

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council**  
**AGENDA – Meeting #80**  
**June 14, 2023 – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
 Zoom Virtual Meeting

**10:06 Call to order**

[Council Authority and Purpose](#)

**Introduction & Housekeeping & Attendance**

**Council Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	present
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	absent
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	Arr after lunch, sent email
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	present
Tracey Stanislawski	Member of an organization	present
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	present
Colleen Kickbush	Licensed Teacher	Present, had IFSP at 11, returning
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	present
Penny Kurkiewicz	Licensed Teacher	Arr after lunch, sent email
Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus	Special Ed Director	present
Wendy Leising	CESA Rep	Present, lv at noon
Linda Bailey	Higher Ed	present
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	present
Wanda Routier	Other	present
Dream Gunther	Other	Arrived after lunch

## DPI Representatives

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support	Will join after lunch
Elizabeth Tomev	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	present
Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	present
Patricia Williams	Director, Special Education DPI	Absent, emailed
Dan Wenzel	Director, WCBVI	present
Dawn Soto	Outreach Director, WCBVI	present
Kay Rhode	Liaison to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	present
Jacklynne Ramirez	Secretary to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	present
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	present
Daniel Parker	Assistant Director, Special Education DPI	Will join after lunch
Alisha Ragainis	WCBVI Outreach Education Consultant	present

**Quorum met?** Yes

### **Stakeholder attendance:**

Guadalupe Creapeau, Paraprofessional at Milwaukee Public Schools

As part of O&M shortages subcommittee:

Stacy Kelly, NIU professor in Visual Disabilities Program

Laura Hedin, NIU Chair of Special Ed and Early Education, retiring

### **10:15 Introductions and Prior Meeting Minutes Approval**

[SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes March 8, 2023.pdf](#)

Motion to approve – Cheryl Orgas

Second – Colleen Kickbush

Comments – none

Passed - none opposed; minutes approved as presented

**10:25** [Public Appearances.pdf](#)

No comments from the public

**10:30 Welcome and breakout rooms to “get to know you”**

**Follow up on Action items.**

[Special Education Acronym Glossary](#)

**10:40-noon**

**Subcommittee Updates**

1. [June 14, O&M Shortages Subcommittee Summary](#) JH 30

NIU: [WI DPI - Orientation and Mobility Certificate Program Informational Presentation.pdf](#) PSU: [PSU O&M Program Slides](#)

CK: TVI rep, like the pros and cons from the subcommittee. She wants to ensure we have qualified O&M Specialists in the field. NIU has a high-quality established program, has a long-standing history that is sustainable and vision professionals from NIU are very well trained. She feels that sustainability is vital. She feels that we have had a few programs recently and we need sustainability at this next turn.

CO: Is this hybrid?

JH: This is hybrid with some remote courses and the in-person required sessions would be supported by COMS in Wisconsin so Wisconsin participants don't have to travel to Illinois.

TS: Supports the proposal. It's unfortunate that Wisconsin cannot sustain a program, but she supports the NIU program with well-trained TVIs and O&M Specialists to serve Wisconsin students.

JH: Sustainability is difficult. Partnering with an existing and strong program, such as NIU, with a focus on the needs of Wisconsin students is vital.

CK: funding is important, the HEAB funding with NIU partnership is vital.

JH: Subcommittee has one question about HEAB funding. How will it affect HEAB funds because these students would only take one course at a time. This is a question for another date or time. NIU gave a fabulous presentation to our subcommittee. They outnumbered the subcommittee members and provided a professional presentation which was detail oriented.

Dr. Kelly: Thank you to Wisconsin. She reported that this is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NIU Vision program and we have done more hybrid work, especially due to COVID. Our long standing well recognized program continues to evolve with the times, and we already feel a strong reciprocity with Wisconsin. We are confident in the program we presented to support growth and also to support exploration of those who are new to the field. We are enthusiastic and we are very interested in expanding to those who are

new to the field of O&M. We would build data from this proposed programming and with this certificate program we can build toward what Wisconsin needs.

