



**Statutory Council on Blindness Conference Call
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 4, 2018
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Action Items and Motion Items:

A. Action Items:

- 1. Action Item:** The Executive Committee will need to meet to discuss the agenda for the meeting in March.
- 2. Action Item:** DHS staff support will reach out and see if someone is available to offer the Ethics and Open Records training in person at one of the quarterly meetings.
- 3. Action Item:** DHS staff support will reach out and see if someone from the Council on Physical Disabilities or another staff person from the Bureau is available to offer the Council Member Orientation training in person at one of the quarterly meetings.
- 4. Action Item:** The Council agreed that they would be interested in hearing from the Secretary's Office by having them attend one of their quarterly meetings.
- 5. Action Item:** Sara O'Donnell will share the Bureau organizational chart with members at the next quarterly meeting, so they can reference it and use it for informational purposes.

B. Motion Items:

- 1. Motion Item:** A motion was made by Troy Hergert to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Lee Young made a motion to move forward with the Council having an orientation and training prior to the March quarterly meeting the night before in Madison. The motion was seconded by Troy Hergert. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion Item:** Doug Tikkanen made a motion to have a committee work on setting up the Facebook page and start discussing a plan for how they will manage the page and what they will share on the page. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried.
- 4. Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to move the previously scheduled March quarterly meeting to March 29. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried.
- 5. Motion Item:** Doug Tikkanen made a motion to amend the October meeting minutes to correct the misspelling of his last name. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried.
- 6. Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to have the Ethics and Open Records training in person. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried.
- 7. Motion Item:** A motion was made by Rhonda Staats to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Peil. Motion carried.



C. Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions by Doug Tikkanen, Chairperson

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

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

II. Meeting was called to order by Doug Tikkanen, Chairperson

The meeting was held via teleconference and made available by calling 1-877-820-7831 and using the participant code of 988055.

III. Review and Approve the Agenda

- The agenda was approved by the Executive Committee prior to the full Council meeting.

IV. Review and Approve October Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Troy Hergert to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

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

- Amber Mullett introduced Ann Sievert, the new Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired Unit Supervisor.
 - Before joining the Bureau she worked for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) where she was a Policy Analyst.
 - She has previously worked at DHS with the Pathways to Independence team and assisted with the implementation of the Family Care program.
 - She brings a wealth of knowledge and experiences from her time in and around State service, non-profit leadership and direct service provision.
- Ann Sievert introduced herself to Council members.
 - The position is very new to her, as she has been with the Bureau for just three weeks. During this time she has been asking a lot questions and meeting with staff members to better familiarize herself with the Bureau.
 - As the new Unit Supervisor she plans to meet with staff and partners to develop regional trainings, work on quality improvement, and strengthen peer-to-peer support within the counties and regions to better improve collaboration.
 - Another area of focus is the 2018 priorities in the Strategic Plan.



- Ann Sievert will be taking the role over as Council liaison.
 - As the liaison, Ann hopes to better serve the Council through improved communication and partnerships. She would like to strengthen partnerships between OBVI and SCOB, along with other councils and organizations. This Council could play many roles and it's up to them how they would like to be involved.
- Ann Sievert's experience working with individuals who are blind and Deaf-blind.
 - Ann responded that throughout her 30 years in the workforce she has interacted and worked alongside those who have a broad spectrum of disabilities, specifically blind and Deaf-blind.
- State Plan for Assistive Technology.
 - The Assistive Technology Advisory Council is in the process of completing their State Plan for the next three years. The State Plan describes how Wisconsin will spend the federal funds it receives for assistive technology.
 - There will be a 60 day open comment period and this Council is encouraged to provide feedback.
- Long-path strategic goals.
 - Amber Mullett asked that the Executive Committee allow her to give a presentation about long-path thinking and have a discussion about strategic goals.
- Council members discussed past and present frustrations.
 - SCOB members have felt discouragement from state agencies.
 - Lack of collaboration between SCOB and OBVI.
 - SCOB members feel a lack of trust from BADR.
 - Not feeling heard and listened to from the State.
 - See no value in what they do and have no purpose.
 - No progress has been made. They exist, but nothing gets done.
 - Lack of communication and/or miscommunication between SCOB and OBVI.
 - Little to no support received from OBVI.
 - Inability to recruit new members and attitudes of current membership.
- Council members discussed what they'd like to see moving forward.
 - Improve communication.
 - Continue to keep the dialogue open.



