

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council**  
**AGENDA – Meeting #77**  
**June 14, 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.

Call to order: 10:05

Attendance:

Council Members (x – registered)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Bar Lev, Nissan	Other Member	Absent, no email
Grober, Jessie	WAER (Organizational Member)	X yes
Hapeman, Julie (Chair)	Orientation and Mobility	X yes
Kickbush, Colleen	Teacher of the Visually Impaired	X yes
Leising, Wendy	CESA Representative	X yes
Lustig, Linda	Other Member who is VI	Absent, no email
Nystrom-Grothaus, Erikke	Special Education Director	X yes
Orgas, Cheryl	NFB (Organizational Member)	X yes, depart 12:30
Ottowitz, Jennifer	Higher Education	X yes
Routier, Wanda	Other Member	X yes
Stanislowski, Tracey	Vision Forward (Organizational Member)	X yes

DPI Representatives

<b>Name</b>	<b>DPI Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Berninger, Martha	Director, Interlibrary Loan & Resource, DPI	Sent an email on 6/13 that she is not able to attend

Jordan, Mandy	Administrative Assistant, WCBVI	X yes
Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	X yes
Ramirez, Jacklynne	Office Operations Associate, WCBVI Outreach	X yes
Rhode, Kay	Statewide Education Consultant, Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist, WCBVI Outreach	X yes
Soto, Dawn	Outreach Director, WCBVI	X yes
Wenzel, Dan	Director, WCBVI	X yes
Manriquez, Paul	Assistant State Superintendent, DLS	X joined at 12:15
Alisha Ragainis	WCBVI Outreach School Age Consultant	X joined at 12:05

Stakeholder Attendees:

Jenn Raclaw (registered) - No

Lonnika Barbee (registered) - WCVI, Early Childhood Consultant, No

Linda Bailey - yes

**10:00-10:20**

Welcome

Review roles and Housekeeping

Public Input and Comments-Review Public Comment guidance document

JO – develop a glossary of Advisory Council related acronyms PUT IN 2022-23 first meeting agenda

TS – are there any new or additional efforts to recruit more to address shortages PUT ON 2022-23 agenda

DS – mentioned about WCBVI Outreach Mentoring program and new vision professionals web page

WR – rolling admissions and rolling enrolment, everyone is spoken for, our number of BVI graduates is growing and they are not seeking positions

JG - I did recruit someone for my position in Green Bay...it had a lot to do with HEAB loan and not a lot of people know about how to access that loan. my district admin did not even know it was a thing.

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve – Tracey S

Second – Jessie G

Comments – No comments

**10:20-10:30**

Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Departmental Updates -WCBVI Center Director, Dan Wenzel

WSBVI held in-person prom at the Janesville Rotary Gardens.

WSBVI graduated six senior students.

Update on North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) <http://ncasb.org/about/>

WSBVI Badgers participated in the virtual North Central Athletic Conference Track Meet and the Virtual Forensics Conference meet for the second year in a row. WSBVI placed third in Forensics.

WCVBI Outreach Director, Dawn Soto

Preschool and families Conference: 23 families and 24 professionals registered. Total of 553 for session recorded views. <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/families-professionals-conference/>

2022 Wisconsin Braille Competency Exam (WBCE), 12 participants; 2022 Refresher course, 10 participants. WCBVI hosting spring 2023 WBCE and FINAL, summer 2023 WBCE.

Customer Service: Digitally accessible Outreach Communication with stakeholders. Stakeholders can ask any questions to the WCBVI Outreach email: [wcbvi.outreach@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:wcbvi.outreach@wcbvi.k12.wi.us) Stakeholders can request more detailed support through the Outreach Service Requests (OSRs) on the Outreach website at <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/>. Preliminary data from the **customer satisfaction survey**, using the Universal Event Survey indicated 100% customer satisfaction in the following areas: Response time, Professionalism, Communication. Experience in engaging with Outreach staff.

**10:30-10:45**

[WI Talking Book and Braille Library Update](#)

Management Librarian-Zarina Mohd Shah

**10:45-10:50**

Division for Libraries and Technology

Assistant Director, Library Services Team -Martha Berninger

Not in attendance

**10:50-11:10**

Council Representative Updates

(Council Representative report on stakeholder activities and/or concerns)

Notes:

Cheryl Orgas, NFB – Nat'l Fed for the Blind convention is happening; you can sign up for the virtual session

TS, Vision Forward – Rainbow Day Camp

WR –CUW, Concordia University-- Our students are made aware of the HEAB loan. Visual Impaired Program Summer Residency happening on June 20-24

**11:10-11:25**

[B-3 Subcommittee`ok discussion](#) - Colleen Kickbush

Went through items that were taken out  
Letter read to council  
JH and KR meeting with Colleen in July to write report

JH - acknowledged the hard work of Birth to 3 Subcommittee on the recommendation doc  
KR - reminded us of the template that we need to use for the letter

Motion to approve to be sent forward - JG accept the letter as presented  
Second - CO  
Comments - none  
Vote - unanimous

**11:25-11:30**

VI Paraprofessionals Subcommittee planning-Jessie Grober

Discussions/Questions:

JG - can no longer be on the council because of change in position/workplace  
WL - there are still gaps that need to be tightened up  
JG - we never had a subcommittee meeting  
JH - WL can oversee the committee; we want people to help out  
WL - happy to say yes for now but it will be great to have other people help  
CK - suggested tap on the paraprofessionals who work with students/families  
JH - will ask the paraprofessional they are working with  
EN - I have 7 TVI paraprofessionals that I will check with! 3 of them have been working for CESA5 for about 10 years.  
WL to EN - You are welcome to share my contact info.

