

SCOB Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015

9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

To join the Meeting by telephone:
The number to call is 1-877-820-7831.

Participant passcode is 988055.

9/17 meeting Minutes

9:30 AM Welcome and Introduction –Douglas Tikkanen, Chairperson

Call to order at 9:30. Members: Doug, Tom, Frank, Jo, Janet, Troy, Jeff, (Lee will join for election).

- Welcome Jeff Peil guest.

Jeff shared he works for Wheaton health care, uses Dog guide, on Beyond Vision Board, responsible print technology for organization

- Review and Approval of Minutes done (we don't have current secretary)
- Review and Approval of Agenda Agenda approved.

Overview of Recommendations to DVR regarding BEP program

Letter head oked for use

Discussion on recommendations being positive, and seems like Council is reluctant to make recommendations on the negative aspects of the BEP program (initial stock issue, running program, it's a failing program currently, etc.). Motion by Janet to add a recommendation to DVR inquiring about the process of initial inventory. **Passed** motion to include recommendation on initial stock process to the Recommendations and other changes on RSVW visitation to all locations. Copy sent to members.

- SCOB recommends current initial stock process be standardized when vendors are moving or expanding. Initial stock doesn't seem to follow DWD 60.9 process. Add comment that RSVW visit all sites annually.
- Vote on submitting to Enid (tabled until update is reviewed by members. Members E-mail vote latter.

Discussion regarding information to provide to Governors Committee

Discussion to send copy of letter on Recommendations on BEP program. Can have our rep on committee to follow up if they have questions. Troy made motioned and Janet seconded motion to send letter to Governors committee, and the WCB. Discussion followed. **Passed** Doug will write up cover letters for both organizations. Tom will have Ana review and put on Letter Head & send.

- Create written documentation for presentation to the committee

Review of employment options presented by DVR for blind individuals

Doug received feedback from DVR on companies they work with, and is putting together a spread sheet for organizations that help our consumers. Barrier seems to be the Business Services representative being the only individual HR works with. Suggested we again recommend DVR have counselors with specific expertise related to vision loss. Currently individuals cannot contact Business Services directly?

- Present results gathered from research into organizations.

After reviewing the process, Doug recommended that DVR regions have at least one Counselor specialist for vision loss per region, to address disconnect between Business Services and consumers. Jo also recommended workshops for DVR counselor on issues related to vision loss. Troy suggested a inquiry letter to DVR to ask about the process of how visually impaired consumers get to specialized counselors now (if available). Janet reminded the COB about the training offered at Janesville school and Hadley. Jo suggested we might offer sensitivity training to DVR counselors.

Doug shared antidotal information from employment list serves on individuals who are losing their employment didn't want to work with DVR (employers would look down on individuals using DVR).

Jo shared information on statistics and asked what factors are involved in the 70% unemployment (definition of population included – totally blind, legally & totally blind, age, part time vs full time, etc.) What data are we to use? Jo suggested that maybe we can use our SCOB web site to link to resources (writing resumes, others). Janet suggested any link needs to be accessible.

Committee reports:

Doug Tikkanen: Employment, Recruitment

Recruitment – one new member (Jeff) and one re-appointment (Lee). Doug suggested we post on web our accomplishments. Jo asked if "Jane Doe" in Wisconsin even knows of our existence.

Can we have our web "show up" better? SCOB seems to be hidden.

Doug suggested we ask the secretary to have the appointment process expedited

Troy will contact ACB and Jo will contact NFB for suggestions for recruitment

Troy Hergert: Web/ Ass Tech

Troy noticed that the web site meeting is still out of date. The new web site is good and accessible. Troy also asked the question "what is our effect" etc. 1) Doug suggested links on our web site to organizations that might help; 2) Janet reminded us on other links. 3) Frank suggested a list of "best communities in WI to live in for VI individuals. 4) Doug suggested Transportation discounts, etc.

