

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council

AGENDA – Meeting #75

January 10, 2022 – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

The State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment Education:

- advises the state superintendent on statewide activities to benefit students who are blind or visually impaired;
- makes recommendations for improvements in services provided by the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI);
- and proposes ways to improve the preparation of teachers and staff and coordination between the department and other agencies that offer services to the visually impaired.

10:02 Call to Order

Introductions

Attendance

Council Members

Name	Council Role	Attendance
Bar Lev, Nissan	Other Member	present
Grober, Jessie	WAER (Organizational Member)	present
Hapeman, Julie (Chair)	Orientation and Mobility	present
Kickbush, Colleen	Teacher of the Visually Impaired	present
Leising, Wendy	CESA Representative	present
Lustig, Linda	Member who is VI	absent
Nystrom-Grothaus, Erikke	Special Education Director	present
Orgas, Cheryl	NFB (Organizational Member)	present
Ottowitz, Jennifer	Higher Education	present
Routier, Wanda	Other Member	present
Stanislawski, Tracey	Vision Forward (Organizational Member)	present

DPI/WCBVI Representatives:

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Berninger, Martha	Director, Interlibrary Loan & Resource, DPI	absent
Hartwig, Julia	Director, Special Education Team Division of Learning Support, DPI	present
Jordan, Mandy	Administrative Assistant, WCBVI	present

Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	vacation
Ramirez, Jacklynne	Office Operations Associate, WCBVI Outreach	present
Rhode, Kay	Statewide Education Consultant, Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist, WCBVI Outreach	present
Soto, Dawn	Outreach Director, WCBVI	present
Wenzel, Dan	Director, WCBVI	present
Manriquez, Paul	Assistant State Superintendent, DLS	Joined after lunch
Alisha Ragainis	WCBVI	present
Tricia Weis	WCBVI	present
Meghan Fredel	WCBVI	present
Lonnika Barbee	WCBVI	present

Stakeholder Attendees:

Linda Bailey-Teaching at Concordia UW

Robin Ekstrom TVI in Hudson

Public Input and Comments:

Vision Paraprofessionals (VPP)

Julie Hapeman shared email and document regarding VI Paraprofessionals roles, which were submitted to CK & JH

[Vision Paraprofessional Letter from stakeholder](#)

Discussion:

JHapeman-Have something similar to what is outlined in the letter?

JG (Green Bay) – agrees with the letter, Green Bay team went to Spec Ed Director to share a list of duties, VI para equal pay to ASL interpreters

JH – ask JG to send us list of duties for your (vpp) Commonality of duties, a common standard

JHartwig – DPI has no authority on pay. If you are looking for license, requires admin rule change, official recommendation to the state superintendent, bring somebody from the licensing dept.

JG – concern: struggle to hire a pp with the additional piece of licensing requirements

JH – administrators are not aware of these VI specific skills, no say on who is coming our way, we need guidelines for districts to know what the guidelines are

TW - Is there a guide that upgrades pay raise after training?

JG – determined by districts

JH – pay determined by districts, if there is additional requirement for training there could be a change in the compensation

TW - Utah does provide that training...VI Para

WL-offers to be on committee but not chair

JH-Motion to establish a subcommittee, consider license pathways

CK - Second

JHartwig – DPI licensing to join the first meeting of subcommittee and KR attend as liaison

Motion Passed

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve Jessie Grober

Second Nissan Bar-lev

Comments - No discussion. Passed

10: 20 Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Updates

DW – Track Season and Forensics – hybrid virtual and in-person, each school did their own track season in their school, Forensics competition done through Zoom, very successful, school store opening, working hard to keep our students in cohorts, successfully did in-person, we remain covid free, very innovative, teaching staff do virtual if they are unable to be onsite, we have a solid pivot plan with staff and students, we meet with the Rock County Health Dept, Dorm - limited activities to ensure students and staff are safe but at the same have the enrichment that they need, we had polar express activity, students also attended a socially distanced play, we do our best to keep our students active, in process of filling vacancies, 30% vacancy rate, we have dedicated staff who go above and beyond

[WCBVI Outreach update](#) - DS

No comments/questions

10:40 Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library Update

ZMS – facing staff shortages, 2 promotions, 1 retirement, we are doing well, numbers are good from last year, registration, circulation and outreach went up the last 4 months of last year, we stopped doing outreach for the month of January due to pandemic, heading another newspaper to the Newline, working with NFB with Scott White and Bob Watson, working with Perkins to learn how to add another newspaper, completed the conversation of all patrons which raised circulation numbers of audio books, patrons are learning to adapt from book to book, numbers for downloads 88546 for last year 7788 books a month, will share a promotional video via email, will share links
WTBBL promotional video: [Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library](#)
[Are libraries outdated? Milwaukee's Talking Book Library proves as vital as ever \(cbs58.com\)](#).

