

Statutory Council On Blindness Meeting
June 22, 2010, Teleconference

Chair Eleanor Loomans called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Members present: Eleanor Loomans, Chair; Bruce Parkinson, Vice Chair; Dave Hyde, Secretary; Roberto Torrez, Member at Large; Bill Gallik; Ed Weiss and Joan Wucherer. Carolyn Spain was absent. OBVI Staff present: Linda Huffer and Mary Gorman.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Ed Weiss, seconded by Bruce Parkinson to approve the minutes of the March 24th, regular meeting. Motion carried. Motion made by Bruce Parkinson seconded by Dave Hyde to approve the minutes of the May 15th Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried. Motion made by Bruce Parkinson, seconded by Roberto Torrez to approve the minutes of the May 18 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried. Motion made by Dave Hyde, seconded by Bruce Parkinson to approve the minutes of the May 19th Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

The chair reported that we received a number of applicants for council positions. The Executive Committee made the following recommendations and sent them to Secretary Timberlake: Ed Weiss, Kelli Hughes, Charmaine Rasmussen and John Hartman. Mr. Hartman will be filling a one-year term. All were approved by the Secretary and the letters have gone out.

Adult Summer Education Program

Dan Wenzel, Executive Director, Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI) joined the meeting. He reported on the Adult Summer Education Program, scheduled for August 15-20 at WCBVI. Dan stated that he expects thirty-three participants; there are two on a wait list. Classes will include Assistive Technology, Braille, Daily Living, Cooking, Orientation and Mobility, and Talking about Blindness. The program will include an open house on Friday for family and care providers to allow them to see the program and to ask questions. Dan talked about how important it is to work with the families to encourage the students to do things independently. Dave asked if DPI would support the allocation of additional funding to DHS to operate future summer programs. Dan replied that if the proposed funding were not found by removing it from the DPI budget, the department would probably be supportive. Bill Gallik asked

what would constitute a successful outcome for the Adult Summer Education Program. Dan stated that clients should learn new skills, as a positive outcome, as well as content expressed in the evaluations. If clients leave the program encouraged to continue learning, that, too, will be a measure of success. Dan extended an invitation to members of the Council to visit the program and interact with participants. The Chair thanked Dan for inviting former program participants to come back.

Bylaw Amendment

The Chair discussed the proposed bylaw amendment. The amendment as proposed would allow the Statutory Council on Blindness to appoint up to two ex-officio members who would serve one three-fiscal year term. Members discussed the need to balance new members with experienced ones. A motion was made by Bill Gallik, seconded by Bruce Parkinson that the bylaw be accepted. Bill Gallik made a motion that was seconded by Bruce Parkinson to amend the bylaw to read:

Article IV – Membership

4.8. The Council may, by vote in regular meeting, appoint up to two (2) ex-officio members. Each member may serve up to three consecutive one-year terms. This service will be in lieu of the required one-year hiatus required in Section 4.3. They may assist the council, provide direction, participate in discussion and debate, and serve on committees. Ex-officio members may not vote on matters coming before the Council, nor serve as an elected officer.

Joan asked about the one-year hiatus. She was informed that should the amendment pass, the ex-officio member would not need to take a year off. Bruce called for the question on the amendment. The motion on the amendment carried on a voice vote of six to one with Weiss voting no and Hyde abstaining. Following discussion, the main motion on the bylaw was changed as amended and carried on a vote of six to one with Weiss voting no and Hyde abstaining.

Ex-officio Members

The Chair brought up the appointment of ex-officio members. Motion was made by Chair Loomans; seconded by Bill Gallik that Dave Hyde be appointed as an ex-officio member. Motion carried with Hyde abstaining.

State Legislative Update

1. Service Animal Legislation: Members discussed the status of the service animal legislation that was discussed with Senator Risser. No legislative study was approved for the interim. Bruce Parkinson will contact the Senator to see what he has already proposed. He will also contact Gary Goyke to see where the Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired stands on the subject. Action: Bruce Parkinson to follow-up.
2. Adult Summer Education Program: Status: Will use two-pronged approach and will address budgetary and legislative aspects in 2011.
3. Instructional Media Bill: Status: Did not get out of Senate Committee and will be readdressed in 2011.
4. Blinded Veteran on Wisconsin Veteran's Council: Status: Passed.
5. Marriage Penalty Act: Status: Passed
6. Wisconsin Mental Health Parity Act: Status: Passed

