsin, looking for 7 participants. Looking to reach out to other parts of the state. Late winter offering two Care and Feeding of Me sessions (one for boys, and one for girls.) KR – when I travelled in the state, heard from around the state wanting to be included in programming closer. Working with teachers up north on activities. Karly also working in the Green Bay area with a group on an offering.
 - DS – it is exciting to be listening to the needs of the stakeholders, and teaming with the vision professionals on these programs. KC – WISPEI would be happy to provide support as well.
 - Preschool Conference – March 9 and 10 – speakers – a Lilli Nielsen trainer – principles of waiting and letting the students with visual impairments be active learners.
 - Working on Outreach Service Request process – streamlining, a bit more seamless, with the goal of getting back to those requesting service within 48 hours. DS contacting the LEA SED as reinforcement, and building relationships. Connecting with administrators so they understand the services their students will be receiving.
 - Outreach weekly updates – to address issues in the field, similar to the updates that Barb Van Haren sends out to SEDs, and sharing some items from her updates to the field. Also vice versa, sharing some TVI updates in Barb's weekly updates to SEDs. Hoping to have everyone on the same page about these topics. Encouraging those in the

field to email Dawn or an Outreach Team member with questions/concerns, and they can be addressed in the updates.

- Attended APH/COSB Convention in October. It was very helpful to meet other professionals from schools for the blind and APH. Had a session with AER, AFB and APH presenting their strategic plans. CO – anything that can be shared in regards to changes? MF - as part of WAER, in a nutshell it seems like they will be trying to connect chapters more, having states be part of divisions. Develop a guidance document for chapters. DS – APH working within the marketplace on products and ideas. Looking at Mission Statements. Felt humbled to be from Wisconsin, home of Bill English, as part of the historical institution of APH and the field. Great historical legacy in Wisconsin.
- MOU – briefly discussed at the Fall Vision PST meeting. Have encouraged administrators who have questions give her a call to discuss. Understand the eligibility and referral process – teams must assess, and the importance of the Functional Vision Assessments. Alisha Ragainis can support teams doing these assessments, and can do trainings for teams. She is available to consult with TVIs and team with them and help to train them in some of the aspects of assessment they are not as familiar with. Encouraging professionals to reach out and make contact. The guidance allows that the IEP team and vision professionals – look at very closely any adverse effects in the child's functional vision. We can't limit that the child would/would not be found to be visually impaired. We are looking for guidance, in the form of the Fact Sheet/FAQ being developed, to understand aspects and strategies and implications of a visual impairment (be it Convergence Insufficiency or other VI areas) and where to look for supports. The VP assist the team with the knowledge and training they have to address functional classroom concerns. The IEM team determines from there what the child needs. The FAQ document is forthcoming. NBL – how is it different from Present Levels? DS – have heard from the field that there may be some that may not feel qualified for vision services – guidance to the team to look across all aspects. Doesn't limit based on a specific condition. CO – does it open this up more (in relation to CI). DS – it gives more power to the team to look at conditions. VP don't provide vision therapy. We can't limit the WHY – we address what their needs are in the classroom, regardless of the causation. CO – So is CI allowed? DS – comes down to what the child's visual functioning is, focusing on the visual assessment piece. Looks at strategies and resources for the student in the classroom. NBL – not sure it will result in a significant increase of students qualifying. KR – have heard the teachers say they feel that doing the FVA will have the biggest impact. VP probably won't do that many more minutes, but it will provide more documentation than only an Ocular report as the gateway for receiving services. DS – the guidance in the memo directs the teams to not limit. NBL – will that result in changing the checklist? KR – of those five qualifying criteria, choose other. DS – many teams are choosing other. NBL – Looking at the criteria, there are three sections. Is any of the wording going to change to allow for the new guidance? DS – not at this point. Allows the team to choose other and specify the student is exhibiting functional difficulties. MF – have discussed with other VP, regarding permanent/irremediable, we don't know if it is or not. An interesting point, in that if something does change, evaluation should be done again. KR – every section does say explain/reference findings. NBL – otherwise if I were a teacher, and I hear there is new info/criteria, I would want a prompt for this new guidance. DS – these things are sometimes subject to interpretation by the field. Encourage teams to be very specific in the documentation included on that form with everything known. Giving the team more power to look at the “adversely effects” – look at the child and whether or not they have any difficulties in the classroom. That needs to be the focus. PD – the Fact Sheets that will be released will

