

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council
AGENDA - Meeting #78
December 5th, 2022 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

10:03 Call to order, Council Purpose & Functions KR

10:08 Introduction & housekeeping KR (attendance, quorum met YES, review roles)

Council Members

Name	Council Role	Attendance
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	Absent-emailed
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	Yes
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	Yes
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	Yes
Tracey Stanislawski	Member of an organization	Yes
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	Yes
Colleen Kickbush	Licensed Teacher	Yes
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	Yes
Penny Kurkiewicz	Licensed Teacher	Yes
Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus	Special Ed Director	Yes
Wendy Leising	CESA Rep	Yes
Linda Bailey	Higher Ed	Yes
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	Yes
Wanda Routier	Other	Yes
Dream Gunther	Other	Joined after lunch

DPI Representatives

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support	Yes

Martha Berninger	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	Absent-emailed
Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	Yes
Patricia Williams	Director, Special Education DPI	Yes
Dan Wenzel	Director, WCBVI	Yes
Dawn Soto	Outreach Director, WCBVI	Yes
Kay Rhode	Liaison to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	Yes
Jacklynnne Ramirez	Secretary to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	Yes
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	Yes
Tricia Weis	WCBVI Outreach Preschool Consultant	Yes
Daniel Parker	Assistant Director, Special Education DPI	Yes

Stakeholder attendance: None

10:15 Welcome and new member introduction JH

10:20 Prior Meeting Minutes Approval and DPI Reps Intro JH

Motion to approve – TS

Second – JO

Comments – No comments

Passed - Yes

DS – short message about Nissan Bar-Lev recognized past service

JH – recognized Jessie Grober’s past service

10:25 Public comments

None

10:28 - 11:11 [Council Orientation Slides](#) JH

Question about numbers of deafblind students in Wisconsin and whether these students are also the same students who are already identified in the blind and visually impaired

disability category. Question about whether the numbers of early intervention – Babies Count data – will be used to compare to the numbers of school aged students who are blind and visually impaired. Questions about whether there is a discrepancy in the numbers and if there is adequate access for infants and toddlers to early intervention in blindness education. DPI will discuss this further.

11:11 – 12:00 DPI representative update

1. Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Departmental Updates:

[WCBVI Education and Residential update.docx](#) Dan Wenzel, Center Director

[WCBVI Outreach update.docx](#) Dawn Soto, Outreach Director

2. Division for Libraries and Technology (ABSENT)

Martha Berninger, Assistant Director, Library Services Team

3. [WTBBL - Zarina.docx](#) Zarina Mohd Shah, DPI Library Services Manager

4. [DPI Special Education Team Updates.docx](#) Patti Williams, Director Special Education. New HR Director for state schools, looking at areas that need improvement, working on better connection between Janesville and Madison offices

DP - updates on the recommendation sent to the State Superintendent by the Birth to 3 Subcommittee. DPI will meet with DHS to determine roles and responsibilities, exploring screening tools/resources/information/extra training or put together a video presentation that could support counties, encourage DHS to look at what they are doing in terms of supporting counties.

Discussions/Questions

CK – there might be progress in other areas that DPI could use in their conversations with DHS. Vision Forward has 5 TVIs who are solely dedicated to Birth to 3 vision services. 2 of those 5 are full time and have the Developmental Teacher of the Visually Impaired degree from ISU. The other 3 have regular PD opportunities with similar curriculum. We serve children in over 20 counties of WI. To JH, does the sub-committee continue to work on these things?

TS – are there any timelines to move this along?

DP – we are taking one recommendation at a time, identifying overlaps is one of the next steps, DHS is responsible for creating tools and training and where they should live, DPI will help them by presenting options.

WL – thinking about how CESAs can best support this, do you or somebody in the committee have any knowledge of a CESA who can support

DS – CESAs, TVIs and O&Ms who have private LLCs or Corporations that provide TVI and O&M services

12:18 – 12:38 Lunch Break

12:38-12:47 Continuation of discussions on birth to 3 recommendations

JH – Per timelines on recommendations, these are out of DPI's control, this DHS' responsibility. We will share in the next meeting if there are updates.

JO – can you share the history or purpose of the sub-committee; do we want to reform the sub-committee?

CK – shared purpose and history of birth to 3 sub-committee

JH – for the time being the sub-committee has met their goal

TM – how can we get the recommendations doc more noticeable?

JH – DHS will need to work with Vision Forward, it is more of a DHS question about their communications and early identification.

