

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council
AGENDA – Meeting #64
October 29, 2018 – 2:00-5:00 pm

Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning – 2109 S Stoughton Rd, Madison

Insert time for each agenda item. First instance of a name, spell out, subsequent instances can use initials

Call to order

Introductions

Attendance

Martha Beringer-DPI Representative/Director, Interlibrary Loan & Resource

Kay Rhode-DPI Representative/Education Consultant: O&M

Barb Van Haren-DPI Representative/Director, Special Education

Colleen Kickbush, TVI, Vision Forward

Chris Zenchenko-WCB (Organization)/Past President, Wisconsin Council for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Pete Dally-DPI Representative/WCBVI Center Director

Nissan Bar-Lev-Council Chair/Special Education Director, CESA 7

Wendy Leising, Itinerant Coordinator, CESA 1

On phone:

Julie Hapeman-O&M/Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, MPS

Steve Lutzke-District Administrator/District Administrator-Parkview School District

Cheryl Orgas-NFB/Member, WisBraille

Zharina Mohd-Shah-Management Librarian, WI Talking Book and Braille Library

Kay Glodowski-Guest/WCBVI

Mandy Jordan-WCBVI Administrative Assistant

Guests

Lisa Tomberlin-Wisconsin National Agenda

Shannon Sheffer-CESA 5

Public input and comments

Limited to 5 minutes

LT: Wisconsin National Agenda Goal Group 3 is working on university training issues. Current members are: Lisa Tomberlin (Goal Group Leader), Linda Bailey, Meghan Fredel, Kay Glodowski, Julie Hapeman, Cindy Lambert, Kay Rhode, and Jana Uhler. Goal Group 3 has been working for last eight months. One goal was to put together a database of all TVI an O&M programs from around the country. They have contacted lots of universities and many universities have interest in sharing this data across the country. Would like to update the database yearly (each university would update). Results from survey shared: (Mandy emailed to Council at 1:45pm). LT also shared that Goal Group 3 is working on recruitment.

Wisconsin TVI/OM Future Staffing Needs Survey

May 2018 (responses collected July –October 2018)

Interesting Comments and Observations: 88 respondents

Question 1: TVI or O&M

- Only 1 respondent is licensed but retired and not working in the field
- TOTAL TVIs in survey: 66
 - 44 of respondents are full time TVIs
 - Of the 9 part time TVIs; 1 was working .8 FTE , 4 were working .75 FTE, and 4 were working .5 FTE
 - 13 Full time TVI/O&M
- Total O&M: 22
 - 9 full time O&M
 - 13 TVI/O&M
- 5 retired teachers who returned to work (or will as soon as 75 days up)
- 6 respondents work in the field but in other capacities

Question 2: Age Group

- Majority of respondents were working with children in the 3-21 age category (1 in the 4-21 age category) 82.73% percent
- Only 1 respondent is working only with adults
- 10 total respondents working with birth to three
 - 1 respondent works with birth to six
 - 1 respondent works with birth to three only
 - 8 respondents working with children 3-21 and birth to three
- No respondents are working with children and adults

Question 3: Licensure

11 out of 87 respondents are Provisionally Licensed (12.64%) and therefore may need access to further courses in the field

Question 4: Outlook for the 2019-2020 School Year

- 75-76 out of 86 respondents expect to keep the same job as they have now
- 4 out of 86 will be reducing their time
- 1 will be changing roles
- 2 plan to retire
- 2-4 others are unsure, 1 based upon medical condition

Question 5: Of those dually certified TVI/O&M, if they reduced their FTE they :

- 7/23 would work as a TVI/O&M
- 14/23 would work just as a TVI
- 2/23 would work just as an O&M

Question 6: Retirement

- 47.7% of respondents plan to work 10 or more years from now
- 52.27 % plan to retire in 0-10 years from now
- 2 will retire next year
- 16 plan to retire in 1-2 years
- 14 plan to retire in 3-5 years
- 14 plan to retire in 6-10 years.
- 32/88 plan to retire in 0-5 years from now (36%)

-“May retire - dependent on O & M new licensing requirements”

-“If the OM licenses are not grandfathered into lifetime like the other teaching licensees when my OM license expires I will leave the OM field. I can secure full time status as a TVI & Special Education teacher without the cost of taking additional credits and renewing my license.”

