

# STATUTORY COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS MEETING

December 19, 2013

9:00 A.M.

## Teleconference

1-877-820-7831. The participant access code is 988055

## AGENDA Notes

(Topic times are flexible.)

A. 9:00 AM Call the Meeting to order: Attending: Tom, Roberto Torrez, Bill, Joann, Janet, Doug, John Hartman, Lee Young, Absent: Eleanor Loomis, Jo Grove

Guests: Larry Dresser, is a section chief and will update the council on DVR outcomes pertaining to blind and visually impaired, including an update on the BEP program. Jim Schumacher, will be able to speak about the SenseAbility Team and respond to any questions.

B. 9:05 AM Approve Council Meeting Minutes of September 23-24, 2013

Janet so moved and seconded by Bill to accept. So moved

Approve Executive Committee Minutes of December 13, 2013

Joann so moved and seconded by Doug to accept. So moved

C. 9:15 AM Recruitment plan – Bill Gallik

- Currently there is one member that needs to be recruited for.
  - Doug will take over as Chair of Nominating committee, motion carried
  - OBVI will help send out a notice of recruitment (Doug will contact Ana)

D. 9:30 AM Public Comments

Lee commented she will be on the Governor's Committee

E. 9:40 AM Update Research Study report and – Josephine Grove

Jo not able to report

F. 9:50 AM OBVI report – Thomas Langham

- Interviews begin December 16 for a new Office Director. There should be a new director in place sometime in January.
- OBVI staff is developing a curriculum for the June Lions Camp training.
  - Lions Camp will be June 9-13
- Federal Fiscal Year 2013 7OB Report has been given to DVR for review. Tom will share the report with the Council after it has been approved.
- OBVI is working on developing program goals for ILOB program.
- One of the part-time rehabilitation specialists (Jean Kenevan in Appleton) has recently been approved to work at .8 instead of half-time.
- Tom has heard no news yet from the Wisconsin Independent Living Council. He has sent an email to Mike Bachhuber to see if they are going to make any amendments.
  - Bill is a member of the Council and will ask one of the Executive Committee members about it.
- Tom read that Dan from Wisconsin School of the Blind will be moving to Minnesota.

G. 10:15 AM DVR Report - Enid Glenn, Director - Bureau of Management Services, DWD/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR liaison to the SCOB)

Larry Dresser, is a section chief and will update the council on DVR outcomes pertaining to blind and visually impaired, including an update on the BEP program. In charge of DVR processes.

Jim Schumacher, will be able to speak about the SenseAbility Team and respond to any questions.

- Larry reported that Enid typically reports on DVR: 25% increase in successful VIP closures, (128 closures) with typical income about \$21,000 annually (near level of other disabilities). From 43% to 54% closures for VIP. Ages 14 to in their 80s, WI DVR is ahead of the curve nationally.
- Larry shared that if there is any data you (COB) would like, let Enid know and we can provide it. Shared info on BEP program as well.
  - DVR will be 100% funded with additional 10 staff and received "promise grant" for youth, \$32 million promise grant earmarked for youth and family.
  - Will share information electronically on 2013 outcomes for visually impaired
    - Verified 128 visually impaired people closed in 2013. Average wage \$21,000
    - Discussion followed
      - Bill and Doug would like to know what Employment Vendors used.

- Jim shared that all consumers are aware of the impact to SS and other benefits as they earn.
      - A) Getting employment, B) keeping employment, or C) advancing in employment
      - Purchase “benefits review” going in
        - Asked for information on who would be in level B or C of the 128?
    - Asked about Employment Vendors data (which provider works with visually impaired successfully).
      - Suggested consumer & counsel have already had worked out accommodations needed to successful employment.
  - Lee Young shared she had to find her own trainer/provider, had to disagree with DVR counselor, and had to use the CAP program to work with the particular vendor. Jim shared DVR takes client choice seriously.
  - Lee also asked about BEP program. Suggested COB meet with Regional Directors about BEP program so information can be shared
    - Jim suggested SensiAbility team visit a Vending stand and learn more about BEP program.
      - Jim will put on next SensiAbility agenda to have members visit vending program. (one at JEF building, and Lee Young at Capital building). Visit Target is January 2014.
    - Roberto suggested SensiAbility plan a visit, and COB identify vendors to visit and recommendations to improve the BEP program. Then work together to implement changes.
      - Creating ideas of expanding BEP
  - Larry shared Lori Lang report (Lori is DVR person for BEP) on BEP.
    - Lee recommended policies seem vague (changed language?). Policies seem to not follow state and federal regulations? Example is latest bids (referring to working capital).
      - Larry will follow up with Enid and Lori about it.

