

## Statutory Council on Blindness

Clarion, Madison WI

Monday, September 8, 2014

Roberto Torrez called the meeting to order at 10:20 am September 8, 2014.

- Present: In Person: Roberto Torrez, Jo Ann Gustavson, Lee Young, Janet Dickey, and Doug Tikkanen
- Via Phone: Bill Gallik, Josephine Grove
- Absent: Tom Langham, Anastasia Detert, Eleanor Loomas
- Guests: Troy Hergert who is waiting for his membership paperwork to be processed.

### Welcome & introduction of new members by Doug Tikkanen

Doug introduced Troy Hergert and Nurudeen Amusa who will join the Council once their paperwork is complete.

- Troy is from Milwaukee. He is currently employed at Vision Forward as an IT person. He is also a musician.
- Nurudeen has a Masters of Special Education from the University of Missouri. He also works at Vision Forward. He is very enthusiastic about what he can offer the Council.

### Update on Research Study by Josephine Grove

- Josephine stated that she would submit her proposal for approval in the next 4 weeks. Three separate committees have to approve it.
- Once it is approved, she will have a pilot study that will include 20 members. From these responses she will then draft 20 questions
- Delphi group; which will consists of 20-25 blind and visually impaired leaders in the state of WI. She hopes to have the Pilot group complete the survey in November; and the Delphi group complete the study in December of January. This will all be done online.

### OBVI Report by Thomas Langham

- There was no report; as Tom was not in attendance.

Additional comments:

- Roberto Torrez made a motion that the Executive Committee work with OBVI to hammer out what roles each have. There is some question about who will take minutes, and send out notices. The Council wants clarification. Doug Tikkanen 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

### Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

Additional Comments:

- There was discussion on how we can get the word out to relevant industries and businesses that currently employ visually impaired/blind people. We will work on getting the word out to those organizations in a place that they can then read and know when our meetings occur and how to provide any public comments they may want to present.
- Could OBVI/DHS put a hyperlink on the SCOB website to sign up for alerts? Or a link for public comments?
- Bill Gallik said that there is never any public comments at other organizations that he belongs to. In our situation it was discussed that many people don't even know about us and if we get the word out maybe there would be public comments and we should make an effort to provide that better to our community.

- Janet Dickey made a motion that someone from the Council decide which agencies/organizations to send e-mails to regarding to public notices and alerts. Lee Young 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Ayes. Motion passed.

#### Approval of June 23 SCOB Council minutes & August 29 Executive Committee Minutes

- Doug Tikkanen made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23 & August 29. Lee young 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

#### SCOB participation in fall DVR conference

- Roberto had agreed to do the presentation at the DVR fall conference. He told us that he could not fulfill that commitment as he was going to start school, and would not be able to make the conference.
- Josephine Grove said she could do the presentation. The presentation is to be 10-15 minutes long.
- It was agreed that the best presentation would be one where Josephine should acknowledge what DVR is doing well, and then let them know some things that we would like to see them improve on.
- There was some discussion about how we can get DVR and OBVI to work together. It seems that there is a large disconnect between agencies. We would like to see one agency to take care of all services for the Blind or Visually Impaired. Minnesota, Illinois, and other surrounding states have one State agency providing services for the Blind. Is this what WI should adapt?
- There was a discussion about arranging a meeting with members of the MN, IL, and/or IA agencies. Doug Tikkanen and Janet Dickey will look into this. Bill Gallik, Lee Young, Troy Hergert indicated they would assist once a plan is prepared for next steps.
- Jo should find a counselor who has had success placing a client in the private sector. Find a couple positive closed cases. Then find out what the counselor's did to successfully place the clients in to successful career positions and convince them to come to that DVR leadership meeting to provide that to the meeting.

