

**State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council**  
**AGENDA - Meeting #85**  
**October 21, 2024- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**TEAMS Virtual Meeting**

**10:00 Call to order**

[Council authority and function.docx](#)

**Introduction & Housekeeping & Attendance**

**Council Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council Role</b>	<b>Term ends</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Jennifer Raclaw	Parent	June 2025	X
Tiffany Meridith	Parent	June 2025	
Penny Kurkiewicz	Parent	June 2025	X
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	June 2025	Absent- emailed
Tracey Stanislawski	Member of an organization	June 2025	X
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	June 2025	X
Jane Moran	Licensed Teacher	June 2027	X
Julie Hapeman	Licensed Teacher	June 2025	X
Laurie Schmidt	Special Ed Director	June 2027	X
Wendy Leising	CESA Representative	June 2025	X

Linda Bailey	Higher Ed	June 2025	
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	June 2025	X left at noon
Guadalupe Creapeau	Other	June 2026	X
Rachel Krogman	Other	June 2026	X

### DPI Representatives

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support	X
Elizabeth Tomev	Assistant Director, Division for Libraries and Technology, Library Services Team	X
Pending	Management Librarian, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	
Patricia Williams	Director, Special Education DPI	11:00-1:30 X
Dan Wenzel	Director, WCBVI	X
Dawn Soto	Outreach Director, WCBVI	X
Kay Rhode	Liaison to the Advisory Council, Education Consultant, WCBVI Outreach	X
April Peissig	Secretary to the Advisory Council, WCBVI Outreach Administrative Professional	X
Amanda Jordan	Administrative Assistant to the WCBVI Center Director	X
Daniel Parker	Assistant Director, Special Education DPI	Absent, emailed

Alisha Curtis--Guest	School Age Vision Consultant and Certified Low Vision Therapist	X
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### 10:10 Introductions, New Members

**Guest:** Nettamara Doak, Braille transcriber pending member

**Prior Meeting Minutes Approval** [June 5, 2024 SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes.docx](#)

Motion to approve – Jennifer Ottowitz

Second – Jen Raclaw

Comments – none

Passed - Yes

### 10:25 Vote for Officers

Call for nomination: Chair (Julie Hapeman) - nominated by Jen Raclaw or Vice Chair (Jen Raclaw) - nominated by Julie Hapeman \*voting poll used was not friendly for some need to find another poll, this one was suggested by Chris – just a note for April

[Public Appearances.pdf](#)

[Intervener Proposal.pdf](#)

[Special Education Acronym Glossary](#) Can be found in Orientation power point

### 10:30

#### Follow up on Action items

1. Question on two persons filling a council role: JH/PW

Nothing in the bylaws would permit sharing a board position. Our chief legal counsel said that it wasn't a good idea because there needs to be one person for voting purposes.

There must be one person to cast a vote, and then have their vote recorded.

2. WCBVI Resources Fair Spring date? DW

- a. May 16, 2025

- b. Dan described employers and agencies (ex. Printing house for the blind) WCBVI students and students in the area, parents and professional gained resources

3. [WCBVI Family Resources](#) KR

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

- Who will keep it updated?
- Send out in WCBVI Weekly

- update twice a year
  - RSN-goes to Spec Ed directors
  - WSPEI group to send to (check in with Rita Fuller)
    - o Tracy could give to Cheri Sylla for Family Engagement WSPEI team (stacy broach)
  - Exec directors at CESAs
    - o Kailee will post for WAER digital as a moderator post
4. Chair of O&M shortages & TVI training program subcommittee update. JH [COMS Eligibility Requirements.docx](#) Northern IL University will provide program certification exam this is for someone already working in the profession. Project JEDI Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion grant. Rogue One O&M Needed Everywhere. Making flyer soon. Want to recruit now. Stacy Kelly called Vision Forward and will talk to WCBVI. Not have to meet in person every single week-2x month.  
Basic O&M class location depends on who is recruited;  
Advanced O&M-preference is Vision Forward in Milwaukee bc of transportation choices  
Includes an Internship  
Also, want to partner to bring TVI to WI. NIU as regional provider  
JO This certification would be for children and adults?  
Use HEAB?
5. VI Paraprofessionals Subcommittee-Recommendation sent to OSS on May 17 and July 22, 2024 (Paul and Dan) - Dan has no feedback but will check into it, Paul has nothing either but will check into it with Sherri Honaker
6. Follow up on High-Cost items (Patti and Dawn)
- WCBVI Outreach Consultants have connected with RSNs to discuss this and other items on a more regular basis.
  - Dawn presenting at DPI leadership conference in October 16 and Nov 6 at Special Education Academy
  - Patti is connecting Dawn and the Fiscal Grants manager for a meeting.
  - Dawn will then prepare messaging for the DLS newsletter.  
TS how do non-attendees hear info? Recorded. Will be in Outreach Weekly Update and DLS

JM what about larger IPADS and/or two screens.

DS I will note Low vision options. And, digital doesn't mean accessible.