BARD

Teacher of the Visually Impaired Training Program Update CUW, Concordia

WR- 15 students have been enrolled. 1 group starting braille course, senior group starting assessment course and practicum in early fall and will be licensed by December, recruiting applicants.

10:50 Council Member Updates (Council Members report on stakeholder activities and/or concerns)

JH – O&M subcommittee meeting tomorrow, January 11th

JG – WAER working on CVC agenda, held virtually, May 5-6, sent out awards and scholarship info last week

CK – Babies count update. Was able to meet goal – 47 families, analysis will come early this year, over 50 total, training TVIs who will go out to do initial observation

TS – [Working on a bill, AB 490 for Jan 11 Hearing](#)

CO – ABLE. Valentines zoom event on cooking, Lions Camp, move on to giving the book Treasure Hunt free of charge, NFB convention July 5-10, 2022

11:00 National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) Q&A

Dr. Edward Bell, Director of the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University who conducted the validation study of the NCUEB exam

Maria Morais, NCUEB Test Coordinator

DS introducing: Here to talk about our state Statute says National test (not WBCE)

EB – overview and historical background of NBPCB <https://www.nbpcb.org/>

MM – Difference between National test and the transcribers test: 1st section transcribers test is for people doing textbooks, National test: “can you transcribe on the fly (sighted get print; blind get uncontracted), send it back to us in correct braille transcription, we provide the reference material, more of the less common things that you might not be familiar with, we ask different tasks, tests are open to anyone who wants to take it.

Feedback – we get confused because they don’t remember UEB, 2nd section proofreading – point out errors, does not need to be a closed circle, we try to make it as simple as possible, can you meet the minimum competency in braille, reflect braille knowledge,

EB – mentions more differences between NLS and NCUEB tests. NCUEB focused on being a teacher (TVI)

MM – 3rd section multiple choice(rules) , straightforward test, we don’t only look at how many errors but also what type of errors people make, people that take our tests are passing about the same rate as they pass the other tests.(?)

DS – we offer ongoing professional development.

MM – we don’t assess whether or not they are adequate teachers, we do not give out specific information like scores other than to the test taker, we can give statistics.

NCUEB Website has Certification Search box to find out if someone passed/is certified

JG - Are people able to use resources like the BANA rulebook when taking the test?

MM – No. You cannot bring any of your own info in. We provide reference sheets, you have to use what we provide, we provide the paper, no electronics, no notes but once you sit down you can write notes, you can’t keep the notes you take during the exam it will have to be submitted after the exam, you can’t take them out of the room

JG - So, if someone took the test they will not get feedback in on what they did wrong on the test

MM – they will not get specific info, feedback on how close you were but not on specific errors you make, need score of 75 on each section.

CK - concern on this.

EB – on the study/practice materials there's an answer key where they can double check their errors, Integrity of test comprised if bits of test go public.

DS – similarly we haven't been able to give much feedback, mentions refresher course, we don't have the opportunity to utilize those practice materials like NCUEB

MM – practice materials are very similar to the actual test, instructions are the same word for word, study with a friend, we try to be supportive as we can in providing materials, you have 18mos to pass all 3 sections, we can provide a workshop on strategies and tips, we want it to be a reflection of your braille ability.

LB – when is the test offered? Only test sites on websites are in Maryland? Are you planning to offer it in WI or Minnesota?

JG - Where is the test taken and how often is it offered during the year? What is the cost?

MM – Public and private tests, you see public ones on the website, hold the test in WI as many times as necessary, as demand warrants, where it is convenient for people, we are going to be offering in MN-Minneapolis. Currently identifying and training proctors.

DW-we can host some tests, a CESA or IHE can set one up!

LB – would like to take the test ASAP, plans to communicate with EB and MM after the meeting

MM- braille@nbpcb.org

LB – we want to make sure that the students are adequately prepared, how do we get materials?

<https://nbpcb.org/ncueb/>

EB – we can also give you statistics on the test results of your students

DS – a proctor can be established within that IHE, we can research and help assist, connection with IHE is the most important thing,

CK - What is the cost?

<https://www.nbpcb.org/ncueb/>

WR – our tuition will not cover the cost of this test, our students can find financial aid to cover this cost.

JO - did you say that in Wisconsin it would not be required to recertify after five years?

JH - One only needs to pass it once for licensure.

