

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council**  
**AGENDA - Meeting #82**  
**December 6, 2023 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
 Zoom Virtual Meeting

**10:05 Call to order**

[Council Authority and Purpose](#)

**Introduction & Housekeeping & Attendance**

**Council Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Kurt Pamperin	Braille Transcriber	Absent
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	Present
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	Leave
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	Present
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	Absent
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	Present
Dream Gunther	Licensed Teacher	Absent
Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus	Special Ed Director	Present
Wendy Leising	CESA Representative	Present, Departing at noon
Linda Bailey	Higher Ed	Absent
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	Present
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	Absent, emailed
Elizabeth Tomev	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	Present, departing at 1:00
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
Jacklyne Ramirez	Secretary to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	Absent, emailed
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	Present

### Guests

Dawn Anderson	Chair of Dept of Blindness and Low Vision Studies at Western Michigan University	Present
Rachel Krogman	Parent of student who is Visually Impaired	Council nomination in progress

Stakeholder attendance/quorum met? Yes

**10:12 Introductions**, New members, and recognize departing council members

**10:25 Welcome and breakout rooms/report**

Send to individual digital communities (WAER, etc)

Tracey Stanislawski - Vision Forward – Parent Groups

Penny Kurkiewicz – parent question – for parents with a child with a new diagnosis. Would love a list of resources. Referenced TVI toolkit. Jenn Raclaw adding to the Action Items.

Wendy Leising - CESAs have RSN groups, can contact them for information specific to your area. <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/educators/initiatives/regional-special-education-network> - Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus - At the bottom of that page you can access contact information for each region's RSN Director. Listed by CESA.

TS – Share with those on their lists. Family Connections: [https://visionforward362-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/tstanislawski\\_vision-forward\\_org/EX0FkLS-HkJNmdUpUzLrkTOBLrWE1\\_AjpLO9Re8uldqInw?e=wZmRg0](https://visionforward362-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/tstanislawski_vision-forward_org/EX0FkLS-HkJNmdUpUzLrkTOBLrWE1_AjpLO9Re8uldqInw?e=wZmRg0)

Dawn Soto – Weekly update goes to those who have indicated. Outreach has Parent Liaisons as well. Cannot support B-3 directly.

Cheryl Orgas – WI Parents of Blind Children does activities throughout the state. Sends the information to TVIs. There is also a new listserv that has begun.

### **10: 40 Prior Meeting Minutes Approval [October 23, 2023 SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes.pdf](#)**

Motion to approve – Cheryl Orgas

Second – Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus

Comments – None

Passed - Yes

### **10:41 [Public Appearances.pdf](#)**

Dawn Anderson – Representing W MI TVI and O&M Programs. WMU qualifies for WI HEAB loans. Work closely with DPI to make sure their programs align with the WI requirements. Certified teachers only. Many programs are offered online, but onsite programming is offered, as well as summer sessions for the hands-on portions of the curriculum. Student teaching can happen on the job when possible as well. Two O&M programs – one focused on adults, and one focused on children. Those who graduate from either program can sit for COMS. The children’s program includes coursework on itinerancy, IEPs, etc. As a training program, need professionals in the field who can supervise internships. CATIS program will be soon be accredited by AER. (NIU will be accredited soon, too. NIU was first in 2016)

WL – Regarding HEAB loans – DA – Can confirm that it is a pot of money that if there are more students drawing from it, each student will receive a smaller allotment.

DA – Pete Zammuto has worked very hard to make the HEAB funding work for the students.

KR-we could invite him to a council meeting.

### **[Special Education Acronym Glossary](#)**

**10:54 Follow up on Action items.**

O&M staff shortages subcommittee recommendation sent to Office of State Superintendent – KR and JH met with DPI to format and forward.

WCBVI and DPI administrators will be meeting to discuss next steps regarding Northern Illinois University and Wisconsin Institute of Higher Education partnership for a training program

Birth to 3 website resources update:

Daniel Parker-We created a draft based on WCBVI recommendation for a “plain language” version of the responsibility chart. However, we have not been able to meet together with DHS to finalize this before sharing back with the advisory council because DHS-DPI quarterly meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Note that we did not have resources to create a full guidance document like special education in plain language but did summarize key responsibilities of our agencies related to B-3 services that could go with the statutory chart that we developed.

Kay Rhode and VI Paraprofessional subcommittee meet to write recommendation for full council. Not completed.

Braille subcommittee and DPI’s Division of Academic Excellence consultants met December 5. Update below.