7. [Annual Report 2023-24 Advisory Council BVI.docx](#) KR

### **11:00-11:45 Subcommittee Updates and Discussion**

#### **1. Braille Framework Subcommittee JO**

Two documents were sent ahead of time. Does anyone have comments on the Survey: Barriers to Obtaining Materials in Alternate Formats? The Subcommittee plans to send

this Summary in the WCBVI weekly update and to the WAER digital community with a thank you to those who submitted, adding that the subcommittee will use this input as we develop recommendations for the Office of the state superintendent.

Second, a special thank you to Jessie Grober, WCBVI Outreach Education consultant and Bianca Griffin Williams, English-language arts (ELA) consultant in the Division of Academic Excellence for meeting weekly on the Braille framework appendix that the rest of the subcommittee added comments to. Does anyone have feedback?

We are seeking council approval for the Division of Academic Excellence to bring it to the Office of the State Superintendent cabinet before adding it as an appendix in ELA standards.

DAE Standards review team will be reaching out to Centers as they follow their rotation schedules

[Braille Framework Draft.docx](#)

TS can reading speed be addressed? Can more be said here on goals. What to expect for each student.

JG not already in WI standards. How could it be added?

TS add something on best practices or research about reading speed.

JG Tips section was “reading speeds” but we broadened it to be Tips. Add parenthesis (reading speeds)? “Literacy skills” Standards team should be reaching out to the WCBVI and WESPDH

JO maybe a different document to address reading speeds or other resources and updates with updated standards

JM we need education about kids with Low vision.

DS JG’s position is to look at ECC, compile info to add to Braille page

[Summary of Responses to Barriers Survey.docx](#)

Motion to approve the document submitted by the Braille Framework subcommittee regarding an appendix to the English & Language Arts Standards to be sent by the subcommittee to the cabinet of the State Superintendent for inclusion in the standards.

Motion Laurie Schmidt

2<sup>nd</sup> Tracy Stanislawski

Passed

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: I am a parent of a child with a vision impairment attending a Wisconsin public school with a 30-page IEP due to a non-inherited genetic disease that is

known for "all" of the disabilities. I am reaching out as a taxpayer and parent of a public school student to make a public comment related to Wisconsin's visually impaired students.

Perkins' School for the Blind recently released a full CVI Protocol for free to the public as a comprehensive and inclusive educational assessment tool for students with CVI. I would like to recommend Wisconsin DPI utilize this protocol as a way to properly identify students with cerebral/cortical visual impairment (CVI) to ensure proper supports & resources are utilized across all Wisconsin public schools. <https://www.perkins.org/our-work/cvi/the-perkins-cvi-protocol/>

In addition, as a parent, it is extremely difficult to find or determine what appropriate supports & resources are or should be in relation to visually impaired students attending their home public schools. The TVI and O&M staff are wonderful at helping recommend tools for students with visual impairments, however, is there data and/or monitoring of progress to prove school districts are "closing the gap" for the lower 25th percentile of students when these students have vision impairments? It is often heard that "intellectual disability" is utilized as an excuse related to closing the gap of these students. The school for the blind is considered a most restrictive measure, which means difficulty for students/families to access the school when the child's medical vision/eye teams agree there is a significant vision impairment.

Recreation and extra-curriculars within a student's home community is nearly inaccessible for blind & visually impaired students. Joining an ice hockey team at age 4 with siblings and neighbors means the visually impaired child is left without an adult aide as the team is 100% volunteers. CLTS & CCOP do not have resources or knowledge related to vision impairments to find a volunteer or Provider that will assist the child in learning ice hockey. Ice hockey provides visual processing development and balance and gross motor and sensory input enrichment for children with vision impairments to develop alongside their sighted peers. Please work to improve access & resources & supports for public schools to ensure visually impaired students are able to live fully inclusive & enriching lives alongside sighted peers that will help their brain build necessary connections starting at age 3 through age 21. Vision Forward and BOLD are not enough of a resource for southeastern Wisconsin visually impaired children.

Please consider these issues in your public meeting discussion tomorrow and all future work.

Thank you for listening,

Julie Kowalske

Taxpayer, Parent of 3 Public School Students, Parent of Child with Vision Impairment, Disability Advocate, Professional

Muskego, Wisconsin

[julie.kowalske@gmail.com](mailto:julie.kowalske@gmail.com)

414-303-3866

### 3. Assistive Technology JH

This subcommittee was established to discuss Assistive Technology needs in blindness education and to make recommendations regarding competencies. Both WCBVI

Outreach, Council members and stakeholders have shared concerns that not everyone coming out of training programs has the skills they need to serve students.

The Assistive Technology Competencies subcommittee on behalf of the State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council requested feedback on the Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) Assistive Technology (AT) Body of Knowledge and Competencies document. This document was modified from the CATIS (Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist) ACVREP (Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals) called a A Body of Knowledge and Competencies to clarify the roles and responsibilities for TVIs. [DRAFT – TVI AT Body of Knowledge and Competencies.pdf](#) The deadline to submit feedback is November 22.