- Work to recruit new members.
- Allow the opportunity for improved dynamics.
- Collaborate on similar missions with OBVI/BADR and work together to move ideas forward.
- Amber Mullett suggested bringing in a neutral facilitator to assist SCOB in moving forward. An orientation and training for the Council to go over council business and roles and responsibilities would also be beneficial for moving forward.
 - Lee Young made a motion to move forward with the Council having an orientation and training prior to the March quarterly meeting the night before in Madison. The motion was seconded by Troy Hergert. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

VI. Discuss Next Steps for the Statutory Council on Blindness Facebook Page

- The Council discussed whether or not they should hold off on creating a Facebook page. Some members wanted to wait, while others felt it would be a great way to help recruit new members.
- Doug Tikkanen made a motion to have a committee work on setting up the Facebook page and start discussing a plan for how they will manage the page and what they will share on the page. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
 - Discussion followed on who would chair the committee. Lee Young will be the chair of the committee and Jeff Peil will work with her.

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

- There were no comments made by members of the public.

VIII. Discuss the Direction and Focus of 2018 Meeting Dates

- Rhonda Staats made a motion to move the previously scheduled March quarterly meeting to March 29. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.
- The Council agreed that the website needs to list that the quarterly meeting dates are tentative.
 - Set Date
 - March 29, 2018
 - Tentative Dates
 - June 21, 2018
 - September 20, 2018



- December 13, 2018
- The Executive Committee will need to meet to discuss the agenda for the meeting in March. See Action Item 1.
- Doug Tikkanen made a motion to amend the October meeting minutes to correct the misspelling of his last name. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.
- The Council discussed possible trainings they would be interested in attending.
 - Ethics and Open Records training.
 - The training is available online, but the Council would prefer to have the training in person at one of their quarterly meetings if staff is available.
 - Rhonda Staats made a motion to have the training in person. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried. See Motion Item 6.
 - DHS staff support will reach out and see if someone is available to offer the Ethics and Open Records training in person at one of the quarterly meetings. See Action Item 2.
 - Council Member Orientation training.
 - DHS staff support will reach out and see if someone from the Council on Physical Disabilities or another staff person from the Bureau is available to offer the training in person at one of the quarterly meetings. See Action Item 3.
- The Council discussed possible guest speakers and the procedure for scheduling them to attend a quarterly meeting.
 - Amber Mullett commented that the Council is encouraged to reach out to partners and other stakeholders to schedule a guest speaker. Council staff support is available to assist members with scheduling, as needed.
 - If the Council is interested in hearing from the Secretary's Office or other DHS staff it would be most efficient to work with Ann Sievert and have her put in the request.
 - Rhonda Staats made a motion to have BADR reach out to the Secretary's Office and ask them to attend a SCOB quarterly meeting. The motion was seconded by Lee Young. Discussion was had regarding the motion and if it needed to be made or not. The Council retracted the motion. Motion failed.



- The Council agreed that they would be interested in having the Secretary's Office attend one of their quarterly meetings. See Action Item 4.
- The Council asked for clarification about the structure of DHS and BADR. Amber Mullett described the layout to help them better understand where the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI) is located within BADR, and where BADR is located within the Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Health Services.
 - Sara O'Donnell will share the Bureau organizational chart with members at the next quarterly meeting, so they can reference it and use it for informational purposes. See Action Item 5.

IX. Adjourn

- A motion was made by Rhonda Staats to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Peil. Motion carried. See Motion Item 7.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.