provide that explanation bridge/prompt for the IEP Teams. DS – giving power to VP to address functional difficulties, and further understand the aspects of ways a team can receive assistance. NBL – suggesting changes to the “other” section.

- Request for student to serve in a Short Course as a Student Mentor, who with his own career planning is interested in being a VP. Having this student participate this weekend. Excited about the potential for students doing this in their ACP.

12:45 pm

AEM and UDL/Visual Impairment

- NBL – response from Cynthia Curry, Co-Director of AEM, clarifying the confusion between the SLD definition from Library of Congress. An IEP team that determines a child has a SLD, can determine that the student may receive AEM.
- DPI has made a concerted effort over the last few years to address this. A large conference held on UDL. Want to make sure this information is made available to WSBVI staff and other VP. Strategies that are advantageous to use. Two national presenters.
- MF – Spoke with Jayne Bischoff, and she is a wealth of information, a good resource.
- NBL – DPI has funded 20 districts – to plant the seed of UDL in a classroom. Then the teachers in the district take up the mantle as well.

Webinar from Perkins on UDL & visual impairments – Dr. Liz Hartmann, Assistant Professor of Education and teacher for the Visually Impaired: <http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webcast/universal-design-learning>
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnXI-mzwjmU>

From UDL Center:http://www.udlcenter.org/implementation/examples/examples1_3

WordPress blog: <https://teachvisimpstudents.wordpress.com/udl/>

College Guide:<http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/college-planning-with-visual-impairments/>

AEM: http://aem.cast.org/search/Page+Type/aem_x003a_publicationdocument/Tag/udl?query=udl&sortby=date

12:50 Family Resources

Kedibonye Carpenter

- FACETS Family Engagement IEP Pamphlet. Suggest to have in the Outreach mailing packet. A very nice resource. MF – where can we locate that? KC – Contact FACETS.
<http://www.wifacets.org/>

12:55 Technology Note

Chris Zenchenko

- Had a hands-on with the Victor Trekker last week. Small, nice functionality. Sold out and backordered through January. Works well in buildings which is an increased functionality. Issues with the GPS in a moving vehicle regarding locking on to a satellite. This will likely be improved. Combination of navigation, and books, podcasts, etc. The function buttons apply to using all commands. CO – Julie Hapeman has been part of the testing group.
<http://store.humanware.com/asia/victor-reader-trek-talking-book-player-gps.html>

Nov. 27, 2017

Dear State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Blind and Visual Impairment Education members,

Thank you for posting the minutes of the State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Blind and Visual Impairment Education on the WCBVI website. In this way, those of us around the state and check in and see what the council is working on. I would like to formally request that the meeting notice for upcoming meetings be posted on our list serve at least 1 month prior to the meeting date, please. Also I am wondering if you could please list those in attendance in the minutes. Can you tell me where we can find a list of council members and their match with the roles listed below as listed on the WCBVI website?

- *Parent of a child who is visually impaired*
- *Member of an organization affiliated with persons who are visually impaired*
- *Teacher of the Visually Impaired*
- *Orientation and Mobility Teacher*
- *General Education Teacher*
- *School Board Member*
- *School District Administrator*
- *School District Special Education Director*
- *CESA representative*
- *Higher Education representative who has experience as an educator of the visually impaired or an educator of teachers of the visually impaired*
- *Braille transcriber*
- *Other*

Thank you for taking your time to discuss important issues on this council.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tomberlin

TVI