#### DVR Report

- Enid Glenn called in to our meeting. She had two other people on the line with her: Andrea Simon & Susan Paul.
- Enid stated that the RSVW (Randolph Shepherd Vendors of WI) audit will take place this fall.
- 3 DVR consumers are interested in the BEP (Business Enterprise Program).
- The amount of money in the BEP account continues to grow. This money is used for repairs and maintenance of equipment.
- Andrea and Susan are part of the BSE (Business Service section of DVR. There are 20 BSE's scattered around the state.
- The BSE works with companies to see if there are any employment opportunities for disabled people.
- These new BSE roles started in 2013. To date they have place over 700 disabled people with these companies. These BSE works with all disabled people.
- Currently disabled consumers have to go through their DVR counselor to take advantage of the BSE services. Doug suggested that the BSE opportunities for employment from the companies be made available to the consumer. Roberto also indicated that it would be better for the openings to be searchable by the disabled instead of a councilor deciding if the disabled individual should know about the openings. Enid indicated that she would need to look into this further.
- Enid stated that there might not be enough time at the DVR Fall Conference for the SCOB presentation.

#### Next SCOB meeting discussion:

- Lee Young made a motion and Doug Tikkanen 2<sup>nd</sup> it, to have the December SCOB meeting in person. This might provide the option for the presenters who didn't make it to this September meeting to be at the December meeting in person.
- Lee made an amendment to her original motion to make the December meeting a two day meeting; December 8 & 9, 2014. Vote taken, Motion passed.

#### Election of Officers

- There were three nominations for Chairperson:
  - Roberto Torrez, Doug Tikkanen, and Bill Gallik.
  - Roberto and Bill declined. Doug Tikkanen accepted the nomination.
  - Douglas Tikkanen takes over as Chairperson beginning here at this meeting.
- There were two nominations for Vice Chair:
  - Janet Dickey and Josephine Grove.
  - Josephine accepted nomination.
  - Josephine Grove takes over as Vice Chairperson beginning here at this meeting today.
- Jo Ann Gustafson was nominated for Secretary.
  - She accepted. Jo Ann continues as Secretary today.
- Member at Large had two nominations:
  - Troy Hergert and Janet Dickey were nominated for Member at Large.
  - Troy declined saying that he didn't know much about the Council and that he would serve once he got his feet wet.
  - Janet Dickey accepted nomination and was elected as Member at Large.
  - Janet Dickey takes over role as Member at Large beginning today at this meeting:

#### Open committee membership:

- Jo Grove made a motion, and Bill Gallik 2<sup>nd</sup> to defer committee selection until the December meeting. Motion passed.

#### Council Reports

- Governor Council---
  - Lee Young will e-mail us her report when she gets her computer fixed.
- Assistive Technology Council-
  - Lee Young said that the iPhone 6 will be released soon.
- Physical Disabilities Council-Eleanor Loomans:
  - No report, Eleanor was not in attendance.
- WI-Council of the Blind-Josephine Grove—
  - WI Education Department is busy implementing textbook law. This law states that disabled people can receive their textbooks in different formats.
  - WI is only one of five states that have this law.
- NFB of WI-Lee Young—
  - The Wisconsin State convention was held in La Crosse in April. There is a push to recruit more youth to the organization.
  - Lee will send us hard copy of her notes when her computer is fixed. The National convention is in Orlando, FL.

### Sub Committees

- Transportation—Bill Gallik
  - This committee consists of Bill Gallik, Jo Ann Gustavson, and Janet Dickey.
  - Bill will arrange a phone conference among the subcommittee members.
- Employment-Roberto Torrez
  - There was no report from Roberto as he had to leave the meeting to catch his transportation home.
- Public relations and Information Access Committee--- Eleanor Loomans
  - Because Eleanor is only involved in the White Cane awareness project, It was decided that we will defer the Public Relations and Information Access Committee selection until a time when we can find out what this committee really does.

- Next meeting is set for Monday and Tuesday, December 8-9, 2014 in Madison.

A motion was made by Lee Young and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janet Dickey to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion passed.