12:00 PM Carrie Molke & Margaret Kristan, discussion on changes to Family Care and IRIS in new budget and SCOB feedback.

Carrie and Margaret joined the conference call at 12:05. Frank had to leave for work. Carrie & Margaret introduced themselves.

- Changes to Family care – PowerPoint presentation on changes based on ACT 55. DHS is holding 9 public hearing, WI has a long history as a leader, ACT 55 focuses on strengthen program.
- Currently, Family is a MCO program, responsible for contracting with providers, work directly to identify needs and direction. DHS pays MCO an amount to provide services. Acute care available through Medicate card. IRIS is a self-directed long care program. IRIS is not an MCO program. Budget authority is given to individual. IRIS consultant helps individual through services.
- Reforms (Family Care 2.0). 1) Requires Family care provide acute and long care through IHA (integrated Health Agencies). Will reduce from 13 regions to less. IHA will become licensed insurance agencies, and require self-directed program like IRIS. 2) submit concept paper next spring (fed and State)
- Goals: 1) state wide services, 2) no waiting list, 3) choice on how consumers get services (care management or IRIS) 4) allows services to focus on whole person and improve quality of life.
- Not changes are: eligibility, range of services, program will focus on rights for independence, self-determination, and individual rights. Choice of providers will remain, and self-direction remains. Use of coast effectives. Ombudsman and grievous process, and unbiased counseling.

- Have and will continue to have oversight. Contractual obligations and transparent processes, contracts available on web site. Reviews of vendors
- ACT 55 requires implementation by Jan 2017 or later date. This fall public hearings, draft concept plan by April 1st, and draft a waiver request (federal approval request is the waiver request) by July 1st Formal request by Sept 30th. Looking for general advice and guidance.
- Questions: Doug – as I watched PowerPoint I didn't see changes. **What the final program is, hasn't been determined yet but we do have the broad strokes.**
- Janet – would we answer questions?
- Doug – employer is the actual consumers in IRIS. Are contracts strong in accountability?
- **DHS has employment staff and work with DVR. Funds would be Medicare (60/40).**
- **How to communicate this all to the visually impaired community.**
 - Community not technology savvy
 - Braille option
 - Can it be read
- What are your experiences with Family Care
 - Doug – no
 - Jo – no
 - Troy – yes
 - Janet – no
 - Lee – yes
- **Margret – would it be of interest to talk about Family care as it is now, and how it impacts DVR, employment, DHS, etc.**

12:45 PM Other Council Reports: Updates from Member Representatives:

- Governors Committee
- OBVI – a wonderful presentation but Tom rambled...
- Jo Grove update on Doctoral research study results/next steps

Proposal for Doctoral with the committee and should be approved, and then goes to quality review, and institutional review. Once approval given, study begins (panel chosen, letters sent, confidentiality given, etc.). January timeline date, three rounds of questions to develop and identify results. Then analyze data and submit for final approval (and dissertation approval). Maybe February/March for last two chapters.

Schedule next meetings; Subcommittees and SCOB

2015-16 SCOB Plan of action

- 1) Strengthen SCOB present on the Web
- 2) Set up a list of priorities we should work on
 - a. Finalize recommendations to BEB before end of month
 - i. Wait 30 days and ask what the status is
 - b. Members sent in list of what they are interested
 - i. Have Exec committee prioritize them
- 3) Write up newsletter articles for WCB
- 4) Develop links for our web site to connect with germane info for consumers
 - a. Family care link
- 5) Have a section on our web page of accomplishments
- 6) What was the outcome of Legislative day last year

- a. Bills that did get past
 - i. Service Dog bill
 - ii.

Nominations and Elections for SCOB Executive Committee

Motion of suspending By Laws to let Lee vote as ex-official member. Was not considered. Meeting extended with motion by Jo to suspend meeting for 30 day or less for election of officers. Troy seconded
Passed

Nominations:

Chair:

Vice Chair:

Secretary:

Member at Large:

2:30 Adjourn