

SCOB April 15th Agenda

9:00 am Call the meeting to order, Take attendance Jo, Ana, Janet, Troy, Frank and Lee slightly late, Introduction of new member Frank Lopez. Blind last 25 years, from California, retired from teaching, hearing loss. Frank interested in Education or employment.

9:15 am:

Discussion regarding following items:

1. Legislative Day agenda, items SCOB wants our legislature to consider. Troy, Janet, Jo cannot attend, Frank has transportation issue for Legislative day. No public transportation to get there. Informed Frank Ana handles transportation. Email time location Madison Taxi. 10:00 until 2:30 or 3PM. Room opens at 10:00. Don't want you to stand around. Big table in middle with seats all around walls. Top board members at the table take seats around the walls. Couple of speakers, bring some good information, newer state senator supportive of state of Wisconsin, (who is blind or VI) give information on what's going on during the day. Gary Goeke update everyone on the bills going forward from council. One regarding service dogs. Budget discussion about Governors budget who cut out a lot of things. Along with feedback. 11:30 lunch provided by council, after lunch when we visit offices. Will take packets and go from office to office to talk to legislators or interns about. WCBlind is the Legislative day. Fun day lots going on. Gather a business card from each of the legislators.
2. SCOB Membership status updates and Recruiting efforts necessary. 3 Open positions on SCOB. NFB State convention, John Fritz BEP operator mentioned we had a few openings, someone in the crowd mentioned OBVI web site.
3. SLA/RSVW follow up meeting in person/via phone? Discussion and scheduling.
 - a. Any additional BEP follow up questions: Janet suggested: Answers questions in writing, then have a phone meeting. Lee; we did not get through the full agenda, maybe request a 2 hour meeting instead of the 1 ½ hour meeting. Governors committee meeting recommendation was to try to get as much in writing as possible and bring back to June meeting. Start up inventory was not really discussed. ECBV meeting face to face gather information with committee. Jo, overall impression was that it is a paternalistic. People who have been there a long time have a lock on things. BEP operator has to be there only 1/week. Seems to lack move and more towards nepotism. Troy concerned what is happening. Program is losing locations and seems to have no visionary in the program. Frank has some knowledge of operations of BEP in California. There is not an oversight. SLA is on the brink of not being able to justify its position and relevance. Jo " Tend to agree with Frank" well working machine in place, like to keep it in place and no one is challenging it. Enid Glenn made a comment about the contracts not being looked at in a while. Lee is some want to run small programs as they get older this was the way to bring new people in. Now down to 26 operators. Openly stating that they are not looking for new locations. Jo calculated that using one focus per option is the only focus.
 - b. Jo suggested taking time to put a strategic plan to approach the BEP program.
 - i. Federal match going into DVR case evaluation.
 1. Purchase Machines, train DVR blind counselors or pay their salary,

2. Federal audit would need to know how funds are supposed to be used versus how they are actually used.
- ii. Cannot afford the Machines
 1. Federal matching would potentially be one source. Allow BEP operators to purchase machines from the SLA in a deductible loan type method.
 2. Inventory initial stock \$300,000. Cannot account for the initial start up funding.
 - iii. Vocational goal as BEP operator
 1. Should allow participants to see BEP as an option. Those who aren't fully sure could be employed by an operator as an employee.
 - iv. DVR counselors believe the BEP is closed and no open positions available for Blind.
 1. DVR Counselors should have a clear understanding with regards to BEP options for clients and know the growth options currently, waiting period to get a license and options available in their area. Should meet with a current operator to understand just exactly what the day to day activities involve.
 - v. Interim Training facility.
 1. This should be a training only facility separate from any operations that can fiscally earn income. Not on any location where a company or employer, or federal or state location.
 - vi. SS information facts:
 1. Move the operator into a support role for operators if they are not ready to leave the benefits they have through Social Security Supplemental or Disability benefits.
 - vii. DVR focused with Blind only per Frank in California and results were better.
 1. When certain councilors were the ones who constantly had blind or VI clients the success rate for the Blind/VI was higher.
 - viii. Governors committed meeting brought up the fact about councilors specific to the blind. Other DVR supposed to have access to those individuals to assist with Blind in finding employment.
 1. Provide the answers to Governors committee and let them take it forward.
- c. BEP operator retirement process? Should BEP have a program in place for those who no longer actively participate in the daily operations of their business consider some sort of retirement planning process with those individuals?
 - i. What is the goal of the Randolph Shepherd act and BEP program regarding?
 - ii. Contact Budget/Finance and Auditing to see what happen to the \$300,000

iii.

- d. Sensitivity committee from DVR where we can take their information forward.
 - i. We need to reach out to the Enid to see if we can attend and present about 10 minutes of information to this committee.

11:30 break for food etc. Broke for lunch at 11:45 return to meeting at 12:15, Jo will be gone the rest of the meeting, Ana had to leave early. Frank, Lee, Doug, Troy, Janet.

- 4. Schedule meetings for each committee and follow up from prior meetings
 - a. Executive, recruitment, employment, transportation, PR and IA.
 - b. SCOB meetings for the next 12 months: 4 quarterly, any additional known at this time.
- 5. Committee Reports and discussion: Jan Teleconference (TBS) 2016, March (TBS) 2016, July 13th 2015 and October 6th 2015,
 - a. Legislative Committee/ Scheduled meeting
 - b. Executive Janet Lee, Troy Second, Frank Added enthusiasm, Lee Accepted.
 - c. Recruitment Scheduled meeting
 - i. Frank's comments. Was like most interview processes that he has gone through. SCOB showed it had zeal.
 - d. Employment Scheduled meeting
 - e. Transportation Scheduled meeting
 - f. PR and IA Scheduled meeting
 - g. BEP committee scheduled meeting
- 6. Bylaws annual review and recommendations for any changes or updates:
 - a. Vote on any changes or updates.
 - i. Motion by Chair made to change our name in bylaws and statutes to Statutory Council on Blindness of Wisconsin. 2nd by Troy Hergert, Vote taken 5 Ayes by 0 Nays. Motion passes. Amendment to Bylaws to be forwarded for update.
 - ii. Jo Grove left meeting early missed out on voting 3 open positions which no one was there to take a vote on amendments or changes.
 - b. Motion by Troy, Second Janet, Vote: Aye, No opposed motion minutes held off of the page at this time.

1:00 PM

- 7. Public Comment

Follow up questions or concerns.

8. Blind Inc brought up by NFB as a 90 percent success rate when it comes to employment for it's clients. DVR seems to have an issue allowing clients to use Blind Inc as an option. 3 states show the success rate, this is something that should be looked into further. Employment committee to review and potentially contact Dick Davis in MN to discover more about Blind Inc's options.
9. Meeting brought to a close at 2:15PM.