

**State Superintendent’s Blind and Visual Impairment Education
Advisory Council
AGENDA – Meeting #84
June 5, 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	Term ends	Attendance
vacant	Braille Transcriber		
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	June 2025	present
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	June 2025	absent
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	June 2025	Absent, emailed
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	June 2025	Absent, emailed
Tracey Stanislawski	Member of an organization	June 2025	present
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	June 2025	present
Colleen Kickbush	Licensed Teacher	exiting	absent
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	June 2025	present

Dream Gunther	Licensed Teacher	exiting	Present (had signed in then left meeting)
Erikke Nystrom-Grothaus	Special Ed Director	exiting	present
Wendy Leising	CESA Representative	June 2025	present
Linda Bailey	Higher Ed	June 2025	absent
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	June 2025	present
Guadalupe Creapeau	Other	June 2026	present
Rachel Krogman	Other	June 2026	Present

DPI Representatives

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support	Present joined 11:20 am
Elizabeth Tomev	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	present
Mohd Shah, Zarina	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	present
Patricia Williams	Director, Special Education DPI	present
Dan Wenzel	Director, WCBVI	Present – joined 11:30 am
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 Administrative Professional	present
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	present
Daniel Parker	Assistant Director, Special Education DPI	Absent, emailed

Guest: Nettamara Doak

Administrator of Blind Services - Special Touch Ministry Inc.

Nettamara is a certified by the library of congress as a braille transcriber

Stakeholder attendance/quorum met

10:10 Introductions, Exiting Members

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

[March 4, 2024 SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes.pdf](#)

[March 4, 2024 SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes.docx](#)

Motion to approve – Jennifer Ottowitz – accept as presented

Second – Jenifer Raclaw

Comments – none

Passed - yes

10:25 [Public Appearances.pdf](#) - No public comments

10:30

Follow up on Action items

[Parent Resources](#)

<https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/family/>

(Kay)

Review and clarify where and when, how often this will be shared –

- Who will keep it updated please check out the link and give Kay feedback
- Send out in WCBVI Weekly
- Update twice a year
- Would this be something for RSN-goes to Spec Ed directors

- WSPEI group to send to (check in with Rita Fuller)
 - o Check with Facebook family group-Amy Lehman
 - o Executive directors at CESAs
 - o Kailee will but on the moderator post
 - o Tracy could give to Cheri Sylla for Family Engagement WSPEI team

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

- Partnering with NIU to start a certificate in WI for an O&M program if enough people are interested the start date is planned for 2025.
- TVI program has to partner with a University in WI – this is being worked on

VI Paraprofessionals Subcommittee-Recommendation sent to OSS (Kay)

Follow up from Patti regarding council member request: March DPI updates discussed newly hired Grants Manager who is looking at fiscal dollars for LEA's. Is there a need for our districts to be educated as to the cost of adaptive equipment. For example, the Monarch <https://www.aph.org/meet-monarch/> is near \$20,000 and math and science books can be \$20,000 or more. (CO asked)

- Very close to hiring grants manger offer was made
- Put info out in DLS newsletter Fall 2024
- Some expenses could be reimbursed (link is included in communication and person responsible is in update)
- Dawn was chosen to present at DPI leadership conference in October 16 and Nov 6 at Spec Ed Academy

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

10:45-11:00

Subcommittee Updates and Discussion

1. Braille Framework Subcommittee CO/JO

[Braille framework subcommittee june 5, 2024 update.docx](#)

- Tracey – was it discussed about little children not getting services
- Discussion has been had K-12 grade (understand an issue) determining how they can address this
- Kay –an age group had to be chosen to start with in order to meet the rotation review schedule (things can be added later on)
- Tracey will send Kay a document that relates to this (Kay will put in notes for committee)

- Dawn WI model learning standards (DHS supported by DPI) some discussion was had as they are addressed and updated work will have impact and information sought

Julie- Question Are there guidelines that districts and administrators on textbook - committees that describe amt of time curating and obtaining braille materials?