12:47 Council Representative Updates

Colleen Kickbush, Category 3, TVI – none

[WAER ADVISORY COUNCIL Update.docx](#) Kailee Kamps, WAER Treasurer, Category 2

Tracey Stanislawski, Vision Forward, Category 2

- Braille Challenge will be held on February 3rd at Vision Forward- The registration is now open on the website <https://vision-forward.org/event/braille-challenge/>
- A new Vision screening pilot is being conducted with Milwaukee County- this along with some additional funding has increased our numbers of children served in Milwaukee County from 3 to over 15 in less than 6 months. The feedback that we have received has been very positive and has allowed us to make some functional changes to simplify the screening for better usage.
- Vision Forward has also increased the number of counties served from 2-3 a few years ago to 21 since the inception of Babies Count.

Cheryl Orgas, National Federation of the Blind, WI, Category 2

NFBW state convention, spring of 2023, weekend of May 12 through 14.

Wisconsin Parents of Blind Children, events throughout the year, 2023, Train activity in East Troy in June, Urban Ecology Center, East side of Milwaukee, in August and Lion's Camp, October, more events to come after the new year.

JH, [Update Educator Effectiveness.docx](#)

JH, Creation of a braille work group or subcommittee to discuss braille and ongoing professional development opportunities.

DS - We have yet to hear about concerns that the taskforce can address. Current UEB/UEB Math updates shared, because any IEP team could determine that a student would learn Nemeth within UEB Context or UEB math and science. Wisconsin is still a Nemeth within UEB Context state.

See action items for decision on forming a sub-committee

1:22

JH [Assistive Technology training and competencies for service providers.docx](#)

Discussions/Questions: See action items for sub-committee new members

Discussions around whether you get certified as a user and a teacher of AT

1:30 [Orientation & Mobility Subcommittee update.docx](#) Category 3, O&M, JH

Discussions/Questions: None

1:40 [VI Paraprofessionals Subcommittee planning \(Cat 7\).docx](#) Category 7, CESA, WL

Discussions/Questions:

WL - are we still trying to pursue having a license for VI Paraprofessionals? What is the goal of the sub-committee?

JH - To get those who have these competencies to have additional funding. Create guidance that will facilitate additional compensation.

DW - Special Education Program Aide requires a license
<https://dpi.wi.gov/licensing/apply-educator-license/special-ed-aide>

Anyone interested in joining the sub-committee? TS

1:50 Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson/Secretary

Chairperson - JH

CK - nominates JH

JO – second JH nomination as chair
Unanimous

Vice Chairperson/Secretary - CK

WL – nominates CK

JO – second CK nomination as VC/Secretary

Unanimous

2:00 Recruitment JH

We will continue our recruitment efforts through these channels Division of Learning Support newsletter, the WAER digital community and the WCBVI Outreach Weekly update and, of course, word of mouth!

Please reach out to your groups, including social media! Recruitment will be posted on WCBVI's Facebook page. As you learned in the orientation, the Wisconsin CENTER for the Blind and Visually Impaired is under the umbrella of the Department of Instruction and will be the homebase for the recruitment efforts. Follow WCBVI Facebook page and share from there! Keep in mind, we want and need to have equitable representation of the racial and ethnic diversity within our state. We currently need a school board member, a school district administrator, and a braille transcriber certified by the library of congress.

2:00 Action Items from today, Dawn Soto

Braille sub-committee formed and will start meeting after the March meeting when WCBVI Outreach will share what is offered. Braille sub-committee formed and will start meeting after the March meeting when WCBVI Outreach will share what is offered.

Motion to form sub-committee – CO

Second – JO

Discussions - none

Passed – Yes

Members: CK, CO, JO

JH – JO, CK, and CO to come up with charge/goals.

DS – could share what WCBVI offers for braille during the initial meeting

CO – can that include shortcomings?

DS – yes

Moved to March meeting agenda

Assistive Technology sub-committee – how to proceed? Anyone interested in joining the sub-committee? LB interested

Motion to form sub-committee – JH

Second – TS

Discussions – none

Passed – Yes

JH to start putting the committee together, roster to be shared with Kay R

VI Paraprofessional initial letter will be shared with new sub-committee members by Kay, Wendy will send potential roster to Julie H and Kay R

2:14 Reminders JH

1. Attendance. Statutes require two meetings.

Please make your best effort to attend all meetings but definitely two. We have 17 seats and quorum is thus, 9. We planned meetings in advance to reduce absenteeism. Wednesday, March 8 and Wednesday, June 14

2. Use the New registration procedure!

<https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/advisory-council/>

3. Use New email!

Please send updates and any informational documents to bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us and they will be added to the minutes. Please send them ahead of time, preferably two weeks in advance of the meeting, and make your updates and any other documents accessible.

If you aren't able to do send them ahead of time, consider sending documents after the meeting so that information is shared equitably.

Motion to adjourn – EN

Second – TS

Adjourned at 2:20 PM