



**Statutory Council on Blindness
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 19, 2017
9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**

**Vision Forward Association
912 N Hawley Road
Milwaukee, WI 53213**

Action Items and Motion Items:

A. Action Items:

- 1. Action Item:** Kathleen Connell will share the SCOB member description with the SE WI Support Group to try and recruit new members.
- 2. Action Item:** Monica Smith will share the written instructions for administering a Facebook page to Doug Tikkanen.
- 3. Action Item:** Amber Mullett will follow-up with Kathleen Enders to get clarification about the maintenance of vending machines.
- 4. Action Item:** Sara O'Donnell will reach out to the SenseAbility Team to see if a representative would be willing to come to the Council's quarterly meeting in March.
- 5. Action Item:** Troy Hergert will reach out to the Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired to see if they would be willing to attend SCOB's quarterly meeting in January.
- 6. Action Item:** OBVI is willing to put together a survey for the Council to use when networking with current/potential partners and consumers to generate talking points, build connections, and create awareness of the Council.
- 7. Action Item:** Rhonda Staats will investigate whether or not the legislatures will be participating in Legislative Day.
- 8. Action Item:** Members will look at the Council's priorities for the year and examine legislative impact that might hinder them from moving forward with their strategic plan.

B. Motion Items:

- 1. Motion Item:** A motion was made by Troy Hergert to create a bi-law about the proper management of the Council Facebook page. Ronda Saats seconded. Doug Tikkanen led a discussion about a bi-law being in place and if it was really necessary. There was a unanimous vote and the motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** A motion was made by Troy Hergert to move up the March 2018 quarterly meeting to the second Thursday in March. LeeYoung seconded. Motion carried.



3. **Motion Item:** A motion was made by Lee Young to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Troy Hergert. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Doug Tikkanen, Chairperson

Council Members Present: Doug Tikkanen, Troy Hergert, Jeff Peil, Lee Young, and Rhonda Staats.

DHS Staff Support Present: Amber Mullett, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Monica Smith, DHS, BADR; Sara O'Donnell, DHS, BADR; and Kathleen Connell, DHS, BADR.

Guests: Rob Buettner, Beyond Vision.

II. Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Doug Tikkanen, Chairperson

III. Update on Plan for Recruitment of New Members by Department of Health Services (DHS) Liaison Amber Mullett

- So far there has been no new recruitment.
 - The Council is hoping for a northern representative.
- The Council discussed different outlets of recruitment.
 - Council members could put together a voice recorded presentation for individuals to use to try and attract members from different groups.
 - Reach out to ILCs.
 - Kathleen Connell will share the description with the SE WI Support Group that meets 4 times a year. See Action Item 1.
 - The possibility of posting to Wisc. Jobs that the Council is looking for volunteers and members.
 - Kathleen Connell suggested Rodger B.
- The Council discussed transportation as a barrier for people to serve as a member.
- The Council was notified that they now have the option to have a Facebook page. This would allow the Council to post updates, share announcements and help recruit members.
 - Monica Smith will share the written instructions for administering a Facebook page to Doug Tikkanen. See Action Item 2.
 - The Council would have to manage the Facebook page, DHS support staff cannot.
 - A motion was made by Troy Hergert to create a bi-law about the proper management of the Council Facebook page. Ronda Staats seconded. Doug



Tikkanen led a discussion about a bi-law being in place and if it was really necessary. There was a unanimous vote and the motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

- The Facebook page will be a representation of SCOB and will be run by SCOB members, solely.

IV. Review and Approve June Meeting Minutes

- No meeting minutes were available to approve.

V. Break 9:27 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

VI. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Wisconsin Residents who are Blind and Visually Impaired

- BEP members: They feel a slight fear/intimation from leadership in the program in regards to voicing their opinions and having it stay confidential.
- Amber Mullett added that there is room for dialogue and quality improvement.

