

## **Statutory Council on Blindness meeting Teleconference, June 29, 2011**

PRESENT: Eleanor Loomans, Chair; Bill Gallik, Vice-Chair; John Hartman; Bruce Parkinson; Charmaine Piquette; Roberto Torrez, Joan Wucherer, and David Hyde

STAFF: Linda Huffer and Mary Gorman

ABSENT: Kelli Hughes and Ed Weiss

Meeting opened at 1:00 PM. Bruce Parkinson moved to approve the minutes of March 16-17, 2011. Bill Gallik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Roberto Torrez moved to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes of May 19, 2011. Bill Gallik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

No one present for public comment:

### **Status council recruitment**

Eleanor reported that Bill and John submitted re-application and Joan submitted her resignation effective June 30, 2011. Dave Hyde requested he not be re-appointed as ex-officio member as he preferred there be more opportunities for new leadership. All current members will stay in place until the DHS Secretary makes appointments and approves applications. Eleanor officially thanked Dave for his years of service on the council since December 2003 and serving another year as ex-officio after his term ended June 2010.

### **Adult Summer Education Program (July 31 – August 5, 2011)**

Dan Wenzel reported a \$550,000 budget cut to the program. A total of 32 participants have applied for the 2011 program to be held at the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Janesville. Two of these applications are on the waiting list. Adult and youth programs will be held simultaneously thus creating the need for background checks on adult participants. There are 17 new participants, aged 32-84, who have had no prior vision rehabilitation. The sessions will include Braille, Orientation and Mobility, technology, cooking, talking about blindness, and daily living skills. OBVI has been invited to present a morning information meeting.

### **DVR Report: report submitted (Attachment A)**

### **Legislative Update on Council Initiative**

Roberto and Bill are working with Senate and Assembly members to set up the Council. Linda recommended contacting legislators now as it is a good time after the

budget has been signed. Roberto's representative is committed to bringing the issue up in December. Linda recommended that Eleanor make contact to clarify the deadline for Legislative Council application. Rep. Jeff Mercer is the contact for starting with the Legislative Council.

### **Sub-committee reports:**

Employment: no report

Public Relations: Bruce will continue to communicate with Lorretta Himmelsbach on the Wisconsin Council's legislative initiatives.

Roberto explored Wisconsin Council BVI site for Wisconsin support groups. He would like to see groups posted on the Council and/or SCOB website so that the general public knows that the groups exist. Discussion ensued. Linda will check with Loretta regarding who should maintain the list of VIP support groups.

Transportation: Joan attended one transportation meeting in her area but has not seen any action. She reported that Baraboo has added small SUV's and provides step-stools to riders for access to the vans. A company from Georgia is managing the services.

Dave explained that the Surface Transportation Act of 1980 provided federal funds as long as transportation workers maintained collective bargaining rights. This administration could make them all non-profit organizations. Each county should have one person in charge of transportation and there should be a list of all 72 counties. The ADRC's should have a list for each region.

### **White Cane Day: October 15**

Begin to think about activities for blind or visually impaired awareness in each community. Governor's Proclamation has been submitted for signature. Council members discussed strategies for public awareness including Madison TV news magazine, Channel 3, Live at 5:00 interviewing someone on white cane and dog guide travel. Bruce will pursue with the Wisconsin Council. Also proposed were United Way announcements on community activities and submitting the Governor's proclamation through schools. Linda anticipates mailing out the Governor's Proclamation in August.

### **OBVI report**

There's no news on the budget at this time. ARRA federal funds end in September. The OBVI will set up new contracts with the Wisconsin Council and Badger Association. A request has been submitted to the department to hire OBVI staff. In the meantime, OBVI field staff members are moving offices and territories to accommodate statewide needs. Kathleen Bronson moved from Milwaukee to Waukesha office and Doug Martens moved from Rhinelander to Milwaukee office.

**Other Councils:**

Rehab: no report

Vision services: no report

GCPD: report coming

Technology: no report

WCBVI: no report:

During the Wisconsin Council Legislative Day, May 26, legislators came to the room where Wisconsin Council members were meeting. Linda heard that legislators were confused by various issues from different organizations, including two Council names. They would prefer hearing a unified voice on issues from the blind community. Roberto and Linda recommended gathering letters from vision based groups in support of primary issues.

Roberto moved that the council seek letters of support from each of the organizations to support the proposal and request for a legislative study of adult services for the blind and visually impaired. Joan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave will develop a contact list of visually impaired organizations to distribute the proposal, including national organizations such as NFB, ACB.

National Federation of the Blind: State convention was in April 2011. Can carry initiative to board of directors meeting in August to discuss approval. There were resolutions regarding education and transportation funding. The national convention will be held in Orlando in early July.

The National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is developing applications for mobile devices. They are looking for a braille specialist.

Council on Physical Disability: no report, minutes have been requested.

Old Business: none

New Business: Lions Camp, June 12 -17, 2011.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2011, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm., DHS building, 1 W. Wilson Street, Madison.

Meeting Adjourned 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Hartman

**DVR REPORT TO COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS – FFY 2011  
October 1, 2010 through June 27, 2011**

This report provides the Council on Blindness a summary of service delivery to Wisconsin's Blind, Visually Impaired and Deaf-Blind consumers who received vocational rehabilitation services during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 that spans from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. This report covers nine months of FFY 2011 from October 1, 2010 through June 27, 2011.

FFY11 to date, DVR has received 12,412 new applications.

As of June 27, 2011, WIDVR is currently serving 16,402 consumers with active Individual Plans for Employment.

As of June 27, 2011, there are 4,435 on the Order of Selection (OSS) waitlist:

6 OOS Category 1  
2,628 OOS Category 2  
1,801 OOS Category 3

To date, we have 1,891 successful employment outcomes. Total service cost is \$18,055,866. Estimated earnings is \$35,813,264; ROI (annual earnings to cost ratio) – 1.98

Rehab rate is 59%; goal is 55.8% as set by RSA

From February 2009 to present, we have placed 831 OJT expending \$1,226,129

**BLIND CONSUMERS:** This FFY2011 shows 100 applicants for VR services and 65 initial Individual Plans for Employment were completed. We saw 29 individuals rehabilitated upon achieving competitive employment during FFY2011.

On June 27, 2011 there were 279 active cases with Individual Plans for Employment. The majority of these cases were receiving training. There were 28 cases on the DVR Order of Selection waitlist. Case expenditures on all blind rehabilitations this FFY2011, up to June 27, 2011, amounted to \$573,452. Within one year these rehabilitated consumers will earn \$566,478.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED CONSUMERS: There were 169 applicants for VR services and 122 initial Individual Plans for Employment were completed. A total of 41 individuals were rehabilitated upon achieving competitive employment.

On June 27, 2011 there were 442 active cases with Individual Plans for Employment. The majority of these cases were receiving training. There were 74 visually impaired consumers on the DVR Order of Selection waitlist. DVR case expenditures on all rehabilitated visually impaired consumers during FFY2011 was \$323,081 as of June 27, 2011. Within one year these consumers will earn wages of \$616,723.

DEAF-BLIND CONSUMERS: There were 27 deaf-blind applicants for VR services. During FFY2011, 9 initial Individual Plans for Employment were completed and 2 individuals were rehabilitated upon achieving competitive employment.

On of June 27, 2011 there were 29 active cases with Individual Plans for Employment. Most of these cases were receiving training.

DVR VR case expenditures for rehabilitated Deaf-Blind consumers during FFY 2011 amounted to \$12,442. Within one year these consumers will earn \$19,240.