Discussion followed...

#### H. 10:40 AM Report of the meeting with the SenseAbility Team of DVR on November 19, 2013

- Of the Executive Committee, Doug Tikkanen and Roberto Torrez were present at the 11/19 meeting, as well as Tom Langham.
- SCOB member presented their PowerPoint presentation to the DVR group.
- Council members felt that the DVR group doesn't actually have the power to make administrative changes and that the Council should take steps to find out who has the authority to make those changes.
- DVR group requested that a SCOB member be present as a representative at future SenseAbility meetings.
  - i. Jo Grove requested to be the representative.
- Lee: contacted by DVR consumer about the BEP program because the DVR counselor didn't know about program. Lee suggested the DVR regional directors might be the best contact to pass on BEP information to the Counselors.
- Seems to be a disconnect between BEP and DVR Counselors.
- DVR online information is limited about the BEP program? Suggested we (COB) ask why more information isn't shared with Counselors.
- Roberto reported that Enid Glenn shared with him information about the BEP program.
  - Discussion followed. (Lee and Janet recommend CAP advocate when discussion BEP with DVR) Vendors run BEP but have no authority.
    - Federal codes seem to not have been followed by BEP?
    - Does the Vendors see it the same as Lee and Janet? So do and some don't, based on the minutes of the committee.
  - Leadership of program (BEP) seems confused, consensus is not reached, and a great deal of inconsistency if evident. Who is in charge of the program?
    - Roberto suggested Lee and Janet develop a document with recommendations for the BEP program. Then it can be reviewed by the COB and action plans developed.
  - John suggested also have concept of BEP expanded beyond vendor program and brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (what other options could be developed other than just the vending locations, “get beyond the grub & grime”). Employment committee will follow up.

#### I. 10:55 AM Report of the meeting with Loretta Himmelsbach, Executive Director WCB&VI on 11-19-2013

- Planning of Legislative day 2014 (TBA). Plan COB meeting to coordinate
- Planning needed to be improved
  - Scheduling with Representative of member district.
- WCB would consider the possibility of looking at employment services.

#### J. 11:05 AM Other Councils – Reports:

1. Governor's Council on People with Disabilities – Lee Young  
Lee is new COB representative
2. Assistive Technology Council - Roberto Torrez

Roberto shared information:

Council working with other organizations

Needs to improve accessibility!

3. Rehabilitation Advisory Council (RAC)  
No report
4. Physical Disabilities Council (PDC) – Eleanor Loomans  
No Report
5. Wisconsin Council of the Blind & VI (WCB&VI) - Jo Grove  
No Report
6. Vision Forward Association –  
No Report
7. American Council of the Blind (ACB) –  
No report
8. National Federation of the Blind Wis (NFBW) – Lee Young
  - Working on “Teach Campaign” – objective is addressing that secondary students will be supplied with electronic copy of books, etc. NFB would like this at federal level.
  - January 11<sup>th</sup> at Vision Forward will hold a Saturday event demonstrating accessible equipment.
  - Making Airport ticket machines more accessible to blind
    - Suggested ATM touch screen included
  - NFB meeting in Washington with legislation
    - Is there a WI scheduled legislative day?
  - Second week of April, NFB WI convention in La Crosse

K. 11:20 AM Sub-committees report and schedule of their next meeting.

1. Transportation – Bill Gallik  
John, Joann, Bill, Roberto, will e-mail schedule suggestion
2. Employment – Roberto Torrez  
Eleanor, Roberto, Bill, John, Janet, Doug, Lee: January 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 to 1:00 PM  
Ana will set up teleconference  
Asking for input from members  
Discussion followed
3. Public Relations & Information Access – Eleanor Loomans  
No report  
(March teleconference on legislative day) moved and second

L. 11:35 AM White cane safety day activities report.

Bill reported on Duluth activity with Mayor.

M. 11:50 AM Next meeting: Schedule March/April 2014 date.

Will schedule once we know WCB's legislative day

N. 12:00 PM Meeting Adjourned.

Moved and seconded