VII. Update from DHS Liaison Amber Mullett about State Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI)

- The Bureau of Aging & Disability Resources is in the process of recruiting supervisor positions in the following sections, ORCD, OOA, OBVI, ODHH, and OPDIL.
- OBVI had a full office retreat and completed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis to reference when looking at their strategic goals for 2018.
- OBVI is focused on quality improvements, best practices and providing the same levels of information and resources to all areas of the state.
- A visual voicemail system was set up in central office to solve the issue of delayed response back to the consumer.
- In 2018 the office would like to do more group events and trainings. Consumers want to gather together and have that peer support and there is currently a greater demand than what's readily available for consumers.
- Amber Mullett commented that she wants to make sure the location of events shift to accommodate transportation.
 - The Council discussed their concern about making sure event locations are affordable, accessible and centrally located throughout the state.
 - Jeff Peil commented that no matter where the event is located, someone is going to have an issue with transportation. He suggests identifying business partners that would be willing to host and utilize technology.



- Ronda Staats shared that peer to peer is very important. Partnering with ILCs are a great resource and are ideal locations to help with transportation.
- Doug Tikkanen noted a couple things about ILCs as an option. 1) Where they are located and making sure they are in a safe and welcoming area. 2) The goal is to get those with disabilities integrated with the rest of the population and ILCs can be isolating.
- Amber Mullett asked the Council what it would take to make regional and group trainings go from good to GREAT.
 - Jeff Peil suggested that all trainings and events be treated differently to best suit them.
 - The Council discussed individual trainings throughout the regions, but also the possibility of “SCOB talks” via social media.
 - Doug Tikkanen commented that the OBVI population is older in general. He suggested inviting someone who lost their vision later in life to come speak and share their story and also someone who lost their vision early in life to come speak and share their story. He would like to invite everyone to support inclusion.
 - Lee Young suggested reaching out to Peter Daly to let him know that SCOB is looking for members.
- OBVI will be working with the DVR SenseAbility Team to discuss and plan for improved collaboration statewide.
 - Examples: referrals, assessments, reports from OBVI to DVR counselors
 - DVR may have funding available and would be able to help sponsor trainings.
- Amber Mullett shared that the state office wants to make sure the decisions they make are in the best interest of the consumers.
- Doug Tikkanen brought up technology and suggested an online database system that connects the different entities. He felt this might help solve turnover and also allow for a continuity of operations.

VIII. Break 10:20 a.m. – 10:38 a.m.

IX. Updates and Discussion on Recent Meetings with Kathleen Enders from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) – Amber Mullett and Doug Tikkanen (via Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD))

- SCOB in the past has mentioned concerns with DWD 60 administrative rule. There may be an opportunity in the future to make recommendations if and when DWD opens up this rule.



- DVR will send out a BEP Operator survey as an opportunity for BEP operators to provide confidential feedback to DVR about the program. It was mentioned by SCOB members that there appears to be a lack of trust between the leadership and individual operators.
 - Lee Young shared that in 2013 there were two operators who called to do a survey and get feedback from the rest of the operators. Everyone asked about it being confidential and anonymous.
 - Results shared with all of the BEP.
- DVR will be expanding the BEP to include micro-markets.
- There is a current concern regarding the impact on the BEP program if Wisconsin moves towards commercialization of rest areas.
- SCOB mentioned that the BEP program update during the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities included the following items:
 - DVR will be expediting the speed in which they change broken compressors in machines.
 - DVR is looking to expand the BEP in to several more federal facilities over the next two years.
 - DVR is moving forward with the transition to the Cantaloupe Program in machines.

X. Report and Discussion on Recent Meeting with DVR SenseAbility Team

- This topic has become one of the strategic goals.
- The team is looking to create a tool that pairs employment with independent living in order to better receive those funds.
- Scott Gilbertson from OBVI will be leading the OBVI/DVR collaboration project in 2018.

XI. Report from Doug Tikkanen on Recent Meeting of GCPD

- Doug Tikkanen shared that GCPD has subcommittees bringing issues forward on various topics that can be found in the open meeting minutes.
- The Council had a discussion about the Wisconsin Business Enterprise Program. They are looking for clarification on who is responsible for the maintenance of vending machines as there has been much confusion about this rule and if it's the responsibility of the state or the operator.
 - Amber Mullett will reach out to Kathleen Enders about the maintenance of the machines and making sure all voices are being heard. See Action Item 3.