Question 7: Manageable Caseloads

- 55 out of 88 feel they have manageable caseloads or could take more students
- 22 feel need more help (25%)
- 11 NA (12.5%)

Question 8: Openings

- 16.67 % or 14/ 84 respondents say they feel they need more providers but have no postings or opening in their work places for TVIs or O&Ms
- 29/84 or 34.52% have 1 or more openings currently

Some comments:

“Our administration thinks it’s OK to work in 20 school districts and have 40 students.”

“Tvi needs are met through my district job but O&M was CESA and retired this year Not sure how position will be covered”

“Could use a part-time TVI in the north”

“No need for addition TVI in my district but CESA ” ___ ” needs more TVIs, which has resulted in me covering some of their areas to help out.”

Council Member Updates

Council Members report on stakeholder activities and/or concerns

2:20 pm

NBL: Pete and I have been looking into how we find a higher-ed TVI program. Have been having conversations with UW-M for 4-5 months about having a program, five months later the

response was, “we are not interested.” Was thought to be too small of a program. Initial meeting was July 2, 2018, heard back this month that they were not interested. The same week, they heard from Concordia University. They were very interested and the department head wanted to attend the Friday PST program. At this point we have a university with Special Education, Early Childhood, and OT/PT programs. They would like to extend their program to include a TVI program.

MF: Would they have opportunity for distance learning? NBL-Yes

PD: At this time we are looking for interested universities that may want a TVI program. We are looking for small place to hold the program. Concordia is excited and would be one option for us to consider as a Council. They have a far and robust reaching distance ed program. Eight people in a cohort is a respectable number for them.

NBL: Concordia likes to have small programs on their resume. Visited the campus, it is on the lake, beautiful location. We decided to bring to the Council’s attention and see what the next move would be. For curriculum we would bring together 5-6 seasoned TVI’s to create a curriculum with Concordia and work on this jointly. Concordia will rely on us for the expertise.

BVH: Director of program approached her at conference and experienced her interest.

CZ: I believe they have satellite locations as well.

LT: When Silver Lake was in existence, DPI was providing funding for program, my understanding was that the funding was discontinued and that was one of the reasons the program closed and that DPI was not in favor of a private or religious school. Is this still a conflict of interest?

BVH: DPI allocated dollars until the program ended.

LT: The program ended before special ed program ended

NBL: My interaction with DPI is that there will not be an issue, personal preference is a state university, but if we don’t have one and we have to come up with a plan to build the workforce.

LT: There had been years that DPI and Silver Lake went back and forth about funding. The main question is, “is DPI funding the program?”

NBL: We are exploring it, funding will always be an issue. Concordia has not said they won't do it if funding is not there.

DS: If other programs are explored, would this be the place to start the stakeholder group?

NBL: Who would lead the group

BVH: Lisa Misco looked at Silver Lake to see if they would have a program again, as she does ad hoc work at Silver Lake, there may be some interested but they may not be in a place to move forward.

NBL: We would be looking to start and develop the program by fall of 2019.

CZ: I want to go back to the funding question-one of the problems with state university was the funding component, it is easier to support a program at a private place versus a place already inside the system, is that accurate?

BVH: I cannot speak prior to her being here, but when I started they did not have a funding stream for UW-Platteville, could only support with human resources (WCBVI staff served as instructors). Would have to go through the procurement process.

LT: Does DPI have a plan for funding a program?

BVH: What do you mean by plan?

LT: Has this been discussed?

BVH: Would be looking when appropriations come in May 2019, no functional discussions have been had at this point.

LT: Traci Stanislawski had met and spoke with many high up people who thought they should table the decision about moving forward until February 2019, will come up again at a board meeting in February. Traci started looking into this because they have trouble find TVI's and have a structure at Vision Forward that can provide support.

