

# **Statutory Council on Blindness**

**Monday – April 8, 2013**

**Clarion Suites Central**

**2110 Rimrock Rd.**

**Madison, WI**

10:00 AM Meeting called to order by John Hartman, (Acting Chair, sitting in for Chairperson)

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Hartman, Bill Gallik, Josephine Grove, Eleanor Loomans, Joanne Schehl, Lee Young

OBVI STAFF PRESENT: Linda Huffer, Cathy Frosch-Hellenbrand

ABSENT: Roberto Torrez, Ed Weiss

10:15 AM Approval of SCOB Minutes of December 9, 2012

Motion to approve minutes by Bill Gallik and seconded by Jo Grove. Approved.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of February 19, 2013

Motion to approve minutes by Bill Gallik and seconded by Eleanor Loomans. Approved.

10:20 AM Research Study Report - Proposal by Jo Grove to use the council research study and the survey information as a basis for her Doctoral Dissertation.

Motion by Lee Young to approve Jo Grove's use of the council research study and the survey information that is gathered as the starting point in her dissertation study, seconded by Bill Gallik. Approved.

DISCUSSION ON SCOB SURVEY:

10:30 AM Discussion centered around whether the survey will only be online. Should there be another format? Council members discussed that the survey would also be sent to Vision Forward, Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired, DVR, independent living centers, support groups, etc.

A general overview of the current survey questions was talked about along with possible additional questions to help gather further information. It was decided that each member would look at the survey questions and send any new suggestions on to the Chairperson or Linda Huffer. The final survey questions will be discussed at the June meeting.

**Other Issues Discussed by Council:**

Discussion on topics to be part of Legislative Day tomorrow. Talked about how Legislative Day will work with the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Briefly reviewed the items in the Omnibus bill that will be discussed with legislators during Legislative Day.

11:45 AM OBVI Issues, Linda Huffer, OBVI Director

Linda gave report on mini courses at Lions Camp in June. The Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired has the opportunity to teach mini courses at Lions Camp June 11, 12, and 13. The courses were crafts, technology, food using stove and microwave, resources in Wisconsin, and Braille art.

Lion's Camp in September – is a week-long session for up to 20 newly blind and visually impaired people. Classes will be in orientation and mobility, technology, basic independent living skills, etc.

11:55 AM Bylaws Review

1. Bylaw 4.9

- a. Council discussed the possible change on having an ex -officio member of the Council to maintain integrity of the Council.

John Hartman motioned to accept the 4.9 amendment to the Bylaws, seconded by Eleanor Loomans. Approved.

12:00 PM Restructuring of Executive Committee and the Election of New Officers

Recommendations from the Chairperson:

John Hartman as Vice-Chairperson and Jo Grove as Secretary

John Hartman nominated as Vice-Chairperson by Bill Gallik and seconded by Lee Young. Approved.

Bill Gallik nominated Jo Grove for secretary. Seconded by Eleanor Loomans. Approved.

Bill Gallik nominated Lee Young for Member-at-Large on Executive Committee. Seconded by Jo Grove. Approved.

12:15 PM Working Lunch

#### DISCUSSION:

Recruitment of new members. Candidates must complete application forms which include resume and references.

Nominating committee: Bill, Lee, Jo and Eleanor

Information on website for applicants. Linda will send necessary information to the nominating committee for recruitment of new members.

12:50 PM Guest Speaker – DVR- Enid Glenn, Director - Bureau of Management Services, DWD/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR liaison to the SCOB)

-883 active cases, which is an increase over last fiscal year. All Blind and Visually Impaired (BVI) numbers

-BEP average income is \$40,000 annually. Currently there is no BEP site used for training purposes.

-Business service teams: Single point of contact for employers.

-DVR works with employers for OJT to split cost of training with commitment to hire individual.

- Currently DVR is seeing an 82 percent success rate for long-term employment.

- DVR currently has agreement with Walgreens and other companies that are very willing to hire people with disabilities. Walgreens employs more people with disabilities than without disabilities.

-DVR modern approach to business – to serve both employers and potential employees. DVR hired business services consultants. 8 people hired with 12 to go. Will be placed across the state based on number of positions available to help find employment for people with disabilities and to work with the employers on using potential people with disabilities.

1:40 PM Sub-Committees

1. Transportation:
  - a. Bill Gallik reported that Senior Connections is losing funding.

- b. Joanne Schehl reported a new bus line between Minocqua and Lac du Flambeau.
2. Employment:
  - a. Still a major issue.
  - b. Talk to Enid for employment stats.
  - c. Council would like to find out how many people with disabilities are employed with benefits?
3. Public Relations & Information Access
  - a. Eleanor reported that the Council website is now updated.

2:00 PM Redefining Subcommittees will be tabled for Roberto.

#### DISCUSSION:

- Council would like more information on what each subcommittee is to do. What should be the role of the employment subcommittee?

-It was suggested that each subcommittee should develop goals and strategies of what they would like to see accomplished by the Council.

-Joanne reported on support groups in which she volunteers. Listen to group comments and bring feedback to the council.

2:40 PM Final planning and ideas for the legislative visits of April 9<sup>th</sup>

Council discussed the fact that they feel somewhat unprepared for the Legislative Day because they do not have the Omnibus information from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

3:15 PM Final plan for the Legislative Day with the WCB & VI

Gary Goyke was unable to attend our meeting to talk about final plans.

3:45 PM Next Meeting – Schedule June 2013. Date to be determined by the Chairperson. More information on the date will be sent by email by the Chairperson.

3:50 PM Meeting Adjourned