

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Council

AGENDA – Meeting #62

March 21, 2018

2:00-5:00 pm

Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1700 W State St, Janesville, WI 53546

2:00 pm

Call to order

- Introductions
 - Phone: Fred Wollenburg, and later, Cheryl Orgas.
 - Members Present: Meghan Fredel, Kay Rhode, Chris Zenchenko, Kedibonye Carpenter
 - DPI Reps: Barb Van Haren, Pete Dally, Dawn Soto
 - Other Attendees via phone: Kay Glodowski, Lisa Tomberlin
- Public input and comments

2:05 pm

Welcome

- WCBVI Management Staff
 - Cari Venzke, Food Service
 - Andy Soto, Dean of Students
 - 3:40 – Susan Tucker, Principal. Have been here since October. Have started using Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS) with Response to Intervention (RTI). Working on parent involvement in PBIS and other areas. Many great training opportunities – involving different levels of staff. Looking forward to a great end of the year. Will do reflection with staff at the end of the year in addition to staff evaluations so we can all improve. Cheryl Orgas: Your enthusiasm is overflowing, and it is exciting.

2:10 pm

Council Member Updates

- Council Members report on stakeholder activities and/or concerns
 - Fred Wollenburg – retiring for good this time. Will need a CESA Director to replace him. Barb and Pete thanked Fred for his work with the Council. All Council members wish him well.
 - WAER, Meghan Fredel, president elect – Preparing for the Collaborative Vision Conference taking place at the end of April. Good professional development opportunities. Also the North Central Orientation and Mobility Association (NCOMA) conference in fall. Includes five Midwestern states. Working on increasing membership through outreach activities.
 - WI Council of the Blind, Chris Zenchenko, member – Legislative Day April 10. Staff from the Center participate, as well as many other stakeholder groups. An important chance to talk to legislators about blindness issues.
 - CZ: The Advisory Council appreciates getting Barb's weekly updates. This allows Chris as a representative to share relevant points with his group.
 - Lisa Tomberlin – reviving National Agenda. Have started meeting.

2:15 pm

DPI Updates

- Barb Van Haren, Director, DPI Special Education Team

Personnell update:

- Courtney Reed-Jenkins is the fourth assistant director on the Division for Learning Support team. Has been working with disproportionality, and will now be also leading school improvement efforts, and supporting Barb with the two state schools. Will also support Title 1 and Special Education supports and improvement. Data, Early Childhood, and Transition improvement efforts.

Federal Level:

- Budget – The President’s budget has a mainly stable approach.
- US Department of Education (USDE) has rolled out a new IDEA website, but has maintained the old website for reference in legacy form.
- In terms of regulatory reform, Administration is moving into a second round of review. The first round was reviewing outdated and redundant documents. Second round will look at the disproportionality regulation process standardization, and proposes to delay the deadline to 2020, and the Early Childhood disproportionality to 2022. There is a 75-day comment period. Wisconsin will submit comments, indicating that Wisconsin was prepared to start this year as originally planned, and that it is important in the focus of equity to move forward.
- Q&A document has been issued on the Endrew F Supreme Court Case.
- Improvement program ready to go.
- Wisconsin’s ESSA plan (formerly NCLB) was approved in January. Overall goal is to cut the achievement gap in half in the next six years.

State Level:

- Will be participating in a school safety meeting across stakeholders tomorrow. The governor’s plan is moving through the legislature.
- Transition incentive grant: post-secondary surveys. \$2.7 million
- Transition Readiness Grant: amounts. To build post-secondary community-based opportunities for students.
- Transportation Bulletin: Routes, Discipline, Safety, Specialized Equipment, Other considerations (such as homeless, open enrolled, foster care, etc.)
- Autism Grant Opportunity, Katie Berg as Autism Grant Coordinator.

Licensing Update

- Proposed licensing changes. Overhaul of PI-34. There was a public comment period. DPI Received 900 comments to read and respond through. The Legislative report has been finalized and given to them this week. Now the review process. Will save more details for that agenda item later in the meeting.

2:40 pm

WCBVI Updates

- Peter Dally, Director, Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - Discussion on the actual anniversary date of the school.
 - This year started strong again. Mr. Dally was covering Principal, Business, and Outreach positions to start the year to cover retirements. All of those positions have been filled – Dawn Soto as Outreach Director, Susan Tucker as Principal, and Brian Fruits as Business Director. Enrollment is mid-50’s, which is good, as we have had high graduation rates the past three years, so we are happy to have maintained enrollment level. Interested in student enrollments if it is the best

placement for the student, not for numbers only. Note the preschool program, subject-area programs, college and career readiness programming.