Dr. Hedin: The in-state tuition might also be a possibility. NIU will be exploring this with their financial team.

JH: WMU was also approached by the subcommittee to offer a presentation to Wisconsin's Advisory Council, but they did not present. This does not mean that other universities that are adjacent state programs cannot still accept Wisconsin students, but this program proposal for NIU for an O&M Certificate will be presented to the State Superintendent.

CK: Is this only for vision professionals?

Dr. Kelly: Anyone with a TVI, CATIS, CVRT degree could enter this certificate program.

JH: Thank you to NIU to Dr. Kelly and Dr. Hedin for presenting to the subcommittee and for attending today.

JH: Additional questions from subcommittee.

Where to host? Depends on who applies. Beyond Vision, Vision Forward, WCBVI, northern location

Cost? Could HEAB funds be used to cover costs? HEAB to NIU directly.

How would WI choose WI instructors? Depends on who applies regarding location

Questions:

AR: The final internship is 350 hours. Would that need to happen over the course of a summer at one of those locations. Would a student be able to complete those hours at the summer location.

JH: That would need to be a discussion between NIU, the Wisconsin COMS supporting the program and the student. This is a new path, and we would need to determine what this would look like.

WL: We had a similar situation in the past with a TVI who was almost an O&M Specialist and needed some internship hours. We paired this person with another certified person, and they were able to provide instruction with students but only after the instruction was initially provided by the O&M Specialist.

KR: An O&M Specialist cannot provide direct instruction unless they have completed the training program, including the internship.

JH: There is not a provisional license in O&M, you must complete all of your coursework in the program prior to being able to work as an O&M in Wisconsin.

Motion to add to the annual report that DPI engage in a conversation with NIU with the goal of forming a partnership to increase the number of O&M Specialists in the state through a hybrid program with NIU that would include online instruction and in-person instruction that would occur in Wisconsin, following NIUs existing O&M curriculum. With a projected start date of Fall 2024.

Motion to approve – subcommittee made motion (Julie Hapeman, Mary Wejrowski, Jenn Raclaw, Kailee Kamps)

Second – Tracey Stanislawski

Comments – none

Passed – all in favor; none opposed; motion passed

Kay will work with O&M shortages subcommittee to draft recommendation with support from Daniel Parker and Tom McCarthy

11:10:

2. [June 14, 2023 summary Braille subcommittee.docx](#) JO 15

Motion to approve Melissa Gordon-Kowsky, Kristin Grender, Robin Ekstrom

Motion to approve – Julie Hapeman

Second – Jenn Raclaw

Comments – none

Passed – all in favor; none opposed; motion passed with three new subcommittee members.

Kay will send welcome email

3. [June 14, 2023 VI Paraprofessional Subcommittee Summary.docx](#) WL 15

**Questions generated in subcommittee:**

1. Are personnel resources for sensory loss categories equitable?

See discussion and action items below

2. Can paras carry out minutes on IEP?

Answer: Only licensed educator can carry out SDI minutes;

3. Where do you put paraprofessional services in IEP.

Answer: supplementary aids and services. See above bulletins under D.

Discussion and action items on #1: Are the categories equitable, for example the additional support for students who are deaf and hard of hearing who have educational interpreters, for example, do the students who are blind and visually impaired have equitable supports. Is the pay equitable for these positions and extra skills as well? There is a degree for educational interpreter and also a licensure category in the Division of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

DS: Madison school district had addressed the Certified Braille Transcribers within their district and moved to equitable and commensurate pay with their Educational Interpreters.

ENG: Thank you for sharing this resource and a district who had already done the work.

JH: This could be a good subcommittee for Guadalupe, when her membership is official.

DS: Will bring the request for more information about what is available for paraprofessional training through the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Hive or through the Council of Schools and Services for the Blind (COSB) and Outreach of Schools and Services for the Blind (OOSB).

