

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education
Advisory Council**

AGENDA – Meeting #

February 20, 2019 – 10:00-2:00 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

I. Call to order – 10:15

DPI members present - Nissan Bar Lev, Wendy Leising, and Julie Hapeman. On the phone – Colleen Kickbush, Cheryl Orgas, Kediboyne Carpenter, Steve Lutzke.

Introductions

Attendance

- Dawn Soto – Outreach/WCBVI Director
- Martha Beringer-DPI Representative/Director, Interlibrary Loan & Resource (MB)
- Barb Van Haren-DPI Representative/Director, Special Education (BVH)
- Nissan Bar-Lev-Council Chair/Special Education Director, CESA 7 (NBL) (member)
- Wendy Leising, Itinerant Coordinator, CESA 1 (WL) (member)
- Kate Coehoorn-WCBVI Outreach Operations Associate OOA (CK)
- Julie Hapeman-O&M/Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, MPS (JH) (member)

On phone:

- Colleen Kickbush, TVI, Vision Forward (CK) (member)
- Cheryl Orgas-NFB/Member, WisBraille (CO) (member)
- Zharina Mohd-Shah-Management Librarian, WI Talking Book and Braille Library (ZM)
- Kediboyne Carpenter (KC) (member)
- Steve Lutzke – Superintendent Parkview (SL) (member)

Guests - None

II. Public input and comments

10:25

Limited to 5 minutes

1. Nissan Bar-Lev Discussion regarding Vacancies and Committees
2. Mandy sent copies of a chart showing the vacancies.
3. Looking for one more education teacher. Find ways to attract additional people. HigherEd is vacant.
4. Colleen asked if the vacancy info has been put out for people to see. Barb will put it out on the weekly again. (Julie Hapeman mentioned someone who is interested – Works for Hadley school for Blind. Jennifer Ottowitz. Wondered if she is qualified. She qualifies for Higher Education vacancy.)
5. Also seeking regular education teacher.
6. WCBVI will add vacancy info as well to the weekly update.

III. DPI Updates

10:30

Barb Van Haren, Director, DPI Special Education Team

Everything is in Barb's report.

1. Inauguration Ceremony
2. Governor Evers Announces Appointments:
3. Governor Evers Appoints Next DPI State Superintendent
4. Legal Requirements for Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) for Students with Print Disabilities
5. Grant opportunities:
6. Research to Practice: Inclusive Communities Grant Opportunity
7. Applications available: January 7, 2019; Applications due: March 7, 2019

8. Transition Readiness Grants: Evidence-Based Practice Fund - Grant Opportunity:
9. Applications available: February 1, 2019; Applications due: March 1, 2019
10. Joint Federal Notifications
11. LEA determinations
12. Virtual Learning Days

Questions - None

IV. O&M Task Force Report

10:45

Julie Hapeman

1. O&M Task Force Report
2. Background from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Website:
3. "The 2017-2019 Wisconsin state budget, also known as Act 59, contains major changes to licensure rules. This includes language creating a lifetime license for educators (teachers, administrators and pupil services professionals)." <https://dpi.wi.gov/tepd/doi-need-apply-lifetime-license>
4. Advisory Council will vote to send O&M Task Force Report to the State Superintendent.
5. Other option, discuss report, consider it, vote NBL
6. Change to O&M services – License sufficient for maintaining DPI license?
7. 6 credit hours
8. Everyone is included, TVI O&M, - NFB
9. Surveyed Universities, Parents, Students. Did not get a parent or a student to respond.
10. If you do have certification there are benefits to your districts. If you have ACVREP certification you can take on an intern and mentor.
11. (NFB) NBPCB Can both of these certifications be recognized.