- Extra Curriculars: Cheer team took first place in the conference (which we hosted) as well as Spirit award. Wrestling team was a small three-person team this year, but quite tenacious, and had two female members. Forensics and Swim is practicing now. Forensics team has been in first place 4 of the last 5 years. Participating in these activities gives our students a chance to build confidence and character. CZ: The value of forensics conveys to many environments past the competition.
- College and Career Readiness: PD has spoken with Tony King and Becky Heimerl who run the program. This program partners with 16 businesses in the community, along with local higher education agencies. FW: In regards to Transition – story about Terry Green (machinist who is blind, and was a student at the school) and a student who is blind who wanted to take a shop class. A great resource to assist. CZ discussed what was available when he was a student at the school. PD shared pic of the woodworking projects our students made this year. Discussion on reviving pieces of older programs in many of the current programs.
- March 7 – University of Chicago is divesting itself of the Yerkes Observatory. WCBVI has been involved with Yerkes as part of IDATA grant.
- Lockdown Drill – this morning. Went well, and helped us to identify areas for improvement. Paying very close attention to this. Have plans for additional security measures and policies at both state schools. Being proactive about preparedness.
- Preschool Conference: Two weekends ago. Was a great conference. Well planned and valuable for all attendees. Kay Rhode: Tricia Weis did an amazing job planning it, and her energy in hosting it is so positive.

3:10 pm

WCBVI Outreach Updates

- Dawn Soto, Director, WCBVI Outreach
 - Preschool Conference: The feedback was fabulous. Great speakers. The Friday night family dinner is a huge hit, and gets families connected. Many staff from WSBVI attended as well. Conference is a great place to unite individuals from the field (families, paras, teachers, etc). Many requests to have conferences further for school-age students and families. A very proud moment for Dawn as Outreach Director.
 - Discussion on workgroups within the Outreach team for specific topics. Such a hardworking group to address these needs. Gathering input from stakeholders and Vision professionals, and tailoring programs to meet those needs. Very proud of the team. PD – Concur with the thoughtfulness of the team on how they approach their tasks.
 - Short Courses: January and February were Care and Feeding of Me (one for boys, one for girls). High School Independence Weekend is coming up in April, with a wait list. Move It weekend in May. Meghan Fredel: Ways the team is meeting needs as requested. It had been requested to have some programs in different areas of the state. This year did a weekend in Trego. The data collected showed noted growth. Next year looking at offering mirror courses throughout the state to courses that are offered on campus. Have surveyed teachers throughout the state. Offering courses in a menu format for programs that are already made. Then Short Course staff can go out and offer the programs (assembly-style). From the Trego weekend, made a video to report on the weekend. Did a brochure as a follow up, and included survey data in it as well to share with parents. Using QR codes and link to the video. These programs have been an opportunity for the other Outreach staff to participate in the Short Courses. Students from WSBVI have also assisted in speaking with the students to speak in more of a peer model which

was a great connection for the students. DS: Working on self-determination, and using the surveys to support that.

- Many Upcoming Programs. Program Support Teacher (PST) meetings around the state. Will also be going to MPS and perhaps Vision Forward. Trying to meet with individual teams if they have requests if their teams can't make it to a PST. Low Vision Clinics upcoming (three). Life After High School Events upcoming. Family Resource Nights. Apostle Island Trip at the beginning of May. Kay Rhode – have 11 students signed up. Through Northland College. Kay has worked with their student teachers doing training about blindness. VIISA and Insite – June 18 – as a result of the Training Needs Survey sent to the field. Train the Trainers program, which will benefit Wisconsin. Collaborative Vision Conference.
- Summer Programs: Working with the school on registration questionnaires to help us better serve the students we have in the summer. Looking at gathering baseline data and creating plans for each student and reporting on growth from the program. EmployAbility – fine-tuning curriculum with co-coordinators, having a consistent plan. Up to 12 students.
- Have met to plan the programming calendar for the next school year. Framework is done. Trying to address needs that were requested on the Training Needs Survey. Assistive Tech Academies.
- Changes in APH – High-cost equipment. Many items are paired with vendors (proprietary). The cost has gone up. Need to assess the loan policies for these high cost items, and how we can best serve all qualifying students. APH seeks donation funds as well, and so is the Outreach team. Looking at how other states do these loans. Some do not loan these items at all, some require low vision clinic attendance. Some do short-term loans, then the district must purchase.
- STEM programming – workgroups looking at how to provide for our students at WSBVI and Short Courses.
- APH Census Deadline was last week. Higher amount of work this year with having to get the parental consent forms. PD – DPI was very responsive in their support of our efforts.
- Office Operations Associate posting soon. The team has really picked up these duties and covered well.
- Communication Listserv – we now have an “Announcement Group” (pushout messages only) Blind-Low Vision (under the Special Education heading) <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/subscribe-email>. Dawn has been sending a weekly update to the Google group, so will be sending similar to this group.
- DPI Fact Sheets – since they have been out, have had consultants with questions. Useful as a tool with the IEP teams in order to help clarify what they teach and ways they can offer support. BVH – intended to be companion documents to the memo from OSEP. Supportive of using these FAQs in informing IEP teams.

