

State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council
AGENDA - Meeting #83
March 4, 2024- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
TEAMS Virtual Meeting

10:00 Call to order

[Council authority and function](#)

Introduction & Housekeeping & Attendance

Council Members

Name	Council Role	Attendance
vacant	Braille Transcriber	NA
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	present
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	absent
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	present
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	present
Tracey Stanislawski	Member of an organization	present
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	present
Colleen Kickbush	Licensed Teacher	present
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	present
Dream Gunther	Licensed Teacher	absent
vacant	School Board Member	NA
vacant	School District Administrator	NA
Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus	Special Ed Director	present
Wendy Leising	CESA Representative	present
Linda Bailey	Higher Education	present
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	Out sick
Guadalupe Creapeau	Other	present
Rachel Krogman	Other	present

DPI Representatives

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support	present
Elizabeth Tomev	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	Absent, emailed
Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	present
Patricia Williams	Director, Special Education DPI	present
Dan Wenzel	Director, WCBVI	present
Dawn Soto	Outreach Director, WCBVI	present
Kay Rhode	Liaison to the Advisory Council, Education Consultant, WCBVI Outreach	present
April Peissig	Secretary to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach	present
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	present
Daniel Parker	Assistant Director, Special Education DPI	NA
Meghan Fredel	Education Consultant, WCBVI Outreach, TVI and O&M	present
Lisa Hoard	Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Data Specialist	present

Stakeholder attendance/quorum met?

10:10 Introductions and Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

[December 6, 2023 SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion to approve - Cheryl Orgas

Second - Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus

Comments - none

Passed - minutes approved

10:25 [Public Appearances.pdf](#)

10:30 Welcome

Follow up on Action items

Chair of O&M shortages & TVI training program subcommittee update (Julie)

An update has been requested from NIU but has not yet been received. It is within NIU's authority to begin the 12 credit O&M certification program as it is not an educational license. NIU will share advertisements when ready. It is hoped that we can start in the fall of 2024, but the clock is running for recruiting, so it might have to be bumped.

VI Paraprofessionals Subcommittee BVI Education Advisory Council VI Paraprofessionals Recommendation 11.16.23.docx (Wendy)

WL read the update to the Council. Council members discussed additions/changes needed.

Colleen Kickbusch moved to approve these recommendations as changes. Tracey Stanislawski second. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Create a list of parent resources. Members send additional ideas to BVI email.

Parent Resources (Kay)

As a result of last meeting's breakout rooms, a list will be compiled. Send resources to add to kay.rhode@wcbvi.k12.wi.us and we will compile and finalize a document to review for the next meeting. Penny K – Where will this be disseminated/published? Julie Hapeman – Council members can share on their organization Facebook pages, etc.

Higher Education Aids Board (Kay)

[HEAB.pdf](#)

Linked update summarizes information shared from Pete Zammuto, HEAB Coordinator. Julie Hapeman – Do you have to be a fulltime student to receive HEAB? Does it say that somewhere? Consider CATIS, too. Are students reimbursed after?

ACT 20 (Dawn)

Deputy State Superintendent, Dr. John Johnson shared the following message regarding [ACT 20](#) with district administrators in February 2024.

Act 20 states that there will be one single reading readiness screener for all learners in 4K through grade 3; districts will not have the option to select and implement their own reading readiness screener. DPI is currently working with the Department of Administration to procure this screener. We know that those vendors that currently provide this screener to Wisconsin districts plan to bid to be the single statewide screener. Districts can be proactive by setting aside time in district calendars for training on this screener at the beginning of the next school year. DPI plans to require the vendor to provide training on administering the screener, as well as

interpreting and applying results. At this time, we are imagining virtual or hybrid training options that include prerecorded trainings that districts can access on their own local calendars.

Act 20 also states that curricula and instructional materials must include all the components of science-based early reading instruction. Additionally, Act 20 states that three-cueing instruction and curricula are prohibited. Districts will likely be changing their reading curricula for the 2024-2025 school year to meet the Act 20 requirements. We encourage you to share your questions about this component of Act 20 with your curriculum directors.

The WCBVI Consultant team is looking into how this Act will impact Wisconsin students who are blind and visually impaired. At this time, please direct any questions you may have to wcbvi.outreach@wcbvi.k12.wi.us and write, "ACT 20" in the subject line.

Additionally, you may visit the DPI Act 20 [FAQ](#).

Given that districts have this responsibility for new curricula, the WCBVI AEM team is reaching out to message regarding early planning for the new material so that the students who are blind or visually impaired have access to the materials at the same time as their sighted peers.

Update from discussion after the December 2023 AEM presentation (Dawn)

There were some APH quota questions. CK asked how B-3 children are reported since they are receiving services in their homes, but through an agency. They are included in the statewide numbers.

CO asked for numbers on how many primary braille students and how many secondary braille students. Dawn communicated with APH and Ex Officio Trustees (EOT): Some states have database systems where they can generate reports to share their up-to-date statistics upon request. We would have to explore this request and research with other states how they can do this. The data is only as good as the reporters. The reporting disability category isn't always accurate in state reporting. We need a working database that is functional and safe for PII/data transfers.

Tracey Stanislawski – Is there a way to separate the B-3 age group from the data? Dawn has been speaking with this to other EOTs and the Trustee Advisory Committee. There is currently not guidance for B-3 APH Census and Babies Count collaboration.

[Special Education Acronym Glossary](#) Can be found in Orientation document and Member agenda.

