

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

**AGENDA – Meeting #60**

**October 5, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning  
2019 South Stoughton Rd, Madison

*10:10 am*

Call to order

- Introductions
- Public input and comments - none

*10:15 am*

Council Business Items

- Schedule Upcoming Meetings – November 28, Location TBD
- Review Council By-Laws
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair – tabled as no nominations. Will discuss at next meeting. Pete Dally – there is something to be said for institutional knowledge. Cheryl Orgas – asked Nissan to consider remaining. NBL will continue as needed, but encourages the Council members to consider taking on this role.
- Form Committee(s)
  - Membership committee (Review vacancies, recommendations for new members)
    - Chris Zenchenko, Cheryl Orgas, Kay Rhode

*10:20 am*

DPI Updates

- Barb Van Haren, Director, DPI Special Education Team
- What is happening at the Federal Level for the Council – Meeting in Washington DC in July for Special Education Directors. Met Kimberly Richey, the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services within the Office of Special Education. She shared her vision for four areas of focus for her tenure. Focus on the unique needs of each child, referencing the Andrew F Supreme Court Case. Discussed empowering parents and families, highlighting the need for joint professional development. Focus on literacy – identified that over half of the states have chosen literacy for their RDA efforts. Continuing RDA work based on literacy and database decision making.
- Asked to review IDEA, make recommendations and policy guidance. Wisconsin offered comments, and position is emphasizing the importance of the law in protecting our students and families. Wisconsin in line with National Association of State Directors of Special Education. Focused on the items that are beneficial and need to stand to help ensure the security of the items that our students require to access FAPE.
- The State Budget has been passed. A number of impacts on DPI, which they are sorting through. DPI received two grants that are transition-focused. One focused on post-secondary outcomes, and another focused on readiness, specifically in districts where they rely more heavily on sheltered workshops.
- Budget also has significant changes for licensing to teachers. There will be a new Life License. More details to come as they are worked out with DPI Licensing
- A robust RTI center. They have just revised and released their guide on Equitable Multi-Level Systems and Supports.
- State participation in Alternate Assessments – states cannot have more than 1% of participation in these assessments. (DLM in Wisconsin)
- Text to Speech and Read Aloud Accommodations – Intended for students with visual impairments who are not yet proficient in braille for the ELA section. Needed to restrict this use, as it invalidates the exam when used for more than that specific accommodation.

- ESSA - Students will now only receiving college-reportable accommodations so they receive reportable scores. Taking the test with standard conditions and ACT-Approved accommodations. This will make sure that all of our students have the same opportunity for a college-reportable score. Meghan Fredel – will this impact how the practice ACT is offered to 9<sup>th</sup> graders? BVH – Having a similar discussion around Work Keys. Will add the practice exam to that discussion as well.
- ESSA – Plan was due September 18. The plan was submitted prior to Federal submission to the Governor for review. Should hear before the end of October regarding the acceptance of the state’s plan.

10:40 am

#### WCBVI/WSBVI Updates

- Peter Dally, Director, Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Pete Dally – working as interim Principal, as well as Director. School is going really well. Nick Sheskey, IEP Coordinator, has taken on a lot of the duties, as well as Diane Karrow, the Education Office Assistant.
- Looking at the last five years, the school’s enrollment has increased almost 50%. Believe it is due to great programs, such as the CCR program, and the partnerships WCBVI has with the other educational agencies as well as community partners. The STEM-Based programming at WSBVI is robust, and definitely contributes to the growth as well. Short Course Enrollment went up in five years over 100%.
- New Hires – Dawn Soto as Outreach Director – she was the TVI in the Little Peanuts Preschool program for WSBVI. Dawn began in August, and has been doing a superb job. Cari Venzke is the Food Service Manager. Brian Fruits is the new State School Business Director. Joan VonObstfelder had retired last year as an ID Teacher, and has returned to teach an ID classroom in PEPC. New CCC Kelley Oakey is also doing well. Two new nurses in Karla Parrish and Christine France, have done an excellent job learning the needs of our students. In the process of hiring a principal, and should be able to announce soon. There was a very strong pool of candidates. Replacing Kim Heimerl, our former principal, who retired at the end of last school year.
- Students – Had such a successful year last year, and on track this year as well. Forensics and Goalball team champions. Good showings in Swim and Wrestling as well.
- WCBVI Outreach Portal – used for tracking students and materials for students with visual impairments statewide. Looking at replacement this school year.
- Implemented Infinite Campus this year as the Student Information System. IC is compatible with the state reporting system WISE Data. A lot of staff development and IT time requirements.

11:00 am

#### WCBVI Outreach Updates

- Dawn Soto, Director, WCBVI Outreach – gave background from teaching in various settings, to now administration. Has a wide range of experience in the field which serves her well in this position.
- Outreach Team is great and had been continuing their programming in the interim with support from Mr. Dally. Such a strong team.
- Instructional Coaching Program – A great program that is supported in research as being a need.
- Short Course teacher, who is new, is really excited about expanding what the Short Courses can do, and how they can serve the students and professionals in the state.

Upcoming Activities: White Cane Day – WCBVI and local elementary school teaming for activities the week prior to the observance day. The Monday following White Cane Day WSBVI and students will be participating in events at the Yerkes Observatory.

Also at Yerkes will be a Short Course partnering through an NSF IDATA Grant.

Immediately following is the Giving Back Short Course (statement). The following week is the Short Course Cookoff program. In these programs we are consistently getting 4-10 students participating. The team has planned these programs and events far ahead, which makes the operation easier for this school year.

PD – Stacy Grandt, the former Outreach Director, did a great job preparing for her retirement in planning ahead, and helped develop a great team that was prepared as well.

November – Low Vision Clinic scheduled. Planned Teens in Transition Conference, which had low interest, so are postponing that until the spring. Using the Family Resource Nights and Life After High School programs to help promote the Teens in Transition Conference for later this year. Will be using those opportunities to gain insight into what that population would like to have offered at a Conference.

Making an effort to be at events around the state, to be where the people are, and collaborate with teachers and agencies. Kay Rhode – Cane Quest – a collaboration with Vision Forward – From the Braille Institute in CA (those who offer the Braille Challenge). They now offer Cane Quest – a research-based challenge. All materials offered. Exciting to be on the forefront of hosting the Cane Quest event. Will send the updated Outreach Schedule to the Council.

Weekly updates – based on feedback as a need. Outreach will send out, similar to what Dr. Van Haren sends to Special Education Directors, but specifically for Vision Professionals to the listserve. Also working on Google Groups as a push-out list, not a discussion list. A way to have one place to go each week that has gathered the information. NBL – experience that when there is a blended audience of educators, administrators, and parents, it increased the amount of trust between those groups. How do the parent representatives on the Council feel about getting that type of information? Stephanie Klas – As a fairly involved parent, I already feel included. But especially when kids are younger, the more information you have available to support them, the better. Erin Randall Clark – Using Google Docs with her students, but the other kids in the district aren't using it. Can see where sharing the information more widely can benefit everyone. It can fill in the gaps, and help them know what to ask. Requesting Blindness and Low Vision 101 for classroom teachers. And providing resources for them to continue on. Have been in contact with the Outreach Short Course teacher regarding regional Short Courses – perhaps quarterly progressive short courses. Heidi Hollenberger – from the Deafblind side of things, we are doing similar items regarding sharing information, providing trainings. Told of a parent who has made a personal, invitation-only, website for her child to share information about the child. SK – another thought as to how to go about it. Build in something that integrates the students into it. Encouraging the student self-advocacy as they get older. Perhaps a list of questions for the teachers to ask the child directly, etc. DS – one area of the ECC that sometimes doesn't have a lot of guidance is Self-Determination. That would be a great component of that. Have the student be involved in what is included in what is shared with the professionals. ERC – Her daughter, now in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, used to talk to her class, and this year they offered to let her do that or record a video to share the information. KR – Also related to student-led IEPs. Have been discussing at PST meetings. BVH – second that through using the College and Career Ready IEPs, have been developing and encouraging the student-led IEPs. Daniel Parker, who is on that team, has been an advocate for that.

Training Needs Survey – working on this, to send out to Vision Professionals statewide.

Assistive Technology – Working on filling the position. It is a large need. **CATIS** is a new certification for AT. Amy Snow at WCBVI was part of the beta group. Many TVIs have been going through the program as well.

Learning to delegate, and the Outreach Team is excellent at running with ideas, as well as bringing new ideas to Dawn.

Updated WCBVI website rollout soon, tailored to what your role is.