12. Advice from licensure was to just tell them what we want.
13. At the request of Nissan Bar-Lev, Chair of the State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment Education, Julie Hapeman, COMS and Orientation & Mobility representative to the Council, was asked to assemble a task force of stakeholders to discuss these issues and report to the council. This report is a summary from the task force.
14. Dr. Bar-Lev and Ms. Hapeman discussed the recommended representation of the task force. These areas included:
 - Orientation & Mobility Specialists with ACVREP Certification
 - Orientation & Mobility Specialists without ACVREP Certification
 - Teachers dually licensed and working both as Orientation & Mobility Specialists and Teachers of the Visually Impaired
 - Teachers of the Visually Impaired (not dually licensed)
 - University professionals from schools that receive funds from the Higher Educational Aids Board
 - The National Federation of Blind (NFB), the NFB training program at Louisiana Tech University and the National Orientation & Mobility Certification (NOMC) from the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB)
 - Parents of students with visual impairments
 - Special Education Administrator
 - A representative from DPI licensure
15. Ms. Hapeman sent an email to the Wisconsin Vision Professionals Listserv and others, asking for volunteers. A list of volunteers is attached.
16. The task force met in person and via phone on the following dates: 10/19/18, 11/7/18, 11/29/18, and 12/13/18. Notes from these meetings were sent to Dr. Barb Van Haren and Dr. Bar-Lev. No representation from licensing was on hand

for any of the meetings, but there was some feedback given to the notes submitted.

17. The concerns/comments of the stakeholders included:
18. Addition of ACVREP certification as an option for license renewal
 - The time and expense of obtaining this certification, which had never before been required for licensure, and the possibility of O&M Specialists leaving the profession or the state due to the requirement
 - Adding this requirement without consulting O&M professionals left stakeholders out of the discussion
 - Recognition of ACVREP certification, but not NBPCB certification, is biased toward one method of O&M training
 - Support for requiring certification as the certifying body has knowledge of the profession and can help identify standards for the profession and for professional development
19. Adding back in the option of obtaining 6 college credits every 5 years
 - Allows O&M Specialists the option not to obtain ACVREP certification
20. O&M licenses not being in a category that can lead to lifetime licenses
 - Dual licensed O&M Specialists and TVIs may opt to drop their O&M license, as there would be ample work for them as TVIs, thus leading to an increase in the shortage of O&M Specialists throughout the state
21. Initial license already on the books. Certain classwork. Emphasis in O&M. National Exam might be expected 6 months down the road.
22. Renewal – Good standing, minimum of 10 years, exempt from taking six credits, eligible for lifetime license.
23. Three tiered system. JH
24. Question -WL- asked if the 10 years of experience could be from any state or just WI?

25. Do we want to vote on this report and send it to the Superintendent? - NBL
26. Cheryl Orgas makes a motion to vote and Colleen Kickbush seconded the motion.
 - o Julie, Kediboyne, Colleen, Wendy, Nissan, Cheryl –Voted **Yes**
 - o Voting No – no one.
27. Question to JH– Any discussion regarding Educator Effectiveness? BVH JH will find an answer for BVH.
28. Question for Dual Licenses. If they do not use it do they lose the lifetime certification? BVH. JH will find out.
29. Dawn discussed supporting vision professionals who have been included in Educator Effectiveness in their districts.
30. Next step Carolyn - the motion will be sent to Carolyn Stanford Taylor.

11:05 Break for Lunch

11:15

V. WCASS Print Disability Guide

- o Nissan Bar-Lev
- o Identify students, how to access materials, CESA 7 – 50% TVI AEM – Tiffany Hacker. Hiring a new full time TVI, send to NBL. Guide is Published. Guide Available on line. www.wcass.org

11:20

VI. Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB) TVI and O&M loan

1. Dawn Soto has spoken with Pete Zammuto (Grant Specialist) – UW Platteville TVI program has ended. HEAB TVI loan is also O&M loan certification.
2. Question - What does the grant cover? JH

3. CATIS certification? Dawn will check on this question
4. Adjacent State Programs – There is now Reciprocity with Illinois.
5. Eleven students using grant money from WMU and NIU currently.
6. NIU Master's program has own funding for masters degrees.
7. <http://www.heab.wi.gov/board/reports/rep021.html>

11:30

VII. University Training Program

- Review letter to WI institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) NBL
- Summary of WI IHEs interested in creating a WI TVI Training Program NBL
- Discussion about accreditation process DS
 - Adjacent State university programs could be resource regarding creation of curriculum and a TVI training program.
 - Federal grants - due to ongoing national TVI shortage there are federal grants and funds available.
- Advisory Council Stakeholders discuss any proposed options
 - Only responses from UW Whitewater and UW Stout and Concordia.
 - Wanda from Concordia sent a voicemail expressing interest to Nissan Bar Lev.
 - Wanda is looking for persons to help research the curriculum to and it was requested that a call for interested individuals be added to Dr. Van Haren's Weekly Update and the WCBVI Outreach Weekly Update. NBL asked council members to contact him if know interested individuals. Wanda is seeking DPIs approval.

