

AGENDA Minutes
STATUTORY COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS
Teleconference meeting
Tuesday, June 25, 2013
9 A.M. – 12 Noon

- 9:00 AM** **Call Meeting to Order** – meeting was called to order at 9:07 am by the Chair, Roberto Torrez
Members Present: Roberto Torrez, Josephine Grove, Lee Young, Eleanor Loomans, Joanne Schehl, Bill Gallik, and John Hartman. Staff present: Linda Huffer and Cathy Frosch-Hellenbrand.
Chairperson Torrez reported that Ed Weiss sent in a letter of resignation due to family health reasons and is no longer able to make the Council meetings.
- 9:05 AM** **Approve Council Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2013**
Approve Executive Committee Minutes of May 24, 2013
(Deferred to a later time – members having trouble downloading information on their computers. The Chair is resending the minutes and will ask for approval later in this meeting.)
- 9:15 AM** **Public Comment – No public comment at this time.**
- 9:20 AM** **SCOB Survey – Roberto Torrez**
Originally the Council wanted to put survey questions into a program called Survey Monkey and wanted to know if DHS could do that for the Council. Also discussed was the fact that we would have to put the Survey on the DHS website and link to other organizations such as Vision Forward, The Wisconsin Council of the Blind, etc. Would we need to send out hard copies, and would some copies need to be in Braille? Jo Grove suggested that she use the Council’s Survey in her research study report that she is doing for her dissertation at the University.

Motion: Eleanor Loomans moved that the Council’s Survey be incorporated within Jo Grove’s research study report. Seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9:30 AM** **Update Research Study Report – Josephine Grove**
Jo reported that her method and design was approved by her advisor. She will be using a qualitative study (subjective) of why things do or don’t happen. The design will be a Delphi design. This design uses a panel of experts from around the state. The panel will meet 3 different times to discuss the important topics in her research. All information will be put

together from these meetings. Data will be gathered – using the Council survey, Council members will be asked to help gather information. The research will be looking at what services our state has now for the blind and visually impaired and what services are needed for the future and what are possible solutions. The timeframe is to begin the project in October and to be completed in March.

9:40 AM Nominating Committee Report – Bill Gallik

Bill explained to the Council that there are 3 open positions that need to be filled and 1 seat (Jo Grove's) that is up for reappointment. The nominating committee met and looked at the applications that they received and decided the applicants should be recommended to the Council for their vote. Bill gave a short background on the candidates so the full Council could ask questions and/or vote on the nominating committee's recommendation.

Motion was made to approve the 3 new candidates and to recommend the reappointment of Jo Grove to a three year term to the Statutory Council on Blindness and forward the recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health Services.

Moved by Joanne Schehl, Seconded by Lee Young. Motion carried Unanimously.

Eleanor Loomans reminded the Council that as an ex-official member that her one year is up and that she plans to leave the Council. Chairperson Torrez asked Eleanor if she would be interested in being on the Council for one more year. Council members agreed with the Chairperson.

Motion was made to have Eleanor Loomans remain on the Council as an ex-official member for one more year. Motion carried unanimously.

9:55 AM Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired Report – Linda Huffer, OBVI Director

- OBVI will be hiring a new staff person in Central Office to work on invoices, leases, contracts, ILOB grant, etc.
- OBVI budget is ending for 2012 on June 30, 2013. New fiscal year starts July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. All offices will see a budget cut but we will not know what kind of a cut until we are in the new fiscal year.
- The Federal Independent Living Older Blind Grant funds have been cut by 6%.
- OBVI gave mini classes on technology, crafts including braille art, food, and resources to blind and visually impaired campers at the June Lions Camp for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Over 100

consumers attended our mini classes. It was a huge success and we were asked if we would come back next year.

- We are in the planning stages of having a 1 week session for 20 newly blind/visually impaired consumers in September to work on Independent Living Skills, Orientation and Mobility, etc. Age limit is 18 years and older. No cost to the consumer except transportation to and from the camp. More information will be given at the next Council meeting.

Council members were concerned about OBVI budget and wanted to know if any staff will be let go from state service. Director responded that no staff will be eliminated. At this time it looks like OBVI will be able to maintain its current projects, etc.

10:15 AM Other Council Reports: Lee Young reported on the National Federation Of The Blind WI Chapter. NFB Wisconsin is working on the Adult & Youth Summer programs. NFB feels it is important to work with DVR on employment issues affecting blind and visually impaired citizens of WI. They are asking DVR to meet and work with them.
No other members had updates on Other Councils.

10:40 AM DVR Report – Enid Glenn, Director – Bureau of Management Services, DWD/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR liaison to the SCOB)

Enid reported that their quarterly report is not completed yet but she will have that information at our next Council meeting. Her report included:

- DVR's goal is to have 20 WDA consultants around the state. They currently have 19. The WDA's duty is to connect with businesses to find out their needs and job opportunities and then work with DVR Counselors to find the right consumer to fill these job openings. They are finding out this is a good way to find successful referrals for DVR clients.
- Walgreens Ready Program is one of the success stories. They are expanding their activities. They are hiring people with disabilities and they do their own onsite training.
- DVR is seeing other business expansions around our state as well.
- The Sensibility Team gets together to discuss issues concerning sensory disabilities including deaf, blind and deafblind. They keep issues on the forefront. They work on helping to solve the difficult cases and to help those who are in need. They also provide trainings for the DVR staff. Currently they are focused on transition from school to work and strengthening advocacy. John Haugh is the Lead for the Sensibility Team and his telephone number is 608-261-2126. Enid's phone number is 608- 261-0073. Every month the Sensibility Team presents on different issues.
- New Resource on DVR Website: How to become BEP operator.

- DVR – DHS – DPI are collaborating on youth job training. DVR will reimburse employers up to 500 hours to hire youth while learning in a work situation. Over 100 sponsors agreed to do this so far. All high schools in Wisconsin are able to participate in this project.

11:05 AM Sub-committee Reports:

After considerable discussion all Council members agreed that the sub-committees (Transportation, Employment and Public Relations & Information Access) should meet once per month. They can meet by phone, email or whatever works for the committee members. They will put together their goals, suggestions, what changes are needed, action steps, who they need to meet with, timeline, and have a plan to follow along with who can help, contacts that are needed. Each committee will present their initial goals, ideas, plan to the full council at their next meeting in September.

**11:40 AM Approve Council Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2013
Approve Executive Committee Minutes of May 24, 2013**

Motion was made and seconded to approve Council Minutes and Executive Committee Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

11:45 AM New Business

Council member Joanne Schehl brought up a concern about blind and visually impaired citizens that need to be in the hospital or nursing home and staff at these facilities do not know how to work with the blind. Should the Council pursue this concern?

11:55 AM Next Meeting: Schedule September 2013

Chairperson Roberto Torrez will contact members with possible dates in August and will let Linda and Cathy know of confirmed date in order for them to find a meeting place. The Clarion Suites was recommended.

12:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Statutory on Blindness Council Meeting. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned!