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## State of Wisconsin Statutory Council on Blindness

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### Meeting Minutes March 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM

Present: Doug Tikkanen, Janet Dickey, Jeff Peil, Troy Hergert, Phillip Mason, Katie Kasper, Frank Lopez; Liaison: Tom Langham  
Guest: Carrie Molke  
Not Present: Lee Young

9:30 Meeting called to order:

- 1) Review minutes from December meeting – No minutes were available to approve. Jeff to gather notes from SCOB members and prepare for approval at next meeting.
- 2) It was noted the terms of 3 current SCOB members are due to expire June 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Doug had already submitted his application for reappointment and Janet and indicated that she was going to submit for an additional term. Jo indicated that she was undecided.
- 3) OBVI Report – Tom reported that interviews were being conducted to fill vacant Green Bay area position. Tom presented statistics on the Blind and Visually Impaired, in WI, over 1000 newly visually impaired persons last year, the majority of which were over the age of 55. Jo indicated that she would forward some of the demographic data that she has collected to Tom. Tom also indicated that a Deaf-Blind specialist position was being considered.
- 4) Review of recent communications between Jo and some members of SCOB. Jo indicated she considered this was a personal issue and should not be an issue of discussion for the SCOB. Jo requested a vote to approve or disapprove of her continuing on the SCOB, this request was denied by Doug, SCOB Chairperson.
- 5) Janet motioned that the SCOB prepare and adopt an Ethics / Code of conduct. Frank seconded, motion approved
- 6) BEP review: It was noted that it did appear that the SCOB recommendations to the BEP were being considered and that it seemed that there was no response to any of the recommendations. Janet felt ECBV opinion of the recommendations were not valid and felt that SLA had responsibility for taking action on the recommendations not the ECBV.  
Troy motioned that this issue be sent back to BEP committee for further review and action (and get Phillips thoughts), Jeff seconded, motion passed.
- 7) Jo raised question of BEP operators to vote on BEP. Phillip mentioned that since the SCOB does not have any control of finances or contracts of BEP that he felt that was no conflict of interest. Jeff motioned that this issue be added to the Ethics/code of conduct discussion, Jo seconded, Motion approved.
- 8) Upcoming SenseAbility team meeting. Send any questions you may have in advance to Jeff for compilation.

### **Committee & Council Reports:**

- 1) Governor's Council – Lee was not able to attend the last meeting, Jo reported from the previous meeting, she reported Department of Transportation discussion on Photo ID.
- 2) Legislative Committee (Katie & Jo) – no report.
- 3) BEP Committee (Lee, Janet, Doug & Phillip) – See above discussion)
- 4) PR and Information access (Troy Lee & Doug) – Responded back to prior research and changes to the web site. Changes not yet updated but requested to take those changes again and update the website.
- 5) Transportation (Janet, Doug, Lee, (Phillip to be ad-hoc) – Gathered information Frank indicated that issues still exist and we need to address this further.
- 6) Employment (Jo, Janet, Troy, Lee, Phil & Doug) – The vendors used by DVR were beginning to see issues of restricted territory and Business Services were sometimes an issue for them with the same companies.
- 7) Executive (Janet, Troy, Doug & Jeff) – Met in January, Jeff to distribute minutes.
- 8) Legislative Day – all is set for tomorrow. Jo, Janet, Doug and Phillip to attend

### **Upcoming SCOB Meetings:**

- 1) June 2016 Teleconference
- 2) September 2016 – In person
- 3) December 2016 Teleconference
- 4) March – In person to be held in coordinating the Legislative Day.

Goal to get dates established by 4/1.

Jo recommended to keep meetings to one day except for March meeting.

### **Discussion of SCOB / DHS Liaison roles and responsibilities:**

- 1) Tom stated that all SCOB members are appointed by the Secretary and thus fall under the umbrella of DHS.
- 2) Tom noted that the Family Care program requested input from SCOB and received no input. Committee could not gather information on how changes would impact our population.
- 3) Jo stated that the role of Liaison has been established over a timeframe of many years of precedence
- 4) Jo indicated that she does not see any issue with the current role of Liaison.
- 5) Doug indicated that per By-Laws in the establishment of the Council there is no reference to the position. Only 9 members from the council and the Liaison is not one of those in the Bylaws.

Phillip motioned that an ad-hoc committee to discuss the role of Liaison. Troy seconded, motion passed. Jeff, Jo, Katie and Janet to work on this.

### **By-law modification:**

- Bylaw amendment: 6.2 Election of the officers and the Executive Committee shall be the last order of business at the last council meeting of the state fiscal year.
- Bylaw Amendment: 6.3 Terms of office shall be one (1) year and shall begin July 1st. The chairperson shall preside at all the Statutory Council on Blindness meetings and shall perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Statutory Council on Blindness. The Vice-chair shall serve, convene, and conduct meetings when the Chair is absent.

Janet Motioned to amend the by-laws, Frank seconded. Motion passed.

### **DHS Overview presentation / discussion**

Carrie presented a review of DHS and it's components.

**Meeting adjourned by Phillip, All in Favor, Motion passes.**

SCOB of Wisconsin