11:42

4. [June 14, 2023 AT Sub Summary.docx](#) JH/LB 5

Motion to approve Cory Ballard as a new subcommittee member

Motion to approve – Jennifer Ottowitz

Second – Tracey Stanislawski

Comments – none

Passed – all in favor; none opposed; motion passed with one new subcommittee member

Kay will send welcome email

**11:55-12:25 Lunch Break**

**12:35-1:06 Council Representative Updates 20**

Category 2, organization, [WAER Update 6-14-2023.docx](#)

**Category 2, agency, Vision Forward**

[June 14,2023 Agency Vision Forward Update.docx](#)

**Category 9, Other** Dr. Routier Concordia University of Wisconsin – Several graduate students who have completed licensure requirements as of 6-14-2023 and will be applying for the DPI VI License after working under provisional licenses so they already have jobs as TVIs in Wisconsin. CUW has made the decision to discontinue the graduate visual impairment licensure program that has been hosted over the past three years. They are not accepting any new students, but the current students will be finishing their programs.

JH – thank you to CUW and Dr. Routier.

Dr. Routier CUW – If all the current students finish, we will have approximately 14-16 TVIs who have been added to the field in Wisconsin over the course of the program.

CK – We heard from the O&M Subcommittee. Moving forward, how can we work toward fulfilling the needs that CUW program was fulfilling?

JH – She learned about this change from CUW shortly after hearing the presentation from NIU about O&M and she asked if NIU would be interested in discussing with us the possibility of helping with something similar for TVI. NIU said they would be happy to work with Wisconsin and that the door is open if we want to discuss this with them.

CK – Is there a timeline with this type of need, I don't want to make decisions in haste, but is there something from this meeting we need to ask to discuss right away?

JH – that is a great question. Not being DPI, I don't know. If we wanted to gather information, this is a point where NIU is currently writing for their 5-year grant cycle, so it is probably a good time.

CK – Can I make a motion right now as the TVI rep to make a motion to ask to address this need with NIU.

JH – Daniel Parker, we received presentation at our O&M Subcommittee from NIU to add a certificate for O&M with NIU, using a model that would use the NIU Curriculum but have in person instruction occur in Wisconsin. O&M Programs are actually more difficult to sustain than TVI training programs because there are fewer O&M specialists than there are TVIs. NIU's Vision Disabilities program for O&M, and their business services team, presented to the subcommittee. If we wanted to ask NIU to present about a TVI training program, they would be very open to this.

CO – I would support this. We've tried a number of TVI programs in the state and I think we should follow this track.

JO – I support the idea, the need as Colleen mentioned still exists and we need more licensed TVIs. I do recommend proceeding with a little caution, I don't want to rush into it too quickly. We're taking on a lot to take on the O&M certificate program, but I just think that I want our passion to drive us but not to drive us into a wall. Enthusiasm is great, but let's do this thoughtfully and right.

LB – I am not part of the O&M Committee, but since there are discussions with NIU, then I would think that even for TVI and Assistive Technology, would it be possible for me to sit in on those meetings?

JH – Yes, let's circle back to this request you have Linda.

JR – I agree with being cautious, I think that it would be good and would behoove us well to see what went well and what could be done better. NIU is producing some

amazing teachers in the field. One of the things we discussed with the O&M Subcommittee was flexibility and we know that NIU wants to support Wisconsin. Maybe another subcommittee to address these needs. We could look at the same things that the O&M subcommittee did to explore existing programs.

JH – this is probably too big to address right at this moment, we do know that we need to continue gaining TVIs. This is probably too large of an issue to address just at this moment, and we want to respect the fact that we do still have a TVI program in Wisconsin. This would be a way to plant seeds with how we want to proceed.

CK – Next steps would be a subcommittee to look at this. This may need a faster pace than other subcommittees have moved in the past.