**11:30-11:45**

Assistive Technology training and competencies for service providers -Julie Hapeman

Discussions/Questions:

WR - practicing teachers in the field many of them have not used an evidence-based, data-driven process to try an AT.

JG - Do students in the program get hands on device training when virtual? I was mailed a device that I had to record myself teaching someone under blindfold a basic introduction to a device that was very helpful for me to use an AT device. It is important to remember that you can only be emergency licensed for 3 years. I agree this is an issue but with a shortage of teachers and with the students in the program being emergency licensed already if we make it harder as Tracey mentioned we might lose teachers all together due to not getting a license.

This is a need area for sure but so many things to consider...thanks for bringing this to the table  
Madame Chair

WR - They do get some hands on independently.

DS - mentioned WCBVI AT Loan that can be used for trials offered and consultations with Amy Snow.

CK - Are there hands-on experiences with competency exams? At NIU I had to work on JAWS (screen reader) and brailenotes (braille note taking device) for several weeks then take a test to demo my competency.

TS - If we make the licensure harder to get, are we prolonging time in school? Is there professional development training/credit that they can obtain?

[Accessible Smart Home Devices and Setup Part 2 | TEC Talk Live](#)



<https://dpi.wi.gov/imt/licensure>

<https://www.wcass.org/wcass-guide>

JH - None, they are not required to get additional credit

JO - Does WCBVI offer professional development in this area?

DS - [PI 34.051](#). We base our offerings on stakeholder requests.

WL – Do we have a formal process to find new graduates and to make sure they will have resources?

KR – I can speak to recruiting, not the AT specific needs. WCBVI Outreach Mentoring program: We message IHEs “call for proteges”, promote and call for proteges in WCBVI Outreach Weekly update, which is forwarded to WAER digital email group and a message in DLS newsletter that goes to pupil services and special education directions, and check DPI licensing list

TS – do we reach out to High Schools?

JH – yes, it has been a discussion through WAER outreach. It is something that comes up, but it is hard to find people to go to those places. We need a better way to do it.

PM – do we get field study students from Whitewater or technical colleges in Janesville or Beloit College

DW – we have had people from Whitewater and the community, COVID halted these activities, now that we are getting back to in-person activities we will try to get back on this. We are willing to host job fairs

TS – recruiting parents to help, mentoring a parent

TS - I wonder if we have any models as to best practices or competencies for TVI's or what we want students to know. How far are we behind in tech? There is a Micro credential for technology, should TVIs take this at some point?

JG – we should also consider that technology changes very quickly

WR – If we are proposing changes, the licensure level is something we should look into

LB - I would be happy to be a part of these conversations.

WL – are we cross-checking what our TVIs have completed with other states as part of obtaining their license

**11:45-12:15 LUNCH**

**12:15-12:30**

Update on Educator Effectiveness -Alisha Ragainis

Discussions/Questions:

JG - So it will be up to each district if they are going to adapt it?

AR – Yes. Districts will decide what tools they want to use. TVIs can be a good advocate for the tools shared. We should do some training for TVIs around it so that they know how to present it.

TS – A lot of stuff in here are profession-specific, how would this be administered?

AR – specific training for evaluators can be created

EN – CESAs are the perfect delivery tool for this sort of training

**12:30 – 12:45**

## Orientation & Mobility Subcommittee update-Julie Hapeman

### Discussions/Questions:

JH – looking at how we can document that O&M is a critical shortage area, we met with Barb V and talked about doing a case load analysis, read survey to the council

### Discussions/Questions:

Next step – DS, DW and DP to look at it more closely

CK – if there is a way to add on a question to see if anybody does O&M for birth to 3

JH – we're focusing on the shortages of licenses for O&M coverage for 3-21

KR – technically we're trying to find out where the O&M needs are, we're happy to bring this to the subcommittee

CK – who serves the age group and what impacts the caseload, overload could be a reason for shortages overtime

JH – we can bring B3 question back to the subcommittee

JG – WAER is working on a survey to send out, we can add CKs question to our survey

### **12:45 – 12:50**

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates-Assistant State Superintendent Division for Learning Support- Paul Manriquez

Recruitment for new Spec Ed Director could take us up to September

Discussions/Questions: None

### **12:50 – 1:00**

Council Vacancies Review Roster, terms, statutes, and contact info; discuss recruitment

Ceremony in the next meeting for those whose term ended

We're still accepting nominations

### Discussions/Questions:

KR - How would current council members know about updates on their term?

DW – we have yet to discuss with DPI and we will send an update soon

### **1:00 – 1:25**

Continued discussions on AT topic

### **1:00 – 1:05**

Action Items from today-Dawn Soto

### **Propose 2022-23 dates; add time for orientation during September meeting**

Mondays, September 19, **December 5**, March 6, June 12

Wednesdays, **September 21**, December 7, **Mar 8**, **June 14**

### **Agenda items for Fall:**

AT discussions: DS 10 min what does Outreach provide Loans, consult, trainings, PD

O&M discussions

Birth to 3

Address teacher shortage/recruitment/licensure

Educator Effectiveness

Paraprofessional (could it be a micro credential)

**1:35** Motion to adjourn - JO

Second - JG

Comments - none