- The Council discussed their concerns with DVR and the issues they feel need to be addressed. They would like to invite Kathleen Enders to a meeting, so they are able to have an open dialogue with clear communication that allows them to voice their concerns and to hopefully receive an explanation.

XII. Break 12:00 p.m. – 12:17 p.m.

XIII. Schedule Meetings for SCOB Members to Meet with Partners for Updates

- Business Enterprise Group: Doug Tikkanen is attending a meeting in November.
- SenseAbility Team: The Council would like to have a representative come and talk to the whole group during a quarterly meeting.
 - Sara O'Donnell will reach out to the SenseAbility Team to invite someone to come in March. See Action Item 4.
- Elected Committee on Blind Vendors: The Council would like to meet and communicate with them for two reasons. 1) They would like to show them what the Council does successfully, so they can implement that into their own Committee. 2) They would like to recruit new members.
- Beyond Vision: Rob Buettner is presenting to the Council this afternoon.
- Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired: The Council would like to meet with this group at their next quarterly meeting, which has been moved from December to January 4, 2018. Troy Hergert will reach out to the Council asking if they will attend a meeting with SCOB. See Action Item 5.
- Industries for the Blind: Doug Tikkanen had a conversation with CJ Lange about potential opportunities to improve and employ more blind people. Industries had considered moving locations, but there was an issue with transportation.
- Blind Outdoor Leisure Development (BOLD): The Council would like to get involved with this organization, so they both know who each other is and what they do, and how they can work together.
 - The Council has agreed to reach out individually.
 - The Council would like to have someone join as a member who has a blind and visually impaired child. Maybe there is a possibility that this person could potentially come from BOLD?
- The Council agreed that they need to start having conversations with current and potential partners. There needs to be more dialogue between them all, so that they know what each other is doing and how they can work together.
 - Amber Mullett stated that when having these conversations with partners it would be a good idea to create a survey to collect standardized data to help measure where the Council is at and where it needs to go.



- OBVI is willing to put together a survey to use when networking with the above mentioned partners and consumers to generate talking points, build connections, and create awareness of the Council. See Action Item 6.
- A motion was made by Troy Hergert to move up the March 2018 quarterly meeting to the second Thursday in March. Lee Young seconded. Motion Carried. See Motion Item 2.

XIV. Speaker from Beyond Vision, Rob Buettner

- Rob Buettner, the Senior Director of Relationships & Business Services from Beyond Vision.
 - Discussion included:
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Updates on DVR referrals for employment
 - SCOB recruitment – The Council asked Rob Buettner to share information about SCOB with Beyond Vision colleagues

XV. Break 1:52 a.m. – 2:05 a.m.

XVI. Discuss Items from Legislative Day Agenda – What Items does SCOB want Legislature to Consider?

- The Council had a discussion on where they stand for Legislative Day.
 - It was brought to the Council's attention that legislatures are trying to end their sessions early. This is of concern to Council members.
 - Rhonda Staats will investigate whether or not the legislatures will be participating in Legislative Day. See Action Item 7.
 - Troy Hergert shared that the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired has a legislative day. He suggested connecting with them and doing it together. If not, then he feels the Council shouldn't do anything at all.
 - Jeff Peil felt recruitment of members is a top priority for the Council and that they shouldn't be putting their energy into Legislative Day.
 - Doug Tikkanen would like to meet with legislatures and discuss the Council's strategic plan and the legislative rulings that keep them from accomplishing their plan.
 - Members will look at the Council's priorities for the year and examine legislative impact that might hinder them from moving forward with their plan. See Action Item 8.

XVII. Plan Next Steps for Recommendations to BEP Program



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- The Council looked at other states and compared the numbers to Wisconsin.
- Once the survey results are gathered from Kathleen, the Council will look at the numbers and compile their list of recommendations
 - Troy Hergert and Ronda Staats suggested the Council pick its top two-three priorities.
- The Council plans to present at the Annual Meeting to get a feel for any actionable items from the recommendations they suggest.
 - Depending on the response, the Council will state its next steps (after networking with other partners).
- It was suggested that the program be improved by looking at other states that are more successful.
- No action can be taken at this time, other than to look at the information and review the data that Doug will share with the Council.

XVIII. Adjourn

- A motion was made by Lee Young to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Troy Hergert. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.