

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Council

AGENDA – Meeting #53

June 29, 2015

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

125 S Webster St, Madison, Wisconsin

11:15 Call to order

Nissan Bar Lev, Martha Berninger, Chris Zenchenko, Sister Mary Karen Oudeans, Nancy Thompson, Stacy Grandt, Cheryl Orgas, Sadiqua White-Harper, Mandy Jordan

Lisa Tomberlin, TVI, Monona Grove SD

Tom Peralta, Legislative Committee Wisconsin Council of the Blind

11:18 Introductions

11:19 Public input and comments

None at this time

11:20 Nissan is looking for a Teacher of the Visually Impaired for his CESA.

11:20 Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning Updates

Martha Berninger – RLLL has a new assistant director. Will be conducting a Request for Proposal to renew Badger Link resources for July 2016. Will be doing a survey in September regarding these resources to assist in the writing of the RFP.

Lisa Tomberlin – has a librarian at their school that is looking for increasing resources. Is there an accessible system for students who are blind or visually impaired when doing research. (such as noodle tools)

MB – Will forward the request to Tessa Schmidt and Nancy Anderson.

Nissan Bar Lev – related to Next Generation IEP, related to Universal Design. Students access information in different ways – To what extent can the RLLL provide an audio component to various materials?

MB – At our next meeting I can invite the individuals who have been doing the technology research and have the knowledge, to speak to that.

NBL – The Next Generation IEP will have a prompt asking if the material is accessible.

Chris Zenchenko – discussed Daisy format in regards to audio/text combination.

LT – discussed variety of access possibilities and accessibility issues.

CZ – discussed other options.

Cheryl Orgas – the dilemma is there are so many resources out there, but there isn't one person that knows them all. It is hard to know exactly what you need and how to have access to it immediately. Discussion regarding a research project looking at library systems and accessibility.

NBL – issues with Kindle

CZ – there is an app to get access

11:33 – Cheryl Orgas – ABLE and TBBL – working together – received 400 sq ft from the library to build two sound booths and editing stations. Working with TBBL to put

materials on BARD. In the building process. End of September will be ABLE's 50th anniversary, as well as tours of the new sound set up. We do have one book already on Bard – The Tale of Two Soldiers, listed under TBBL. TBBL contracts with ABLE to post Wisconsin Authors

11:36 – Next Generation IEP – Stacy Grandt

Additional focus on Response Driven Accountability, in addition to the indicators that states are evaluated on. RDA is the additional emphasis. Using research and meeting with stakeholder groups, DPI has determined that Wisconsin's focus will be Literacy. DPI will also be implementing Next Generation IEPs, piloting next school year, with full availability in 2016. DPI cannot mandate what IEP school districts use, so it is a discretionary objective. Prompts regarding literacy specifically. DPI Program Consultants are meeting to create modules to help support these new IEP goals. The intent is to provide guidance for teams in terms of what they can do to increase the literacy outcomes for students. One of the modules will be a low-incidence module. WCBVI, WESP-DHH and WDBTAP are working together on this module. Daniel and Terry Ehriobo have been leading this work, and have presented to a stakeholder group for feedback. There will be another stakeholder meeting in August, with the hopes that they will be ready for the pilot project at the beginning of the school year this fall. There is a group working on forms, a group looking at online tools.

Sadiqua – Never heard of this. For vision students, it has been said that braille readers are a year behind in the beginning. How is the braille aspect addressed? Sounds like it is geared towards students with LD

SG – There is no research that says braille reading students should be behind.

LT – Comprehension not fluency? Fluency there is documentation. That is an important thing to know – that we shouldn't expect the same words per minute from a braille reading student. There is no data saying what the standards should be, because the population is so small and diverse. "How does this relate to peers that are reading at typical speed?" (in relation to test-taking, etc) Prompts such as that could guide the team in making appropriate accommodations.

NBL – RDA Literacy – where the rubber meets the road is in the district self-assessment. The most recent IEP team self-assessment form doesn't address literacy. The new forms are focusing on literacy (reading achievement, specifically). Each district will have to look at the new IEP form that asks about parent feedback in relation to reading achievement.

SG – there will be an emphasis on Present Level in the area of literacy. Using the data SD have to actually put that in the Present Level.

NT – will this take any emphasis from math?

SG – not loosening up on any other area, just raising one area specifically.

NBL – states have the choice between math and literacy. Wisconsin chose literacy.

SG – the data showed that the gap between literacy with greater than math.

CO – are children getting enough access to braille, which is part of gaining proficiency in literacy? And are they getting enough teaching in braille? Which comes first, and what is happening with students with low vision. Would want us to pay attention to those factors.

LT – This week had a question regarding what type of books we are purchasing for our students, and the opinion was moving more towards electronic.

SG – OSEP Dear Colleague letter in regards to communication in students with low-incidence disabilities, making classrooms accessible. Specifically said regarding posters on the walls, the classroom environment, etc. Keeping this as a resource, to help describe why it is important.

SWH – curious to see how this is implemented throughout the state.