11:20 Convergence Insufficiency (A vision condition which may negatively impact visual functioning. The teaming of the eyes-working together-is effected.) Shared the memo from DPI regarding eligibility determination, as well as the Fact Sheet that we will be sharing with teachers at their PST meeting tomorrow. Encouraging Vision Professionals to submit their questions regarding this. Alisha can support

the professionals. In order to support the teachers, focused on OSEP guidance. If the student's use of functional vision is negatively affecting their performance in the classroom, and how support can be planned. NBL – The Fact Sheet is excellent. DS – written by the WCBVI Outreach Team. BVH – to accompany the DPI Memo as a tool. MF – succinct. DS – Created Fact Sheet to be simple and easily shared with classroom teachers, families, etc. Referencing different supports available.

11:40 am

Lunch

12:00 pm

Use of Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) at IEP Meetings

NBL – Not certain that many IEP teams are doing this. How many requests are received? BVH – Jane Bischoff, the UDL consultant at DPI, receives those. Having a more central point of contact will hopefully allow more students to access. National Center on AEM – Zoe S – in several presentations – “Who needs AEM”. NBL – the question becomes what is the definition of Learning Disabilities – DPI Bulletin 13.02 – still uses the “organic dysfunction” definition. Feels it is an issue that there is a large group of students labeled as SLD – how many could improve and show more progress if they have access to NIMAS material. DS – Has been looking into this in relation to the CI Fact Sheet. Excited to see these roles expanding to serve more students. Have always struggled with where to put that. Used I-5 page to indicate eligibility. Would like to see an IEP “cheat sheet” as to how to implement those needs through the IEP. BVH – When DPI revised the sample forms around CCR IEPs – discussed if this was something that should be considered to add. DPI has internally made, regarding model/sample IEP forms, policy to make those types of revisions once a year, in May, so that software vendors can implement the changes for the upcoming school year. Will keep in contact with Dawn, Nissan and Pete to make sure this stays on the radar for inclusion. NBL – regarding the 13.02 Bulletin. BVH – will add it to the list to revise. NBL – will send the article he read from to them to use as a resource, as well as to the Council.

Discussion on fine-tuning the CI Fact Sheet title to make it broad enough, but with specific enough details to make sure those using it are aware of what the implication is. HH – would it be something we could update the Ocular Report to include? DS – I will add it to the list of items we are considering around this issue.

PD – AEM is an under-utilized access point. How do we propose going about spreading the word. BVH – it is on the website. Agree that making sure as many resources as possible are available and at the forefront. Matching what is needed to what is offered and matched on the IEP, and matching accommodations between instruction and assessment. Including Jane Bischoff as well. NBL – in a conversation with Stacy Grandt last school year, asked how many requests for AEM come in. How many students with VI are there in the Wisconsin? PD – around 1,300. NBL – so there are 30,000 SLD students, how many of those are included? How many of those IEP teams are aware that students with SLD could utilize AEM? HH – How do other disability areas know they can utilize AEM, when it is run through WCBVI. Most directors think NIMAS/NIMAC is only for braille. BVH – in the past this was more in the forefront, but with new staff, etc., it may have receded. Chris Zenchenko – have been very careful to use the term “print disability” in legislative asks. CO – At a practical level, not recognizing the strain on the TVIs. Most of the students are very complex, it is rare to have blindness be the only disability for the student. HH – how to get people to know to contact us.

12:40 – What to do in regards to a TVI Training Program going forward. Consider options and discuss at the next Council meeting. The program has been put on hold along with other smaller programs at UW-P. 1:15 – Further discussion. Needing a higher number of students to participate most likely. This program may be too small to be offered in the UW system. Cumbersome administration, difficult to make changes. Would like to look at options. Could renegotiate with UW-P, or another UW System School like Steven's Point who was interested before. NBL – UW-Parkside? Could look at a smaller college or university as well. Or the Multi-State Consortium, containing W Michigan, etc...which we looked at briefly previously. Also Salus University as an option. And can always steer people to NIU or W Michigan. HH – participated in the Silver Lake program. What was appealing was that they met in a

central location for the cohort participants. Met 3 weekends per semester. Discussion on alternate universities. MF – Discussion on the need for flexible instruction (not only on-site), and loan forgiveness possibilities, as well as dedicated WI TVI licensure. NBL – asked PD to set up options with details, so the Council can provide input on them at the next meeting. HH – If outside state program, what does that mean for the Wisconsin-specific courses. BVH – with the current license changes, will need to look into how the new license changes will affect the options. Pete will share his report with the Council.

