

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council**  
**AGENDA - Meeting #81**  
**October 23, 2023 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
 Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Council Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Kurt Pamperin	Braille Transcriber	Absent-email
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	present
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	absent
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	present
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	Present 10:50
Tracey Stanislawski	Member of an organization	present
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	present
Colleen Kickbush	Licensed Teacher	present
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	present
Dream Gunther	<i>Licensed Teacher</i>	Absent
Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus	Special Ed Director	present
Wendy Leising	CESA Representative	present
Linda Bailey	Higher Ed	present
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	Present 10:25
Guadalupe Creapeau	Other	present
	Other	

**DPI Representatives**

<b>Name</b>	<b>DPI Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support	present

Elizabeth Tomev	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	Absent-email
Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	present
Patricia Williams	Director, Special Education DPI	present
Dan Wenzel	Director, WCBVI	present
Dawn Soto	Outreach Director, WCBVI	present
Kay Rhode	Liaison to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	present
Jacklynnne Ramirez	Secretary to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	present
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	present
<i>Daniel Parker</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Special Education DPI</i>	absent
<i>Jennifer Kammerud</i>	<i>Director, Licensing, Educator Advancement and Development (LEAD) Team</i>	present 11:00

Name	Role	Attendance
Stacy Kelly	Professor, Northern Illinois University	present 10:45
Molly Pasley	Professor, Northern Illinois University	Present 10:48

### 10:10 Call to order

Welcome. [Council Authority and Purpose](#)

### Introduction & Housekeeping & Attendance

Stakeholder attendance/quorum met (yes)

### Introductions

**New members** (Guadalupe Creapeau and Kurt Pamperin-not present)

Recognize departing council members (Dr. Wanda Routier)

New member nomination Rachel K is in progress.

**10:24 Nomination of officers** – JR will enter in form for vote at the end of the meeting.  
Send email to Jacky by 11:00.  
CK – Nominate JH as chair  
CK decline to be Vice Chair. JR self nominate for Vice Chair.

**10:31 Prior Meeting Minutes Approval**

[SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes June 14, 2023 \(1\).pdf](#)

Motion to approve – Penny Kurkiewicz

Second – Tracey Stanislawski

Comments – none

Passed - unanimous

**10:32 [Public Appearances.pdf](#) review of guidelines**

None present or sent. Some may be joining later, we will re-address this once they arrive

**10:35 Follow up on Action items.**

[Special Education Acronym Glossary](#) - on first usage speak the entire name, it will be spelled out in the minutes the first time.

**O&M shortages subcommittee recommendation** – sent to DPI along with annual report.

Paul Manriquez – process that recommendations need to be taken for approval process to go to the State Superintendent. Sherri Honaker, PM's Executive Staff Assistant, will help guide this process. Julie Hapeman – comments on wanting to make sure the recommendation continues moving forward.

PM – logistical pieces regarding WCBVI as a potential site need to be addressed as part of the recommendation.

**10:45-noon**

**Subcommittee Updates and Discussion**

Guest Jennifer Kammerud, Director of Licensing Educator Advancement and Development (LEAD Team at DPI).

1. [Braille Subcommittee Update 10-23-2023](#)

- a. Jennifer Ottowitz: Committee summary. Reviewing other state standards for braille. Questions regarding how to proceed (which standards being reviewed, what the timeline is, can a subcommittee member be included in the review, what grades will the standards incorporate)
- b. Introduction and glossary
- c. Next meeting December 5, a DPI representative from the Division of Academic Excellence will attend.
- d. Cheryl Orgas: The committee members have been enthusiastic and responsive. Approved Denise Sinclair, TVI Sheboygan area school district

- e. Alternate Academic Achievement Standards  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/essential-elements>
  - f. CK – asked JK regarding if a Braille Transcriber License has ever been considered. JK – it hasn't made its way to their level. It would likely fall under a related service area. This would be a **rule change** to authorize the issuance of the license, set the requirements for the license, and if it is a requirement (which would mean current individuals would need to get the license to continue)
2. Assistive Technology Competencies Subcommittee
- a. Julie Hapeman: Met in September. Would like to add a couple members to this subcommittee (Mysie Sabin, Tina Mekeel, Hanna Martin, Alison Napieralski).
3. [Licensing questions and TVI training program summary.docx](#)
- a. JH – concerns such as shortage/training programs. Minimum level of technology competency in order to be licensed. Perhaps similar to competency exam for braille.
  - b. JK – shortage areas – DPI will be putting out a demand survey soon to add to the licensing data and program completion data. Last year did workforce analysis report – losing people at two critical junctures – one at program completion, the other is that after 5 years there is only a 67% retention rate, it is less in special education.
  - c. DPI doesn't approve out of state preparation programs – so how does licensing work? Three ways – two involve reciprocity. (Program+license+experience = tier 2 license) (Program+license but no experience=1 year license with stipulations) (Program but nothing – will ask the program if they would endorse for a license in their state = tier 2 license with statutory stipulations for WI). If there is a program that a lot of people are coming from, DPI will discuss with them how to make the Wisconsin application process smooth.
  - d. Licensing – minimal compliance system set up around administrative code. To add an item (such as Assistive Technology) would need to update the rules. Licensing will sponsor conversations with Higher Ed partners about recommended best practices.
  - e. Scope Statement language/process
  - f. [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/pi/34/x/089](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/34/x/089)
    - i. (2) Eligibility. The state superintendent may issue an orientation and mobility license under this section to an applicant who has completed an orientation and mobility program approved by the

association for education and rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired and has demonstrated knowledge and understanding in all of the following:

