

6/25/2015

SCOB Employment Committee Meeting notes

In attendance: Frank L, Troy H, Doug T, Lee Y, and Tom L.

Not available: Janet D, Jo G.

Conversation initially started regarding 2 actions:

1. House Ways Means Committee June 16<sup>th</sup> actions to SSI and SSDI overpayments
2. Follow up on questions/actions by agencies who are supposed to assist the blind find employment.

Opened meeting at 10:10 AM after everyone had arrived and we attempted to reach those who weren't on the conference call. Doug started with update on 4 organizations.

1. Kenosha Achievement Center: Doug has contact information, link to a web page, some info on services they provide which will all be documented into one document tracking each service we are able to locate in Wisconsin. Doug followed up with a phone call and email to them to try to find out answers to our listed questions.
2. Advocap: Doug has contact information, link to a web page, some info on services they provide which will all be documented into one document tracking each service we are able to locate in Wisconsin. Doug left a message with a person in the person who is in charge of the services.
3. RCS Empowers: Doug has contact information, link to a web page, some info on services they provide which will all be documented into one document tracking each service we are able to locate in Wisconsin. Doug talked with them via the phone has many answers to the questions but will also follow up by sending them the questions we have to see if they have any additional information that could be helpful.
4. World Services for the blind: Tom provided follow up with [World Services for the Blind \(once was run by the Lions\)](#). [We have a Brochure and the 2014 WSB Course Catalog along with a contact person and they responded with answers to the questions we provided.](#) Doug will add this information to the combined information as we gather it from each of the organizations from the list.

Troy will continue to assemble the information he has on the organizations he has reached out to and add that to the information Doug will provide on the information he has obtained so far. We can then all add our information from the organizations that each of us reached out to and provide an eventual web site link with approved recommendations of actions for the blind when it comes to ways for them to find employment within the locations they live.

We then moved into discussions about the House Ways Means committee actions or no actions.

Doug suggested we provide a mixed response of how different members of our committee views the issue. 1. Remove the barriers to employment by allowing the disabled to earn as much income as they are able without taking away their benefits. 2. Increase the amount a person can earn before

losing their benefits. 3. Change it from a dollar amount to a time factor. Move to a 3 years or 5 years of sustainable income before losing their benefits.

After many differing opinions the decision was made that one thing we all agreed on was that we focus on the disincentives toward employment for individuals who are visually impaired in our letter, and not necessarily make specific solution suggestions (of an unlimited payment, or a time limit of twenty quarters, etc.).

The meeting ended at 11:00 and there was a motion made by Troy for us to create a letter, submit it to our SCOB council via email for comment with a 2 day time limit to provide comment on our letter make adjustments and send to the House Ways Means committee. The motion was seconded by Lee.

Vote taken and there were no nay's motion carried.

Doug was to create the letter email it out wait the 2 days then if comments or suggestions were to be made, do so as fast as possible, send back to our members and then send to the House Ways and Means committee by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Frank, Troy had to leave the call. Tom, Doug Lee remained on the call longer to address BEP, SLA, RSVW as an option for employment and next steps in our process with them in July.