11:45

VIII. Council Member Stakeholder Updates

- Nothing

11:45

IX. Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library Update

- MB would like to turn this over to Zarina Mohd Shah but CO said she was gone from the meeting already.

12:00

X. WCBVI Updates

1. DS Currently recruiting for WSBVI Principal or WCBVI Center Director.
2. Thank you to Holly Berry, Mr. Soto, Kim and Becky Heimerl, Mandy Jordan, for management support, welcome to Mrs. Eiden, new IEP coordinator. Maria Scoville, supporting IEPs Infinite Campus.
3. Weather – WSBVI never closes, so teaching staff has been wonderful covering for everyone. Day students follow home district school closings.
4. New WSBVI Office Operations Associate (OOA) is Anna Heeson took Diane Karrow's place. Good job
5. Kathy Arndt – WSBVI Science Teacher has worked collaboratively with UW Whitewater/UROCK – awesome. Bus goes to Whitewater for students from Janesville.

12:15

XI. WCBVI Outreach Updates

1. DS - American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Federal Quota was due February 15th.
2. Production Team started pilot program with a new textbook for a quota student. This needs to be addressed 6-9 months before the books are needed. Math textbook. Uses federal dollars.

3. NBL When a book has been done, a reprint is sometimes less, but possibly books borrowed from others is the software still usable for the next book and so on.
4. JH says books are still created based on each state.
5. APH- if a child is not registered they have to wait until the next time to meet federal quota to get materials and textbooks.
6. Current portal is changing and DS will update as it moves along.
7. Meghan Fredel is working with Patti Williams discussing short course issues. Intensive braille instruction, etc, hoping for a DPI bulletin to explain short course options to IEP teams.
8. VIISA/INSITE is coming back. Dave Hyde and Kay Glodowski, Bess Dennison coming from UTAH State University
9. EmployAbility – Dave Ballmann, program coordinator, Meghan Fredel, co-coordinator O&M, Karly Clenney, co-coordinator DLS. They are adding in mental and social aspects of blindness.
10. Social Emotional competencies – Many other states have a psychologist or counselor in the Outreach group.
11. Low Vision – going out more individually, and Amy Snow, Alisha Ragainis Kay Glodowski
12. Next year's calendar planning next week at Feb 27th meeting. Parent/Family Connection does not have the vehicle to survey Parents and Families to find out what is needed. Reaching out to RSNs via Erin Faasuamalie, Special Education consultant DPI.
13. How to best reach families is the goal for Dave H and Dave B, as our WCBVI Outreach Parent Liaisons.
14. COSB (Council of Schools and Services for the Blind) and POSB (Principals of Schools for the Blind) – APH annual meetings (whole other realm), Washington State Outreach Director's forum in April 2019. Dawn will be attending.
15. ListServ
 - Information Groups for Vision Professionals Dawn shared that the current list serv would come to an end June 15th, 2019. She shared Outreach research and surveys to share information widely. Dawn asked the advisory council members to discuss this very important matter. Vision

professionals are often isolated from one another and need connections. Outreach will update Vision Professionals about Weekly Update survey.

- JH mentioned how grateful people were for the list serv.
- BVH - We continue one-way communication lists for information sharing. The DPI does not host or maintain two-way communication groups.
- Perhaps a forum could be created on the Google community for Vision Professionals. WAER – could get this and add element for hosting two-way communication. JH
- Looking at Mailchimp – Chuck Buggs
- BVH Recommends - Reach out to the CESAs and RSNs for Contact people.
- Martha Berninger said some information (negative) out there might cause people to leave certain sites.
- NBL –Teacher of Visually Impaired could use their personal emails to pass the liability issue with a group not hosted by DPI or a CESA. This is also a liability issue for CESA and they also do not host two-way communication groups.
- BVH We do not use Mailchimp because you can opt out of Mailchimp. DS - Ask Isabel Wilson Orno, OOA for DPI about communications.

12:45

XII. Public input and comments

1. BVH – Suggestion when terms end and start again. If June meeting is the last meeting of the year then exit members at this meeting will then do an Orientation of New individuals for September meeting.
2. Legal members should have info on moving forward.
3. NBL – Need a nominating committee to address new appointees

Adjourn-1:00 PM

Action Items:

- Schedule next meeting date – Google survey will be put out by end of the week.