DS: Many students who are blind attend UW-Whitewater because of excellent special education services

LT: When Silver Lake started, National Agenda was involved from the beginning, they met with many colleges, including UW-Whitewater. Years ago when they were looking before Silver Lake started were many steps and it came down to financial reasons.

PD: UW is a large system to work with. Neat UW-Whitewater is thinking about it and we thank UW-Milwaukee for thinking about it. Myself and WCBVI staff put a great amount of time into it. My fear would be that they will pick it up but would not be sustainable-would not address critical shortage we have. Spent a great deal of time reflecting on UW-Platteville, took a lot of hard work, it closed because of finance and things we can't control. Programs such as Platteville, and programs in other states (Michigan) closed down. We have two programs that are fully operational right now-Northern Illinois University (in-person) and Western Michigan University (online and face to face). What do people think about those programs and having a track for people?

CK: Could we work with NIU to go online?

MF: Not interested, but Illinois State may be an option?

LT: ISU was huge in starting Silver Lake, was very willing to help. Those programs are existing, but when we only had those, we never met our need with those programs, Silver Lake was the closet we go to meeting the need. Thinks it had to do with central location, took place on weekends, conducive for someone already working as a TVI.

DS: Critical shortage is talked about nationally, the shortage has been for 30 years, this is talked about at policy meetings, not enough Phds to sustain programs, smaller programs challenge larger programs. Federal funding for people to go back for PhD's to support programs. Michigan Dept of Education has created a program to sustain their own field. Western Michigan currently is the only online option, Higher Educational Aids Board has adjacent written in so the three schools are our only options. We want to find people where they are at and hope they return. Pete Zammuto at HEAB says they do not use the bachelor's degree money, people don't know about field or funding available to them. Dawn has been talking to guidance counselors about the field.

NBL: Good point you pointed out about starting at the high school level. However as special ed director, looking at my own districts and hearing those complain that they are worried they won't have a TVI. It would be nice to find a Wisconsin university that would host a program. As a special ed director I am concerned what happens in the future.

BVH: Parallel tracks-current options and looking at Wisconsin program

CZ: UW-Whitewater would be at least four months until we hear, we would make a mistake on ignoring Concordia.

NBL: Large pool of special education candidates, near to Milwaukee area

CO: They also have blind people at Concordia

KR: Dawn wrote a great email, people can use Dawn's email about current options and HEAB money.

DS: Special ed directors could get university contacts to reach out and post their jobs

CK: Have there ever been issues finding instructors for those positions and it takes people out of school from teaching kids?

LT: Our teachers were teaching on the weekends.

LT: never had a full time faculty overseeing program. Cannot get federal funding or AER Approval, if so desired. We found we could do a program without a full time person and still have quality instruction. We could sustain cohort of 7-8 students.

KR: Will there be a task force?

NBL: Anyone can reach out to any university

MF: Is the goal to have a program running by September 1, 2019?

PD: That would be the goal, best scenario possible.

DS: Should we have people from UW-Platteville and Silver Lake start looking at these options?

KR: Let's gather people now to be ready in the wings

DS: William Koehler, was with University of Arizona, he goes around to ensure those training TVI's are trained to teach adults.

LT: All of these relate to funding

NBL: All Council members should email Nissan if interested in being on this task force.

MF: When we should we finish contacting universities

NBL: As soon as possible, realizes 9/1/2019 start date is short but we need people. It may not happen, we may need to push it a year. Our goal is to do it as soon as possible.

Advisory Council Guidelines and Committees (Agenda, Membership, Annual Report)

3:17 PM Need volunteers to chair and run each committee. Can be 2-3 people at most I think.

