

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment
Education Advisory Council
MINUTES – Meeting #76
March 16, 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.

10:05 - Call to Order

Attendance:

Council Members

Name	Council Role	Attendance
Bar Lev, Nissan	Other Member	absent
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	out of town
Orgas, Cheryl	NFB (Organizational Member)	present
Ottowitz, Jennifer	Higher Education	present
Routier, Wanda	Other Member	absent
Stanislawski, Tracey	Vision Forward (Organizational Member)	present

DPI 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	present

Stakeholder Attendees:

Linda Bailey, Concordia (Birth to 3 subcommittee)

Housekeeping – Kay

Review roles - Kay

Introductions

Share Public Appearances guidance document - Kay

KR - Orientation of new members in Fall

JHapeman – Is it okay to call on stakeholder/s if we need clarification/information?

JHartwig – It's ok

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve - JG

Second - JO

Comments – add reminder to send documents on Educator Effectiveness-done

Purpose of Council – JHapeman

Public Input and Comments: None

10:15-10:30 Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Updates

DW: Cohort to core; Phasing in community activities on and off campus; Hiring CCCs, Ed OOA, Cross Cat., Adaptive PE, TVI; Hired CCR Teacher, English Teacher, nursing supervisor to start soon (shared with WESP-DHH)

[WCBVI Outreach Update - DS](#)

Questions/Discussions/Comments:

CK: Next step after an OSR?

DS: Explains consultative outreach design (could be just a research, sending resources, common response templates), emphasized “in conjunction with TVI”

CK: Do you help follow through with referrals?

DS: We connect all the pieces and everyone is notified, we don't receive direct services requests, we do consultations and training

CK: Making sure connections happen and providing important resources, we don't use registry for services, we don't make referrals, faster response times for OSRs

JG: Staff shortage, timeline on job posts

DW: Depends on the position, widening our net to attract more applicants, looking at inviting University students to see what we're doing, working with HR to get them out as quickly as possible

DS send method of communication to JHapeman and CK-done

10:30-11:00

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library Update – ZM is out of town, no update

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates - JHartwig

Federal

Final joint federal notifications were uploaded into SAFE on 3/10:

- School identifications under ESSA were frozen again
- Under IDEA, the joint notification packet includes two relevant reports:
 - a. Annual LEA determinations
 - i. Based on analysis of compliance and results/outcome data (50/50)
 - ii. All districts are identified in one of four categories:
 1. Meets requirements (over half of districts)
 2. Needs assistance (approx. 150 districts)
 3. Needs intervention (as usual, a handful - approx 5)
 4. Needs substantial intervention (new this year - 1 district)
 - b. Annual identification of significant racial disproportionality
 - iii. All districts receive a “Racial equity in special education” report that provides data disaggregated by race in (1) special education, generally, and in specific disability category areas; (2) discipline of students with IEPs; and (3) special education placement/environment
 - iv. Districts that meet our state's criteria for “significant disproportionality” are required to reserve 15% of their IDEA funds to address disproportionality and submit an improvement plan
 - v. 5 take-aways from this year's annual disproportionality identifications:
 5. 55 districts identified

6. Over ½ of districts identified because of over-identification of black students (34 districts), with a growing number of districts identified based on over-identification of Latinx students (13 districts)
7. In terms of the disability categories for which we disaggregate data, the standout categories are SLD, EBD, and OHI
8. Effects of pandemic will be felt for the next three years because our criteria requires three years, so if a district didn't meet criteria this year, they won't be identified for next year or the year after.
9. Not spread evenly across the state:

Table 1: LEAs with Racial Disproportionality by CESA

CESA											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	9	0	1	3	9	6	3	2	1	2	3

Annual OSEP application is currently posted for public comment

State

Procedural Compliance Monitoring

- The new 5 year cycle will be starting for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Items were added regarding shortened days and least restrictive environment provisions.
- Here is a link to the directions and standards for the new Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment monitoring: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/preview-next-self-assessment-cycle>.