Dawn Soto asking APH Ex Officio Trustees Colleen and Cheryl questions on quota from October 23, 2023

### **10:57-noon**

#### **Subcommittee Updates and Discussion**

1. TVI training program Subcommittee - JH and JR - Per DPI licensing, an out of state IHE needs to partner with an in state IHE. Discussion on combining the TVI and O&M Training subcommittees, but due to the large differences in licensing requirements for those areas, they will remain separate. TS – is there a timeline? JH – It is somewhat already in motion, and we can request updates, perhaps for the next Council meeting.
2. Braille subcommittee – CO – Met yesterday with the DPI Division for Academic Excellence (DAE) - updated them regarding what we are looking for for braille standards to match Common Core expectations for each grade levels. DAE had good questions, especially regarding learning about this area. Discussed what the process and procedures would be to develop a document for Wisconsin. Looked at other state’s processes. DAE team will go back to DPI to explore that process. Next meeting January 30. Jennifer Ottowitz – The ELA and Math Standards for Wisconsin will be updated in 2026.
3. Assistive Technology - JH – Have had a lot of good discussion regarding looking at the need to support vision professionals in the area of Assistive Technology. Discussed

competency exam, but at the moment providing resources. Micro-Credentials? Like Screen Reader Savvy program that Amy Snow created. This could be a way to share information in a quick way, give opportunities to push trainings out through partners like APH or Humanware or other vendors. Looking at ways to offer the support and have it available. Subcommittee appreciated the incentive program to complete a training session on the Juno Magnifier, then receive a Juno Magnifier. Encourage more programs like this. A loan library for teachers to be exposed to the equipment prior to them going to students so the teachers can learn.

### **11:15 Council Representative Updates**

**Kailee Kamps** - [WAER Advisory Council Update 12.6.2023.docx](#) - WAER conference Early Bird Pricing through March 1. JO – can you attend virtually or in person, and can you present virtually or in person. KK – yes you can attend virtually. Prefer presenters be in person, but will check to make sure virtual presenters would be possible. If you can't get your proposal in by December 8, email Gretchen Kapperman to let her know you will be submitting.

**Cheryl Orgas** - **National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin** state convention in 2024 will be taking place from April 5-7, at the Radisson Hotel and conference Center in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Parents of Blind Children will be having a maple Syrup tapping experience at the Urban Ecology Center on March 9 of 2024. CO - May 16 program at MPM

**Tracey Stanislawski** - [Dec 2023 Vision Forward Association](#) - looking for volunteers for the Braillefest program.  
JH – Add Guadalupe Creapeau to the VI Paraprofessional subcommittee – no objection from Council members.

### **11:25/12:20 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 Category 4, school board member and Category 5, school district administrator.

Colleen Kickbush and Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus will exit with one year left and there will be a Category 3, Teacher of the Visually Impaired role open, although there is a nomination being reviewed and a Category 6, school district special education director. ENG – stepping down to be President of Council of Special Education Directors, does have a colleague to nominate, and will send that information to KR and JH.

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

### **11:27 DPI representative updates**

1. WI Talking Book & Braille Library [WTBBL December 6th 2023.docx](#)

Zarina Mohd Shah, Manager DPI Library Services

JO – NLS is offering free braille calendars to patrons, and when you sign up you can receive them annually. There are pocket calendars and wall calendars. Braille and Beyond presentation from NLS: <https://www.oib-tac.org/events/2023/12/braille-and-beyond>

2. Division for Libraries and Technology [Dec 2023 Library Services Team](#)

Elizabeth Tomev, Assistant Director, DPI Library Services Team

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

[December 6, 2023 WCBVI updates](#)

Dan Wenzel, Center Director

Dawn Soto, Outreach Director

4. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates

Patti Williams, Director, Special Education DPI (Read by Dawn Soto)

[2023-12 WCBVI Council Special Education Team Director Updates.docx](#)

### **12:21 - Action Items from today**

KR create list of parent supports and information. Kay send draft list to Council for review using minutes. Members send additional ideas to BVI email. Agenda item for March.

KR-work with VI para sub to write recommendation for office of SS

\*KK – will check to make sure presenters can be virtual at CVC

\*KR-Add Guadalupe Creapeau to the VI Paraprofessional subcommittee – no objection from Council members.

\*ENG – send nomination info for replacement in her category to KR and JH.

\*Chair of O&M subcommittee request update from Paul Manriquez on O&M recommendation and TVI training program

## 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.

For 2024-25: Consider 3 meetings

Next meetings

March 4 Monday

June 5 Wednesday

2. Communication

Share what you learn with your groups! Minutes from this meeting need to be approved at the next meeting before they are posted so it's important that you relay what you learn earlier!

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

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 – Tracey Stanislawski Second – Jennifer Ottowitz

Adjourned at 12:30 pm