Membership - need: General Ed Teacher, Braille Transcriber, Higher Education, Public/School District Rep

Membership - I sent along paper copies of the updated Nomination forms. Please complete and return to MJ. If you are representing an organization, you must have an official from the nominating organization complete the form and sign

PD: We had a few people signed up for the Council but due to their schedules were not able to attend. Asks the Council members working in districts to reach out to those interested in the open positions: general ed teacher, higher ed rep, braille transcriber, and district administrator

CO: Could shift over to transcriber rep and seek out new NFB rep.

MJ: The statute says certified braille transcriber

NBL: if Concordia is the program, they will fill the higher ed spot

LT: Will look at braille transcriber contacts

BVH: Will add in weekly update

CK: Do people who apply get turned away?

BVH: Yes, people apply and then are accepted and appointed

PD: Mandy sent along nomination forms

MJ: those who want to renew need to renew and hopefully we will have new members as well

3:17 PM O&M Taskforce Update

Julie Hapeman

NBL: States importance of balanced task force

JH: After meeting with NBL, reached out to people who were interested on Wis Vis listserv.

Looked for TVI's, Parent, O&M, O&M/TVI, Northern IL, Western Michigan, Louisiana Tech, administrator (could not find one), other stakeholders. CZ is on the task force in several roles.

Good representation on task force. First meeting on 10/19/18. Fairly well attended, great productive conversation. Gave history why we have a DPI license when many states don't.

Dawn Anderson was previously in Wisconsin, was part of planning of DPI having a license for O&M, gave background. Mid 80's when license began, thought was it may lead to third party reimbursement through Medicaid, one reason for doing it. Ran into issue with wording that is out of date-about requiring graduation from AER Approved University. AER Approval process is being overhauled and looked at, many universities are not on the approval list anymore.

Wanted to make sure any recommendation they give is more broad. You need ACVREP certification to renew, that's not ever been a requirement, they either let it lapse or chose not to get it, put them in position of needing to take exam to renew. Feeling of rug being pulled out from under them, also there is more than one certifying body, is it fair to choose one over the other. Powerpoint presentation put together by Meghan and Kay on history of how certification works in two bodies. We need questions answered and need others to add in who weren't able to attend. We want to know is it possible to make O&M licensure for those who are already licensed be grandfathered to lifetime license, anyone who has a provisional are required to obtain certification from national certifying body?

BVH: Are you interested in us attending the meeting to answer questions?

JH: Yes, we have questions and would love someone to be there.

BVH: General comments: role of task force is to provide recommendations to Council to send on to Dr. Evers to open the rule to make language changes. Rules can be opened for one word or an overhaul. The task force and eventually Council will have to examine what the recommendations are. Motion would go forward from the Council. Not sure if grandfathering is necessary or an option for licensing, but can make language changes as you move forward.

JH: We want someone from licensing we don't want to make a recommendation that isn't even possible.

BVH: Having someone from licensing can help talk through

NBL: what BVH said is critical, consensus is important and powerful coming from balanced group. If licensing can't attend, then meeting individually with licensing and then bring back information to task force.

JH: Big issues are people who are dually licensed, or who have other licenses who are life licensed and do not want multiple paths for renewal. Has good understanding of how we got where we are. We do want to address concerns people have but not step over what can be allowed with licensure.

BVH: Think of as options and consideration for Council. Consider how people view licensing and requirements. Parents have concerns about the qualifications of individuals, but we also need to make sure we have a way to get enough staff.

JH: Minnesota state doesn't require license, but districts require certification to prove there is backing for their professionals. Most of university programs, except Louisiana Tech, you cannot do internship without an ACVREP Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist. JH has had to take three interns in one year because there was no one else to take them on. That is her opinion and no one else. We want to make sure people are heard.

BVH: You mention states that don't require license, if you think about WI's funding system, for categorical reimbursement, individuals must have a license.

Print Disability Guide/NIMAS Bulletin

Nissan Bar-Lev

NBL: Committee of 18 folks to look at how to support students with print disability. New IEP forms have NIMAC statement. Felt important to provide IEP team with information. Document has suggestions from Cynthia Curry, is being reviewed by DPI Compliance, once cleared then will go back to CAST.