2022-2023 Enhancing Social and Emotional Skills in Students with IEPs (ES3) Grant Application

Beginning on February 21, 2022, DPI began accepting applications for the Enhancing Social and Emotional Skills in Students with IEPs (ES3) Grant. The goal of the ES3 grant is to provide public school districts (LEAs) with the structures and processes to identify and support the beliefs, skills, and systems needed to improve academic and functional outcomes for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Application, including additional information and instructions for submission, may be found on the DPI [Autism](#), [Emotional Behavioral Disability](#), and [Other Health Impairment](#) web pages. The deadline to apply for this grant is midnight on April 30, 2022. Questions regarding the ES3 grant may be directed to Eva Shaw at Eva.Shaw@dpi.wi.gov.

2022-2023 Transition Readiness Grant Application Now Available

The 2022-2023 Transition Readiness Grant (TRG) awards application was released on Monday, February 21, 2022. School districts and charter schools under Wis. Stat. 118.40 (2r) and (2x) are eligible to compete for funding for FY 2023 that supports evidence-based practices related to the successful transition from high school for students with IEPs. The deadline to apply for a TRG award will be 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022. [Click here to learn more about the TRG program and apply for a grant award.](#)

Assistive Technology (AT) Forward Update

AT Forward is a CARES act funded project in cooperation with CESA 2 that supports existing DPI AT projects including the [Assistive Technology Lending Center](#) (ATLC) and [Accessible Education Materials \(AEM\) Center](#). The AT Forward project was developed to support a renewed focus on assistive technology during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides a FREE

community of practice (CoP) to anyone with any level of AT experience. The CoP includes regular [AT CoP meetings](#) on a variety of topics that are all recorded and archived on the [Wisconsin DPI AT Forward YouTube playlist](#). The CoP also started an [AT microcredential program](#) to improve the knowledge and skills of educators across Wisconsin that provides microcredentials on a variety of AT skills. The AT forward project also developed a [statewide AT lending center map](#) and provides [monthly email updates to CoP members](#) that are also archived. Currently there are 745 registered CoP members that make up 220 unique school districts in Wisconsin and 78 private schools. Representation is seen across all CESA areas with members filling a wide variety of roles including parents, special education teachers, AT coordinators, directors of instruction, related service providers, principals, and many others. Although the original CARES act funding ends June 30, 2022, Wisconsin DPI will continue to support the AT Forward CoP and partnership with CESA 2 to support the knowledge, skills, and systems of AT in Wisconsin. Information, resources, and registration for the CoP can all be found on the [Wisconsin DPI Assistive Technology Forward webpage](#).

New Bulletin 22-01 on Out-of-District Placements

We have issued a new bulletin 22-01 on out-of-district private placements. This bulletin outlines what districts should consider and what steps should be taken before placement. Wisconsin's statutory requirements on the use of seclusion and restraint also apply to the private school when a student is placed by an IEP team, and the bulletin outlines these requirements.

Questions/Discussion/Comments:

CK: Are you monitoring/providing

JHartwig: Yes through CESA 2

11:00-11:15 Council Representative Updates (Council Representative report on stakeholder activities and/or concerns)

JHapeman: High School Orientation & Mobility lesson to Chicago. April 29

Discussions on vaccination policy in Chicago and Amtrak

CO: NFB Convention in April, 90 requests for Treasure Hunt book

JG: CVC May 5 - 6

TS: Braille Challenge, hosting a kids Rainbow Day Summer camp in collaboration with JCC

11:15-11:30 Review Subcommittee procedures - JHartwig and Kay

JH: Subcommittees can do as much meetings as possible outside of the council then bring back representative ideas/thoughts to the council for the council's discussion and make recommendations, it's okay if discussions take more than one meeting before the council makes recommendations, it's okay to invite guests to bring more ideas and thoughts on discussion topics

KR: Summary of subcommittee procedures and policy

Discussions/questions/comments: none

11:30-12:51 B-3 Subcommittee discussion

CK: [Original Birth to 3 update document](#) (document updated during meeting)

Clarification/Guidance on who is responsible for addressing/providing the different services/support mentioned in the recommendation document

Discussions/questions/comments:

JHartwig: Make sure it is within the scope of what DPI has authority over as SS has no control on other agencies, there are things on the recommendations doc that SS might not be able to act upon, obligation to act rests with DHS, DPI started conversations with DHS, the recommendation can say "the council encourages DPI to take a collaborative approach", council to vote on each bullet point

TS: DPI can recommend best practices that could best serve birth to 3 population

JHapeman: We need documents like this to be accessible/brailled prior to meeting-