NBL – most districts use DPI forms.

SWH – drop down boxes are difficult because every student is so different.

NT – are the pilot school districts determined?

NBL – Special Education Directors received inquiry to volunteer. There are 15-20 districts who will pilot this fall.

SG – this is meant to be helpful.

12:00 – TVI Training Program Update

MJ – Numbers, course rotation, etc.

SWH – can courses be taken individually?

SG – technology worked throughout the courses as well.

CZ – regarding AT, one of the biggest problems is applying it appropriately. The context idea is great.

SG – instructors meeting

NT –

LT – why is enrollment half?

Would be more central? Is that a possibility – that is an issue for some people in attending.

Stipend issue – some at SL didn't receive. HEB? – will have them contact Pete with questions.

The cap issue. Mandy explained our research on that.

NBL – the language doesn't cover that.

SMK – does UW-P require a teaching license already?

SG – there are some prerequisites for SE classes, can get them at UWP or elsewhere. Karen Stinson at UW-P reviews their portfolio and communicates what they need.

SMK – someone spoke with her that UWP had told her that they need a teaching license.

LT – Karen Stinson told me they did.

SG –

MJ – it is a cost recovery program, so budget issues shouldn't effect it.

SWH – Is SL no longer doing SE at all?

SMK – yes. Write letter to the president if concerned. Staff were not involved in the decision at all.

CO – Are they ending the cohort?

SMK – they will follow through with the cohort. Kristin Grender is the coordinator now. Mark Swanson in the school of education will be taking my role I believe. 8 students. I will be going to Arizona to work with parochial schools there in professional development.

UWP classes are going extremely well and we have 3 more students lined up for the fall

WCBVI/DPI Updates

DPI – Academic and Career Planning through state statute which will be finalized this summer.

It will be mandated beginning 2017-2018 school year. Academic and Career Planning services will be available at that point. DPI will be providing computers and software for 6th-12th grade students. Uses a software tool to assist students with creating a personal plan. A student-driven process. Will improve, inform,

and enhance the PTP, and will tie in with the personalized learning initiative.

Would like to pilot at WSBVI to make sure it is accessible for staff and students.

NBL – practical challenge in how will it interface with the PTP, and who will do that? Will it be up to the counselor, or the Special Education teachers?

SG – better access to employment resources at their own school for the students who are B/VI.

CO – Brings up something I had heard from DVR staff, 15% of dollars are allocated for transition HS-college/work. This might be a good connection. Wanting to make sure DVR has been in contact with DPI. Minnesota DVR has hired a staff person to be in charge of that.

LT – Dane County has staff directly assigned to High School Students.

CZ – DVR has always had triggers in place, but the funding mandate is an additional methodology. The fundamental contact is between the High School Counselor and DVR to make sure they know about the students needing services.

SWH – MPS gets a bad rap, but we do have a lot of things that we do right – CATP – Career ... Training...- students who have an IEP are given an opportunity to have a job, with on the job training and payment. As a large district we have the advantages to hire people specifically for that.

CZ – and the Milwaukee DVR office has historically been more forward-thinking with how they allocate.

12:30 – Outreach Updates – Outreach retreat/strategic planning.

Transition requests – districts accessing more. Will be doing four goal-setting workshops next year. Families will have the opportunity to learn about vision-specific resources, students will be able to create a plan for themselves, post-secondary employment and training, education and independent living.

NBL – suggest new DPI SE transition coordinator and some others (Greg Curtis – counseling team) Suzan Van Beaver, Paul Sherman – invite Greg to meeting.

Contracting to bring Christine Roman into the state next summer. A leading authority in working with students with Cortical Visual Impairment. We will be contacting teachers asking them to take video of their CVI students for her to use as examples in her teaching.

SWH – discussion on CVI incidences. And ONH/D. Many of these kids are on the autism spectrum, don't want the vision parts to be missed as well.

Current UW-P folks are learning UEB, so we are going to have to transition to include UEB on the competency exam in August. Julie Sumwalt and Deb Benish are working on it. Also hoping to include Karen Schultz. December will be the last exam without UEB on it. Yes there is the conundrum of older students using EBAE, but the statewide tests will be in UEB, and as that is the driver, and transcribers will be using UEB, that is what we will follow as well. The implementation is January 2016.

Families Conference – 60 participants (14 families), which was fewer than we hoped (typically 40 families). Some families chose not to come due to the requirement of background checks, and not interested in the dorm life. The families that did come loved it. The WCBVI team really came together and the conference was awesome. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. We are going to host this event at hotels again in the future.

Alumni – over 150 attended. Went well. A lot of the younger students.

Graduates –

Breakdown of where they are headed to Council

Summer Programs

EmployAbility – 12 students, one piloting a more guided program (multiple disabilities), and also including two students from CCR program – they are working their own jobs DVR is paying them over the summer. Piloting that as well.

Overview of offerings and numbers

Send brochures for summer programs to council.

1:00 – next meeting dates.

Early October – Tuesday 13th. 10:00 – Madison. @RLLL