BVH: Updating Print disability bulletin as well.

BVL: Some language changes in provision of NIMAS. In 2013 WIPO, Marrakesh Treaty was signed, was not implemented until 10/10/2018. Each county must go over copyright laws. It is in effect, revised section 121 in copyright act. Changes to language, not necessary for physician to be competent authority, IEP team member can be competent authority.

DPI Updates

Barb Van Haren, Director, DPI Special Education Team

Two new staff members-Alicia Reinhard, Transition and Graduation Consultant; Marolyn Johnson; Learning Supports Consultant.

Federal Updates: Lauri VanderPloeg replaces Ruth Ryder at federal level, Director of Special Education (OSEP); Johnny Collett released a framework for how we serve individuals with disabilities, raising expectations and outcomes; gives states flexibility within the constructs of the law.

Wisconsin will continue to use federal regulations as guidance to identify districts with disproportionality and disciplinary counts; viewed as issue of equity and civil rights.

On August 2, 2018 we had an [OSEP letter](#), "Letter to Mcdowell," addresses interveners. Letter says interveners need to be considered in IEP process. The DPI values the roles interveners can have in our students lives. WDBTAP can provide training and resources. Still looking at decision making with Dynamic Learning Maps for students. We have submitted the biennium budget for the DPI, have requested 1.4 billion for special education, categorical reimbursement will be .30/1.00 and then go to .60/1.00. Also asked for 64 million for mental health funding. Proposal would allow for an increase in reimbursement from 90% to 100% of eligible costs above the \$30,000 per student high cost threshold. Asking for increase in transition grant as well to fund additional districts. New training called, "Supporting Neurodiverse Students."

WCBVI Updates

Peter Dally, Director, Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

WCBVI turning 169 years old this year. 55 students currently enrolled. Doing well in co-curriculars. Largest track team in over 20 years; took 4th in track this year. Midway through goalball season. New Hires: Jenn Raclaw for CCR Program; Amber Lee Spade, Intellectual Disabilities Teacher; John Begley, Intellectual Disabilities Teacher; Amy Snow, Outreach AT Specialist. Retirees: Becky Heimerl and Tony King. Principal Susan Tucker is no longer WSBVI Principal, seeking new principal.

WCBVI Outreach Updates

Dawn Soto, Director, WCBVI Outreach

Kay Rhode, O&M Consultant, WCBVI Outreach

Meghan Fredel, TVI & O&M Consultant, WCBVI Outreach

DS: The team is using surveys and finding unique ways to reach out to the field and collect data. Summer EmployAbility - Julie Hapeman for O&M as well as internship for CATIS - such an amazing opportunity to have her with us for this. Great PST meeting on 10/26/2018-Patti Williams from DPI for legal matters, Dr. Fraser on convergence insufficiency. APH updates were shared at PST. Attended Ex Officio Trustee training at APH this summer, working on educating LEA's that APH products are supplements and are not intended to provide FAPE. Only \$300 is allocated per qualified and registered student in Wisconsin. More O&M's taking ACVREP exam, WCBVI looking at becoming a RPPL provider. Many activities professionals already do, could be given credits through ACVREP, including NOMC holders, as they can accept ACVREP CEU's. Short Courses are full! New OOA, Kathleen Coehoorn, has started today, 10/29/18.

Library Updates

Martha Farley Berninger, Director, DPI Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning

Zarina Mohd Shah, Management Librarian, WI Talking Book and Braille Library

Jennifer Shampoo joined team a month ago as a trainer and technical support for Badgerlink Database.

Working on grant for resources for public libraries to become familiar with job center resources, goal that public library staff are comfortable with resources for job resources and so libraries can support economic interests of state.

ZMS: Replaced Linda Vincent. Currently WTBL serves 6,711 registered active patrons, staff of 15, collection is 194,000 items, 830 new readers, work closely with ABLE.

Public input and comments

None

Adjourn-4:40 PM

Action Items:

- Please email Council Chair (NBL) with university ideas and suggestions
- Schedule next meeting date