JH – vote to create a subcommittee for TVI Training needs in Wisconsin with Colleen Kickbush as the lead for that subcommittee

Motion to form a subcommittee to look at potential TVI Training Program options for WI following the completion of the Concordia Program

Motion to approve – Julie Hapeman

Second – Linda Bailey

Comments – none

Passed – all in favor; none opposed; motion passed with the creation of a subcommittee to look at potential TVI Training Program options for WI following the completion of the Concordia Program

Motion to accept members on the new subcommittee as presented Colleen Kickbush as the chair for the subcommittee, members: Linda Bailey, Jenn Raclaw, Tracey

Stanislawski, Erikk Nystrom-Grothaus, Julie Hapeman

Motion-Jennifer Ottowitz

Second – Kailee Kamps

Comments – none

Passed – all in favor; none opposed; motion passed

JH – if you are interested in attending a subcommittee meeting, you can attend anytime as the invitations are sent out in public meeting notices.

### **1:06-1:30 DPI representative updates**

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

Dan Wenzel, Center Director [WSBVI Education and Residential Update](#)



Dawn Soto, Outreach Director [Outreach WCBVI update June 14, 2023](#)

OSEP Dear Colleague on Braille <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/brailledcl-6-19-13.pdf>

Alisha Ragainis, Education Consultant, Low Vision Therapist, TVI

Educator Effectiveness update 5 min

Share <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/vision-professionals-toolkit/>

2. Division for Libraries and Technology 5 min

Elizabeth Tomev, Assistant Director, DPI Library Services Team

[BVI Ed DLT Updates 6.14.23.docx](#)

3. [BVI Education Advisory Council Meeting Jun 14, 2023 \(1\).pdf](#) 5 min

Zarina Mohd Shah, Manager DPI Library Services

4. Division of Learning Supports, Special Education Updates 10 min

Daniel Parker, Assistant Special Education Director

[BVI Council Updates June 2023.pdf](#)

[SEA - LEA - Responsibility Chart DPI-DHS June 2013 \(1\).pdf](#)

Meeting quarterly with DHS. Creating Webpage. Creating a communication channel with Lori Witteman.

CK: glad to hear this. Can you add paragraph with layperson language?

TS: put it in Special Education in Plain Language

CK: WCBVI Outreach info goes to DHS. Can information flow the other way around? How do we learn about DHS trainings related to VI through DLS and Weekly Update.

TS: Add specific resources on services for birth to 3. Who serves?

Email Daniel or Dawn with ideas!

**CUW discussion**-DLS spec ed director, licensing, Daniel will be scheduling a meeting about this.

DP-Please give us summary about the TVI training program and O&M

**1:30**

### **Recruitment and Nominations**

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.

Reminder: Nominations, including new appointees, reappointments, and replacements mid-year, all go through the same process nomination process.

Recognize departing council members.

### **Action Items from today**

1. Kay will send welcome emails to new Braille and AT members. See above.
2. O&M shortages subcommittee review questions in NIU discussion
3. Kay will work with O&M shortages subcommittee to draft recommendation with support from Daniel Parker and Tom McCarthy
4. Kay will work with Colleen Kickbush and newly formed TVI Training programs members to schedule first meeting.
5. Julie will send email to Daniel with O&M shortages and NIU VI training program summary

### **Reminders**

1. Attendance. Statutes require two meetings. Please make your best effort to attend all meetings. We have 17 seats and quorum is thus, 9. We planned meetings in advance to reduce absenteeism.

### **Next meetings:**

October 23, 2023, Monday

December 6, 2023, Wednesday

March 4, 2024, Monday

June 5, 2024, Wednesday

## 2. Communication

Use online registration procedure! <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/advisory-council/>

The Orientation slides will be posted on the Advisory council website for your reference. [Orientation](#)

Use council email! [bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us)

Please send category updates and any informational documents ahead of time, preferably two weeks in advance of the meeting, and they will be added to the minutes. Please make your updates and any other documents accessible. If you aren't able to send them ahead of time, consider sending documents after the meeting so that information is shared equitably.

## 3. Public comment

Motion to adjourn – Jennifer O

Second – Jenn R

Passed

Adjourned at 2:22