12:45 pm

#### Library Updates

- Linda Vincent, Management Librarian, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
- Martha Farley Berninger, Director, DPI Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning
  - Have hired a school library media education consultant. Monica Treptow. Council members gave her an overview of what the Council does. Monica's role is to act as a consultant to everyone in the field. Library planning, looking at resources, budgeting library specific funds. Work with Public Library Team, the Information and Media Technology Team, etc.
  - Working with the rest of the agency on CCR initiatives. Working with DOA to re-bid the BadgerLink resources for July of next year.
  - A lot of staff changes have happened, and more in the work. A generation of retirees, with a younger generation coming in. Experience is that the newer staff do not stay as long.

12:50 pm

#### WISPEI Updates/Family Engagement

- Kedibonye Carpenter, WSPEI Statewide Family Engagement Coordinator
  - Share a couple of events. Special Education Conference – Next week. WoW Event – Student engagement – October and April. WISPEI and WIBPDD Self Determination Conference in November.

12:55 pm

#### Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project

- Heidi Hollenberger, Deafblind Specialist WDBTAP
  - A Technical Assistance and Dissemination Grant. Housed at WESP-DHH.
  - Birth-3 changes. Outreach programs can support B-3 in materials, resources, and trainings. Not direct services. WDBTAP does support 0-21.
  - Working on increasing distance learning. Intervener Training Program – has 100 hours online practicum, then 3 hours face to face (which can be done electronically as well.)
  - Ocular report – were able to add a check box to indicate if the child has a documented hearing loss. As an easy prompt. DB students are often under-identified.
  - I Can Connect Program in conjunction with Perkins. Anyone can access to technology for communication. Have to be identified as BD and 400% of poverty level. ODHH handles fiscal and CfDB Persons in Milwaukee handles administration.
  - DB Project – Taskforce with two champions from each school, HH and the grant coordinator – how they can support the state schools in how they can support families with DB. Funding for training and research trip to Perkins. Want to bridge the gap between the “sides” as families have indicated they feel they need to pick an “allegiance” between the blind or deaf side.
  - Transition – Looking at Midwest Transition Institute, partnering with UW-Whitewater, bringing in DB youth who are College and Career bound. Only about 12% of the population, as many others have severe multiple disabilities. Could sometimes receive less support from the project, so very glad to have a focused conference.
  - This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of their five year grant cycle, with one no-cost extension. Will re-write the grant in 2018 for another 5 years. Looking to have a stronger presence on the B/VI side of things.

Linda Vincent could not participate in the meeting as she was called away mid-day to other business. Below is her report that she shared with the council along with the information for WTBBL qualification.

- Staff is busy and WTBBL statistics are steady.
- 8 children completed the WTBBL Summer Reading Program.
- Becky Manz, our Outreach Librarian, has transferred to a Children's Librarian position in the Milwaukee Public Library System. Katie Malloy will be joining WTBBL as our new Outreach Librarian beginning October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- WTBBL was without an Office Assistant for over a year. The good news is that James Zolo has joined our staff in that capacity.
- WTBBL has an Adult Book Club which meets on the phone every other month. In October, the book to be discussed is Me Before You by Jojo Moyes.
- WTBBL has been very busy with Outreach. In October alone, WTBBL has 16 events scheduled (as presenter, exhibitor or tour guides). Here is a sampling:
  - 30th Annual Beloit Senior Fair
  - Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association's 96th Annual Conference
  - Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans Seniors Power Lunch
  - Institute on Aging's Annual Colloquium
  - White Cane Day (Milwaukee County Courthouse)
  - Thank you event for State Legislators
  - 6th Annual White Cane Day Celebration Flash Mob and Exhibits (Eau Claire)
  - Industries for the Blind staff enrichment
  - 3rd annual Rock County Transition Fair
  - Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference (exhibitor)
  - NASW WI 43rd Annual Conference (National Association of Social Workers)
  - Tour for Gaeslen Students (7 - K4-3rd graders & 5 adults)
  - Veterans Administration Disability Fair

I'm often asked what qualifies a person for WTBBL Services. The description from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped website (<https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/eligibility-for-nls-services/>) contains key phrases are "cannot read standard printed material"; "physical limitations"; and "organic dysfunction".

1:35 – WI Council – brought on new technology teacher – a WCBVI graduate, came from Perkins as well. Jim Denny.

Adjourn 1:40.