Federal Legislative Update

1. Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act: Status: Some progress towards noise makers on quiet cars agreement has been made with automobile manufacturing association.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Report

Joseph D'Costa, DVR Bureau Director, joined the meeting. His report is attached and made a part of these minutes. There are 4,200 on the current wait list and there is still a six-month waiting list for service in category two. DVR is awaiting executive instruction for budget preparation for the 2011-2013 Biennium. There will be a training program in Milwaukee and Wausau for employment networks to work with the Ticket to Work program. Mr. D'Costa discussed current Ticket to Work programs and proposals. He stated that the vendors are now working under an old set-aside agreement and it is no longer based upon the last three years. He further stated that new vendors are joining the Elected Committee of Blind Vendors and they are up to full strength on that committee.

Sub Committees

-- Transportation: Joan Wucherer reported on transportation. She stated that it has deteriorated in her area because of a change in taxi companies. She has been occupied but will be doing more later in the year.

--Employment: This committee has not met. Roberto Torrez agreed to chair the committee for the next year.

--Public Relations and Information Access: Eleanor stated that she attended a Lions meeting in February. Few members had heard of the Statutory Council. She also attended the N.F.B. State Convention in April (52 participants). The Chair also did a table presentation at the Concordia Annual Parish Nurse Convention with 80 participants and another at Lions Camp with 170 persons including staff. Linda Huffer reported that there have been 35 hits on the website. Bruce attended the AT seminar at Options for Living in Green Bay and found it very worthwhile. Bruce reported on the Philanthropy Day of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired in Wausau.

--Single State Agency: Dave reported that nothing has been done on the single state agency for serving blind and visually impaired adults in Wisconsin. Due to the economy, the subcommittee has been postponed until a later date.

Other Councils and Organizations

Eleanor stated that she had sent out synopsis of activities of other councils and organizations.

Office for the Blind & Visually Impaired (OBVI) Activities

Linda Huffer, Interim Director, reported on OBVI activities. She stated that they have just completed staff training, including topics of Access Technology by the Chicago Lighthouse and ADA issues by ADA Wisconsin Partnership. She stated that they have put in the 2011-13 budget proposal, which includes a recommendation for increased funding for the Adult Summer Education Program. OBVI has expended most of the ARRA funds received. Their field staff members still have a high caseload and some are keeping a waiting list.

Twentieth Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Eleanor stated that she has been receiving a number of things relating to the twentieth anniversary. She will be sending a proclamation to the

Governor's committee and asked members to request signatures by local mayors.

Next Meeting: September 16-17, 2010 in Madison.

Motion made by Ed Weiss, seconded by Bruce Parkinson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hyde
Secretary

DVR REPORT TO COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS - May 18, 2010

This report will provide the Council on Blindness a summary of service delivery to Wisconsin's Blind and Visually Impaired consumers who received vocational rehabilitation services during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010 that spans from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. This report covers SFY 2010 through May 18, 2010. It should be noted that ARRA funds allowed the Wisconsin DVR to serve an additional 105 Blind and Visually Impaired consumers.

BLIND CONSUMERS: There were 105 applicants for VR services. 92 initial Individual Plans for Employment were completed and 25 individuals were rehabilitated upon achieving competitive employment.

On May 18, 2010 there were 296 active cases with Individual Plans for Employment. Majority of these cases were receiving training. There were 25 cases on the DVR Order of Selection waitlist.

DVR VR case expenditures on all blind cases this SFY '10, up to May 18, 2010 was \$1,081,673.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED CONSUMERS: There were 208 applicants for VR services. 166 initial Individual Plans for Employment were completed and 46 individuals were rehabilitated upon achieving competitive employment.

On May 18, 2010, there were 409 active cases with Individual Plans for Employment. Majority of these cases were receiving training. There were 68 cases on the DVR Order of Selection waitlist.

DVR VR case expenditures on all visually impaired cases during SFY '10 was \$819,218 as of May 18, 2010.

DEAF-BLIND CONSUMERS: There were 11 applicants for VR services. 9 initial Individual Plans for Employment were completed and 1 individual was rehabilitated upon achieving competitive employment.

On of May 18, 2010, there were 21 active cases with Individual Plans for Employment. Majority of these cases were receiving training.

DVR VR case expenditures on all Deaf-Blind consumers during SFY '10 was \$63,738.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. D'Costa
Director, Bureau of Management Services