- ii. (a) Child or adolescent psychology;
  - iii. (b) Measurement and evaluation;
  - iv. (c) Psychology of education or educational psychology; and
  - v. (d) Curriculum and methods of instruction.
- g. CK – looking at options for partnering with adjacent states (see document)
  - h. JH – Potential Program ideas (see document)
    - i. JK – approved programs would have to have their principal campus in WI. Perhaps they could partner with a WI Institute of Higher Education as the endorser and principal campus – DPI could approve the in-state program, and would endorse for the license - undergrad. Post bacc degree would be a wider scope available, such as CESAs and Technical Colleges. The in-state provider would have to complete the program approval process. The sponsoring entity has to be in Wisconsin, the organization responsible for the students and the program completion.
  - i. CK – Next steps and who can meet with the other programs. JK – need to identify an in-state partner to work with NIU, as they would be the driver of the in-state portion. Needs to be an IHE if the individual doesn't have a degree. If they already do, can work with partners to add on content that leads to licensing, not a degree. Dawn Soto – NIU has both a bachelors and master's program. Discussion surrounding our current model of training Special Education teachers for TVI, which pulls from a scarcity area already. Wanting to explore the options including bachelors as well.
  - j. Stacy Kelly from NIU – guest with follow up question regarding partnership. CO – how does the rule process work? JK – explanation of how different programs such as CESA preparation programs work. Scope Statement – Proposed draft rule to State Superintendent – Public Comment – Response and modifications – then to Governor – then to a standing Legislative Committee for consideration, then to Joint Committee for Administrative Rules.
  - k. CK - Is anyone on the Council aware of any other funding sources for candidates who want to apply, in addition to HEAB funds? JK – WI has very few funds that are made available for training people in certain subject areas.
4. [June 14, 2023 VI Paraprofessional Subcommittee Summary.docx](#)
- a. Wendy Leising – See document.
    - i. Create a list of Competencies for VI Paraprofessionals

- ii. Proper compensation discussion
- iii. How to disseminate the information in a way so as to have an impact on hiring, retaining, training and compensation.
- iv. Next steps?
  1. DS – Many other state schools/centers for the blind provide para training for statewide staff. We are considering this. Outreach could support training for staff. WL – how are these opportunities shared? DS – send in Outreach update, as well as include in the DPI Directors of Special Education weekly email, as well as the WAER list. WL – are RSN directors included? DS – We should add that more regularly.
  2. Committee send recommendation to Council, approval, then send to Paul. Paul will let Council know if additional information is needed.

**12:07-12:25 Break**

**12:25 AEM Jacky**

[AEM presentation – accessible Word format](#)

[AEM presentation - PowerPoint](#)

- CK question re: Preschool and infants. DS – these are by APH definitions. CK – further question as the B-3 receive services in their home, but through an agency. DS will take questions to the EOTs.
- Cheryl Orgas – how many primary braille students, and how many secondary braille students. DS – we are getting permission from APH on what/how we can share the data. Hopefully by the next meeting. Caveat that the data is only as good as the reporters – The reporting disability category isn't always accurate in state reporting as well.

**12:35-12:50 Council Representative Updates**

[WAER Advisory Council Updates 10.23.2023.docx](#) - Kailee Kamps – See notes. CVC Conference May 9-10.

[Vision Forward Council Updates 10.23.docx](#) - Tracy Stanislawski – see notes. Program dates. 414-615-0100 Dr Heather Hinson

JH – No specific questions from O&M Stakeholders

CO – NFB WI – 8 families at Lion's Camp. March event at Urban Ecology Center for Maple Syrup.

### **12:50-1:30 DPI representative updates**

1. [Advisory Council Meeting 10-23 WTBBL Updates.docx](#) - Zarina Mohd Shah, Manager DPI

Library Services – see notes

CO – ABLE Update – Tenacious <https://www.amazon.com/Tenacious-Adventures-Alongside-Disabled-Athletes/dp/1643790986>

– MPS Students will get this book at the ABLE luncheon this week in their swag bag.

2. [Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team 10.23.23.docx](#)

Elizabeth Tomev, Assistant Director, DPI Library Services Team

3. Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Departmental Updates: [WCBVI October 23, 2023 update.docx](#)

Dan Wenzel, Center Director

Dawn Soto, Outreach Director

4. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates [Special Education Team Director Report Oct 2023.docx](#)

Patti Williams, Director, Special Education DPI

5. Daniel Parker, Assistant Director, Special Education DPI, sent update: DPI has been meeting with DHS regularly. We are updating the “responsibilities” document for DPI and DHS with some plain language information that will be reviewed in our DHS-DPI December meeting and we still plan to have a webpage of resources that may assist counties and B-3 parents that we hope to have published by spring. In addition, DPI has been meeting with Wisconsin Sound Beginnings to enhance DPI’s collaboration with that organization.

**1:45**

**Recruitment**

We will continue 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! 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.

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

Chair and Vice Chair election results:

Votes were tallied – Julie Hapeman will be Chair, Jenn Raclaw Vice Chair.

### **CK Action Items from today**

Kay Rhode meets with VI Paraprofessional to create recommendation for full council  
Kay Rhode meets with Sherri for help on OM recommendation  
Paul Manriquez, Dan, Dawn meet to discuss next steps in meeting with NIU reps and TVI/O&M Subcommittee  
Paul Manriquez connects Braille sub with DPI consultants  
Patti Williams connects with Daniel Parker to help with DHS website resources.  
Kay Rhode connects with Jenn Raclaw, new Vice Chair  
Dawn speaks with EOTs about Colleen and Cheryl questions.  
Dawn and Kay add RSN to some communications for VI Para trainings

### **JH 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.

December 6 Wednesday

March 4 Monday

June 5 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.

**1:45** 3. Public comment - no one has joined or shared

Motion to adjourn – Jennifer Ottowitz

Second – Tracy Stanislawski

Adjourned at 1:46 pm