**break 11:30-11:45**

**11:45-noon**

[Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness for TVIs](#) Alisha Curtis, WCBVI Outreach School Age Vision Consultant and Certified Low Vision Therapist (CLVT)  
Might do session at Collaborative Vision conference May 8-9

**12:00-12:10**

**Council Representative Updates**

[WAER ADVISORY COUNCIL 10.21.24.docx](#) (KK)

Vision Forward (TS)

2/21/2025 Braille Challenge

3/8/2025 beep baseball

Successful white cane day!

Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement (ABLE) luncheon Oct 24th -183 highest attendance ever!

MPS 26 students and teachers

WCBVI representatives attending

Student and staff representatives from districts

Students getting books:

The Adventures of Marshmallow and Peter, by Peter James Heath  
written by a second grader who lost his vision in 2022. The book is written from the  
perspective of his cane, Marshmallow, who assists Peter in taking part in many activities  
he loves. My Three Best

My Three Best Friends and me, Zulay by Cari Best  
Zulay tells the story of a blind first grader who sets a goal to run in a race  
with other students.

KR reminder: Other organizations can be nominated; we welcome all members to bring  
questions and concerns to the council.

O&M: travel day to and in Chicago Trip with High school students 4/25/2025 (JH)

**12:10- 1:05**

**DPI representative updates**

1. WI Talking Book & Braille Library [DPI Meeting WTBBL Updates.pdf](#)

Manager DPI Library Services, vacant

2.Division for Libraries and Technology [Library Services Team Updates 10.21.24.docx](#)

Elizabeth Tomev, Assistant Director, DPI Library Services Team

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

Dan Wenzel, Center Director [WSBVI Education and Residential update](#)

Dawn Soto, Outreach Director [10-21-24 WCBVI Outreach update council meeting.pdf](#)

[Dawn Soto October 21, 2024 Minutes](#)

Regarding APH funding:



JM Is there a way we can advocate to receive more funding.

DS write to Reps and Senators. Tammy Baldwin is on a committee

DS leading library built with quota funds

JH would love to partner with JM for federal grant money – JH was told by Senator Baldwin’s office

JH has PowerPoint on annual meeting and new resources by APH and is sharing them through WAER digital

Example of exciting project: Michigan hosting an Abacus Bee

#### 4. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Updates [DPI SPEC ED October 2024 Council Updates.docx](#)

Patti Williams, Director, Special Education DPI

JH People using funding (grant money) to become an O&M or TVI or assistive tech specialist can this fund be increased.

TS - 2 staff went through a developmental therapist program great program! Funds would be well spent with this program.

DS statute states TVI or OM are included. CATIS? Developmental therapist? Do they qualify.

**1:05**

#### **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.

Again, we are looking for a School Board member and a School District Administrator (someone on the administrative team in the central office such as a superintendent, curriculum director, etc) OR another Director of special education or pupil services from either a CESA or school district.

Reminder: Nominations, including new appointees, reappointments, and replacements mid-year, all go through the same process nomination process. In June 2025 ten Council representatives will finish their terms. We can send the nomination form to everyone.

### **VOTE for officers**

JH will again be chair; JR will again be vice chair

### **Action Items (JR)**

Dan post Resources Fair date on WCBVI website and post in Weekly Update

Kay will continue to update WCBVI Family Resource page, meet with Tracy regarding Vision Forward links, post in Weekly and other communications noted above.

Dan and Paul will update us on [BVI Education Advisory Council VI Paraprofessionals Recommendation 11.16.23.docx](#)

Kay and Dawn check on requirements for Higher Education Aids Board money and Northern Illinois' Rogue 1 program. Can O&Ms receive loan money if working with adults.

Dawn presenting at DPI leadership conference in October 16 and Nov 6 at Special Education Academy

- Patti is connecting Dawn and the Fiscal Grants manager for a meeting.
- Dawn will then prepare messaging for the DLS newsletter.

TS how do non-attendees hear info? Recorded. Will be in Outreach Weekly Update and DLS

JM what about larger IPADS and/or two screens.

DS I will note Low vision options. And, digital doesn't mean accessible.

Patti will investigate the ability of DPI to increase HEAB funds.

DS statute states TVI or OM are included. CATIS? Developmental therapist?

Jessie will address questions on Braille Framework regarding Reading speed/tips and will meet with Division of Academic Excellence consultant and find a time to meet with cabinet.

Kay will put Summary of “Barriers to alternative formats” survey in Weekly update

Kay will add Intervener proposal and today’s parent concerns to February agenda; meet with DPI admin and chairs on next steps.

Kay will send Annual Report to OSS

JH would love to partner with JM about resources shared by Tammy Baldwin’s office for federal grant money

## **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:

#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. [State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council](#)

Use council email! [bvi.advisorycouncil@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto: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 CO

Second LS

Adjourned at 1:14