4:00 pm

TVI and O&M Licensing

Barb Van Haren: The recent changes in licensing – both of the state schools played critical roles in helping the department craft the proposed rules, and respond to the comments, particularly for educational interpreters and orientation and mobility.

TVI – in PI-34.051 TVI will have its own section. Very little change to the license. Cleaned up the people-first language. License requirements – approved program, with list of coursework and competencies needed, and successfully meeting assessment requirements (including student teaching/practicum). TVIs will be eligible for the new life license. Background check and certification check to renew once every five years.

O&M – The initial proposed rules had O&M listed under pupil services, which caused considerable confusion in the field. O&M has PI-34.089 in related services. The overarching work in regards to related services was, since they are not eligible for a life license, that we are not creating a separate system for licensing, allow using the professional licensing board in order to renew. Changes to current language – in regards to developmental levels vs grade levels on the license. Demonstrating knowledge in four areas. Five-year license. Renewal based on continuing and renewing certification through ACVREP. Aware that some who are dually licensed as TVI and O&M will have two licensing systems. Were not able to find a solution for that. Simplified it as much as possible.

This information is on the DPI website. Still to go to legislators, review committees, etc. The process will take some time. DPI can collect additional comments/concerns, so that as this is going through the process, they are able to provide feedback.

Kay Glodowski – How was ACVREP chosen for renewal? BVH – recommendations from the field and professionals. KG – How many? BVH – I do not recall the exact number. KG – when does that go into effect? BVH – two sets of review, and possible more revision. The hope is to have it in place by July 1. The review process now. Will keep posted, and continue to include in the weekly email.

CO – With the changing of licensing, are there no longer any requirements for continuing education expectations? PD – correct. BVH – the life licensing was legislatively generated. DPI was not the originator. Two factors – the teacher shortage nationwide. Dr. Evers assembled a group to provide recommendations in order to increase flexibility but maintain high quality. The legislators passed a number of items pertaining to licensing in the last budget. One was the life license, the other was acceptance of certifications through accrediting boards. Took both things – the stakeholder comments, and the legislative mandate, and had to make a system within that. It does eliminate the need for continuing education for existing teachers. CO – is this done? BVH – yes, it was part of the budget. CO – why not much discussion? CZ – as part of the budget process. There were five budget listening sessions. PD – many people are not aware of this and how far this has gone. CO – as the Council shouldn't we have had a chance to comment and provide recommendations? CZ – we comment to DPI, not legislators. BVH – there were public hearings, there was an online opportunity to submit comments. Special Education received many comments and responded as well as making as many changes as we could. Life licenses and the acceptance of the accrediting boards such as ABCTE was not within our scope. We were able to respond to many comments with the changes that were submitted. CO – I did hear tell of it, and the comment window was very short. Didn't realize it was a done deal. FW – by design, and not just for education. BVH – life licenses – as worded, reflects life licenses for teachers in our public schools. This does not include CESA, State schools, private schools. There is talk of a trailer bill that will add these staff to them. Watch and see. Not intended to exclude these groups. PD – makes recruiting difficult for those groups. Discussion. MF – questions regarding former legislation – The old version says “complete an AER approved program” is that still there? BVH – yes it is. MF – if not an AER-approved program, but received an ACVREP certification, would they still be licensed? BVH – that is a good question, as it is listed for renewal, but not initial licensing. MF – a lot of programs can't afford to go through the AER approval process. If ACVREP certified, will they go through ELO? BVH – there will still be a fee for processing licenses (to verify). There is no appropriation for the licensing process. MF – O&M will still have a DPI license. BVH – yes, but eliminated the need to do credits AND professional certification. Done for OT, PT, Aud, Ed Interp, SLP also. This is in flux, so all staff should renew as before, as nothing is law at this point. So do the activities such as coursework to work towards renewal. DS –

PDP? BVH – that is gone. Licensing has a blog to look at for FAQs. The licensing team is very bogged down with questions.

4:45 pm

Member Update from Cheryl Orgas, ABLE – James Thompson – author. WTBBL and Council met with James. ABLE involved in campaign to make this book available in braille, with tactile cover. Hoping for at least 300 books. Will need assistance to get out to the CESAs and School Districts. He is also scheduled to come speak to WSBVI students this spring. MF – when will this be done? Could deliver at Collaborative Vision Conference at the end of April. CO – we will have them done. MF – will check with the listserve, then let you know, and we will pick them up to share with teachers at CVC. CO – will also contact ACB and NFB before their conference. Kay Rhode – will be in Milwaukee on April 20 and can pick them up. Braille Game was a great success, and happy to have Glen Stacey funding for that, as well as for Braille Books, of which there are some extra copies, so will get those out to students as well.

Next meeting June 13 in Madison. 2:00-5:00

Adjourn 4:52