Kay will add to housekeeping on agenda

DS: we can share/update 11.01 Bulletin, with Colleen. Outreach can help with language, bring an expert on Child Find, sent request for clarification to Colleen on 4/19

Discussions on language on how DPI can advocate for birth to 3 population since it is outside of its scope, and with getting kids transition from birth to 3 to school age

JHartwig: Since recommendation is very long, it's okay to make changes in between meetings and vote on it in next meeting

Council agrees VF to send a separate recommendation, Council can contact TS if want to add to add anything to the doc

KR sent reminder email 3/24: CK to send an updated version of the recommendations doc to Jacky, Jacky to share with council after meeting, council members to respond by April 30th, Jacky to send to CK by May 31st, use SAC email to receive comments for this doc

DS to send to council TVI/O&M Roles and Responsibilities doc to add as attachment to the B3 recommendation doc KAY sent 4/18

12:51 – 01:08 LUNCH

01:08 – 01:23 Orientation & Mobility Subcommittee update

JHapeman: 3 meetings so far, summary of objectives, summary of issues being discussed during subcommittee meeting, working on two separate surveys (they will get feedback from other administrators before it goes out) which will be pushed out through WAER and Outreach weekly update, next meeting in May hoping to have concrete data for the council by then

JHartwig: Barb is back as LTE, will connect Barb with subcommittee as support from DPI, connect Barb with KR (Barb connected with Kay 3-24-22)

JG: HEAB Funding question

KR: Can be awarded up to 3 years, lifetime max is 30,000

JO: is the survey coming from the council or subcommittee?

Kay---JHapeman will present survey to the council in June meeting

Liaison sends out survey with a "message from the chair" and send "on behalf of the council".

Commented [R(1): Correction: Liaison sends out with a "message from the chair" and send "on behalf of the council". That is often language we would use.

01:23-01:35 VI Paraprofessionals Subcommittee planning

JHapeman: summary of letter received on this topic, can there be a PP category for VI or guidelines/recommendations, see January minutes for more info

JHartwig: best practice technical assistance to districts

Subcommittee to develop best practice doc for the districts, compile all documents, bring it to the council for recommendations

DS: Outreach can contract something that can be provided to everyone for ongoing training/support

JG and WL to start doing business by reaching out to people who may be interested to join and bring to council in June meeting

Motion to accept these two members as subcommittee on PP duties for working with students with VI – JO

Second – JG

Comments - none

Passed? Yes

KR will work with JG and WL on public notice, etc.

Moved to June meeting - Update on Educator Effectiveness. Alisha Ragainis

Send documents before June meeting, KR will check with Alisha on Accessibility

1:35-01:50 Council Vacancies Review Roster, terms, statutes, and contact info; discuss recruitment - Dan

I want to let you know that I recently sent a letter and application to all who have shown interest in serving on the council. I look forward to recruiting high quality applicants to join our dedicated council members.

Mandy and I will continue to handle this Council task.

New appointees, reappointments, and replacements mid-year, all go through the same process. I send a list along with the nomination form to Julia who will send the list to the SS. The state superintendent will determine who fills open vacancies and the appointees will receive an appointment letter from SS.

If your term is up and you are interested in remaining on the BVI ED Advisory Council, you will need to fill out the nomination form.

Keep in mind, Superintendent Underly is committed to ensuring we have diverse and equitable representation on the council. She is very supportive of new members joining the council, so that will be a priority as we look to fill vacancies and fill terms which are expiring.

Please reach out to those you feel might be interested. You can also self-nominate. We will send an email with the form attached. Please return the form to new Advisory Council email: bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us

On a related topic, we will have an orientation for new members and anyone who wants to attend. We hope to combine this with the first meeting of the year in September, meaning we would meet an hour before the start of that meeting.

Questions/discussion/comments:

Discussions around term of office, timelines and approval process, diversifying the council, geographic representation, recurring members, what the statutes say, shortage, attendance expectations

Dan and Mandy – send nomination form-done

JR and KR – post nomination info on DLS newsletter and WCBVI Outreach weekly update-done

1:50-02:00

Action Items from today - Dawn Soto

Agenda Items for June 14 meeting

Adjourn:

Motion: JG

Second: Jo

Adjourned: 2:04 PM

Upcoming Meetings: June 14