DS – reads statutes. If passed WBCE no need to recert. Phase out WBCE summer 2023

MM – somebody has to reach out to us to check if somebody passed a test in the past, this is not on our website. Maryland keeps showing up is because Maryland required this test

DS: next WBCE is March 5 in Janesville

WR - If teachers passed the WI text, they do not have to take the National test?

DS - that is correct

DS – we can put together an FAQ that could go on our website and link directly to NBPCB

Noon Break

12:30 Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates and B-3 Subcommittee discussion

[DPI Update](#) - Julia Hartwig

B-3 Subcommittee discussion JHartwig – gives overview of the discussions and the letter

1. Review of roles: In WI WCBVI/DPI (education)/DHS (health related). Part B (DPI) and Part C (DHS)
2. Discussion on training and/or courses for service providers to meet the needs, address gaps in service of children Birth to 3. Can WCBVI/DPI work with Concordia UW (CUW) on additional PD, requirements, even licensure?

JHartwig-TVI license covers that age, add curriculum to program. Enhanced content? WR able and willing to provide what state needs. There is not a specific class in B3. There are some assignments and the topics. CK Provide specifics on what you'd like to know I'll be more prepared for next meeting.

DS- INSITE. Training started pre COVID. Training for TVIs and families and related professions. B3 and 3-6 year olds. Not required, offered.

JHartwig: are you proposing a change to PI34 re Eligibility, or do you have finite licensure questions?

WR mentions specific certificates that are used in other fields such as business, that provide additional training in a particular field or topic that CUW could work with others to provide for various stakeholders. CUW approved licensure program is for PK-12 issued by DPI WCBVI

B3 Subcommittee states that they want WI to be part of best practice. We are "just getting by". Babies very different. Want TVIs to be what family needs. DHS has B3 for DHH. Has WCBVI/DPI has done research. DS-have a good start, could do more research and have course info in state and adjacent states. What are other states doing?

NBL- Additional requirement might slow things down? TVIs only in public schools. Find logistically effective to link teachers to students, maybe there is a way for DPI to include students to ensure that a TVI from their local school is responsible. Similar to finding private school kids? SD required to provide services to ANY kid.

CK-not true-TVIs only in SD. Vision forward. From 4-14 counties working with that age group. We need to put all the pieces together, connection is already there, get some more mandated things going on!

Decided not to combine B3 and O&M shortage subcommittees.

CK Moving forward, Colleen Kickbush will contact KR regarding Public Notice of Open Meeting.

3. JHartwig schedule with DHS Meeting held 2/15/22

Clarification with roles, new document, clarity on b-3 inclusion in the certification and will reach out to DPI licensing. CK asked if B3 subcommittee could be at the table. B3 sub wants to meet with DHS and ICC, not licensing.

NBL-DPI recognize 0-21 Agreement btw DPI and DHS. Precedence: Transition

KR B3 will be added to the March 16, 2022 agenda.

JHartwig – explains role of subcommittee and procedure on making recommendations.
More orientation coming in next meeting from KR.

1:15 Educator Effectiveness Evaluations: Past work, discussion, next steps -

Alisha Ragainis:

Materials will be sent to Council.

We used Danielson model. Back on track! Next steps-feedback from Council. Want to get to EE team at DPI.

JG – does it include O&M?

AR – only TVI

JH-can evaluator be outside profession?

AR – the intention is that it will be used by somebody who is not familiar with the role

NBL – excellent design

AR – there are other areas that have done this, they have similar documents, working well for them, impressed with results, other concern is accessibility because of tables, currently not accessible, working with AT specialist at WCBVI to make them accessible

TS – is there a component for parent engagement?

AR – strictly for evaluator at the moment, not the intent it was made, future updates may have to be completed,

CK- Danielson doesn't have Family Engagement piece.

JHartwig – not required, can be addition, some other models do have parent data, optional, permissible but not foundational part of the model

Other concerns:

NBL – somebody has to give a reminder that EEN is a very old term that is no longer in use, it is now Spec Ed

1:45 Council Vacancies

DW will follow up on some interest forms and share application. Thanks Kay Rhode.

Diversity. Hybrid meetings could attract more people throughout WI.

MJ can send a reminder on positions that we need to fill.

JO - Did we receive a list of current Council members and their terms? I thought this was requested at the last meeting and don't remember seeing it.

JH – Mandy or Jacky?

MJ – will send roster to members immediately

DW – we will send reminder to the council on who should get it

JH – motion to adjourn

JG - move

TS – Second

Adjourn: 1:50pm

Upcoming Meetings: Wednesday, March 16 and Jun 14, 2022