11:10

Glen Stacey presentation <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/glen-stacey-memorial-fund/> Meghan Fredel

Meghan will be handing this role over to Lisa Hoard in the next year. Information re: Glen Stacey is in the link above. WCBVI staff are on the committee. 11 committee members, 16 proposals. Meghan shared examples of approved projects such as braille book embossing, activities and Expanded Core Curriculum outings. The majority of those who send proposals are educators who take on these projects outside of their work to make these opportunities available. There will be approximately \$100,000 in funds available per grant cycle. The committee has been working on fine tuning procedures, creating an FAQ, and creating an orientation for grant recipients. Encourage all Council members to share about the fund. Cheryl Orgas – what are examples of projects that are not funded? Meghan – IEP items, items that have been funded before

may receive less funding. The committee tries to be fair in spreading the funding across proposals. Julie Hapeman - grateful for the funding to offer these opportunities that aren't available everywhere. Many of these projects wouldn't be possible.

11:25

Subcommittee Updates and Discussion

1. Braille Framework Subcommittee CO/JO

Met February 19. Have been studying three frameworks from other states. How do we match what is happening with braille students in regards to the regular education standards. Who does the task of adding the braille framework to reading/writing standards. DPI curriculum staff have been assisting in this. Will meet again in April.

2. Assistive Technology JH

To look at the need for additional training for professionals in the field in the area of AT. The committee is looking at doing some online on-demand trainings. Focusing on one that Amy Snow had put together called Screen Reader Savvy – an 8-part training on different screen readers. Would like to offer this with an addition of some sort of recognition or certification – a digital badge for completion. ACVREP is the O&M certification body. Vision Forward is a Ripple provider. Hoping for DPI and VF to partner to offer this through Ripple so that O&M can use the training as something that would apply to ACVREP certifications, and also be available for those outside of Wisconsin. Amy Snow is a wonderful resource to our state and works hard to put out content that is accessible to all ability levels. The ability to do training at your own pace. Also looking at items that can be given to vision professionals to train them on devices prior to deploying them to students and having to train them.

11:35- Council Representative Updates

[Vision Forward Council Updates 3.4.25.pdf](#) - Tracey Stanislawski

National Federation of Blind Wisconsin (NFBW) - Cheryl Orgas

A \$1,500 Scholarship is available for blind or low vision students, deadline March 8, 2024.

Wisconsin Parents of Blind Children maple syrup event, Urban Ecology Center, Saturday, March 23, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Contact Cheryl meekerorgas@ameritech.net

NFBW Convention, April 5 through noon on April 7 in Fond Du Lac, check the NFBW website to get your room and sign up. <https://nfbwis.org/>

National Convention July 3-8 in FL. A great opportunity for professionals to attend. Over 3,000 people attend. <https://nfb.org/get-involved/national-convention>

11:47-1:30 DPI representative updates

1. WI Talking Book & Braille Library [WTTBL Update March 4 2024.docx](#)

Zarina Mohd Shah, Manager DPI Library Services

12:00-12:15 Break

2. Division for Libraries and Technology [Library services update March 4, 2024](#)

Elizabeth Tomev, Assistant Director, DPI Library Services Team - absent. Jenn Raclaw, Vice chair will read.

3. Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Departmental Updates:

Dan Wenzel, Center Director - [March 4, 2024 WCBVI Education and Residential update.docx](#)

Julie Hapeman – if there are statewide students who are interested, could they participate in events? Dan – it has been possible, but must make sure we are following the Conference requirements.

Dawn Soto, Outreach Director [WCBVI OUTREACH March 4, 2024.pdf](#)

4. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates [DPI Special Education Director Updates March 2024.docx](#)

Patti Williams, Director, Special Education DPI

Julie Hapeman – NIU meets about the O&M Certification program this week, so update soon. Working on Braille Writer Repair Program 3rd week of June.

1:45

Recruitment

We will continue recruitment efforts through these channels: Division of Learning Support newsletter, the WAER digital community and the WCBVI Outreach Weekly update and, of course, word of mouth! Please reach out to your groups, including social media! Recruitment will be posted on WCBVI's Facebook page. As you learned in the orientation, the Wisconsin CENTER for the Blind and Visually Impaired is under the umbrella of the Department of Instruction and will be the homebase for the recruitment efforts. Follow WCBVI Facebook page and share from there! Keep in mind, we want and need to have equitable representation of the racial and ethnic diversity within our state.

Reminder: Nominations, including new appointees, reappointments, and replacements mid-year, all go through the same process nomination process.

JR Action Items from today

JH Reminders

1. Attendance. Statutes require two meetings. Please make your best effort to attend all meetings. We have 17 seats and quorum is thus, 9. We planned meetings in advance to reduce absenteeism.

Proposed dates!

#1 Monday, October 21, 2024

#2 Monday February 17, 2025

#3 Wednesday May 28, 2025

2. Communication

Share what you learn here with your groups! Minutes from this meeting need to be approved at the next meeting before they are posted so it's important that you relay what you learn earlier!

This Council uses the TEAMS platform. Please accept TEAMS invitation and share the website with those who might want to attend.

<https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/advisory-council/>

Use council email! bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us

Please send category updates and informational documents, preferably two weeks before the meeting, and they will be added to the minutes. Please make your updates

and any other documents accessible. If you aren't able to send them ahead of time, consider sending documents after the meeting so that information is shared equitably.

3. Public comment - none

Motion to adjourn - Jenn Raclaw

Second - Penny Kurkiewicz

Adjourned at 12:56