- Dawn guides special ed directors/LEAs roles and responsibilities obtaining materials and textbook procurement.
- Dawn will share what she has created
- Jennifer O: Survey will find barriers and gaps
- Julie – A document from DPI on guidelines for districts and LEAs is needed

2. Assistive Technology JH

-Charge was to look at where to supplement instruction and PD for teachers of visually impaired around assistive tech that is always coming out.

Amy Snow's website--where you can go for information, trainings, online training

Regularly send out on where to go to get direction on more training

Ex. Screen Reader Savy – letter of completion

Book creator-fully digitally accessible

Looking into a Student Created Library of using technology

Exploring and partnering with DPI and WCBVI to provide content

Meeting this summer to continue this discussion on Student Created

AT Library

11:00-11:15

Council Representative Updates

[NFB June 5 update](#)

[WAER ADVISORY COUNCIL 6.5.24.docx](#)

Vision Forward [VFA Council Updates June 2024.pdf](#)

Rachel Krogman:

Shared the following cool recognition/award of a WI school in the news. It is also one of her VI son's school and as of the fall, will also be her VI daughter's.

https://www.channel3000.com/news/harvest-intermediate-school-nationally-recognized-for-inclusive-design/article_2e17430c-e18a-11ee-9a2d-534b82df3e93.html

<https://www.procaretherapy.com/blog/the-10-best-inclusively-designed-schools-in-america/>

Other news: Tracey <https://preventblindness.org/edvi-act-legislation-introduced/>

11:15

DPI representative updates

1. WI Talking Book & Braille Library

Zarina Mohd Shah, Manager DPI Library Services

[State Superintendent Advisory Council Meetings June 5, 2024.docx](#)

2. Division for Libraries and Technology

Elizabeth Tomev, Assistant Director, DPI Library Services Team

[BVI Advisory Council LST update 5.23.24.pdf](#)

11:45-11:50 Break

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

Dan Wenzel, Center Director

[WCBVI June 5 Education and Residential.docx](#)

Julie – would like at least 45-day notice for next year’s resource fair to bring students and herself

Dawn Soto, Outreach Director

[WCBVI June 5, 2024 Outreach.docx](#)

[June 5 TVI Evaluation Rubric Examples.pdf](#)

- Jennifer O With expanded core curriculum opportunity for adult vision professionals to get involved? Anyone may register for ECC.
- Tracey Student has a Chrome book at Vision Forward, when hitting adulthood window applications are better. Why won’t we start using window application early on, so they get used to the application? DS/JH- local control is big factor. Julie – sometimes windows and Chrome do both some get a larger screen that can be used like a tablet. Some of it is about local control that access is provided is up to the district. Tracey

when looking at guidance for districts that might be written into the IEP. Do parents and educators know this? JH some TVI are not familiar with other tools, so the AT subcommittee is needed. "I" in IEP

4. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates

Patti Williams, Director, Special Education DPI

[DPI Special Education Director Updates June 2024.pdf](#)

12:45

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

Dan-WCBVI CCR resources Fair dates? MPS needs 45 days to attend. Dan: a save the date should be out by the new school year

Kay add to AT subcommittee agenda- Chrome book at Vision Forward, when hitting adulthood window applications are better. Why won't we start using window application early on, so they get used to the application?

Patti checking on role-sharing for possible school board members (Jenn R asked people in Kenosha)

Kay add to Braille Sub meeting: Dawn presenting at Oct 16 Leadership meeting and Nov 6 Spec Ed directors Academy. Share Barriers summary

All give feedback and Kay take next steps, see above[Parent Resources](#)

<https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/family/>

Dawn

guidance for LEAS on ordering textbooks. See above discussion.
high cost items, adding message to DLS newsletter. See Patti response
above

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.

2024-2025 Council meeting 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 and DPI updates and any informational documents, two weeks before the meeting, and they will be added to the minutes. Please make your updates and any other documents accessible. If you can't send them ahead of time, consider sending documents after the meeting so that information is shared equitably.

3. Public comment

Motion to adjourn – Erikke

Second – Tracey

Adjourned at 12:45