

Wisconsin State Superintendent's Blind and Visual Impairment Education Advisory Council

AGENDA – Meeting #89

February 4, 2026– 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

TEAMS Virtual Meeting

10:00 Call to order

[Council authority and function](#)

Council Members

Name	Council Role	Term ends	Attendance
Nettamara Doak	Certified Braille Transcriber	June 2027	maybe
Rachel Krogman	Parent	June 2026	x
Katie Bakke	Parent	June 2028	x
Kimberly Brown-Ubersox	Parent	June 2028	x
Cheryl Orgas	Member of an organization	June 2028	x
Colleen Kickbush	Member of an organization	June 2027	x
Kailee Kamps	Member of an organization	June 2028	x
Shannon Sheffer	Licensed TVI	June 2027	x
Jenn Raclaw	Licensed O&M	June 2028	x
Penny Kurkiewicz	Licensed Gen Ed	June 2028	x

Barbara Wuensch	School Board Member	June 2028	Absent, emailed
Holly Smith	School District Administrator	June 2028	absent
Laurie Schmidt	School District Special Ed Director	June 2027	x
Teri Phalin	CESA Representative	June 2028	Absent, emailed. Conflict May 13
Julie Hapeman	Higher Ed	June 2028	x
Jennifer Ottowitz	Other - VI	June 2028	Arrive 11:30 Conflict May 13
Guadalupe Torrijos	Other - VI	June 2026	x
Lealisa Stefl	Other	June 2028	Absent, emailed

DPI Representatives

Name	DPI Role	Attendance
Paul Manriquez	Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Access and Opportunity	x
Susan Piazza	Director of WI Educational Services Programs, DAO	x
Daniel Parker	Section Manager of Student Engagement, Bureau of Teaching and Learning, Division of Academics	Absent, emailed
Elizabeth Tomev	Director of Library Development, Bureau of Libraries, Division of School and Library Operations	maybe
Beth Voecks	Library Services Manager, WI Talking Book & Braille Library	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
Guest: Stacy Kelly	Northern Illinois Special Education Vision Studies, Professor, Program Director	x
Guest: Lisa Hoard	Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Data Specialist	x
Meghan Fredel	Education Consultant. Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TVI) and Certified Orientation and Mobility (COMS)	x

10:05 Housekeeping & Attendance

Introductions, New Member

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval [October 22, 2025 SS BVI Ed Advisory Council Minutes - Copy.docx](#)

Motion to approve – Colleen Kickbush

Second – Laurie Schmidt

Passed - yes

10:30 Public Comment

[Public Appearances.pdf](#)

[Public Comment, Erin Hansen, CESA 4.docx](#)

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

WCBVI Outreach Consultants regularly meet with Regional Special Education Network (RSN) representatives in communications **pertaining to professional development and other important Blindness Education information**. First, let me describe RSN. The purpose of RSN is to support Wisconsin local educational agencies (LEAs) in advancing educational equity for students with disabilities.

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/educators/initiatives/regional-special-education-network>

10:35 Northern Illinois University Guest, Stacy Kelly [Wisconsin NIU Vision Studies January 2026 Interest Survey Update.docx](#)

O&M cohort update

- Agreement with Vision Forward
- Basic in Fall
- Advanced in Spring
- Multi in Summer
- Internships will follow
- Currently 4 students in cohort
- Interest Survey – see update
- 43 people responded from WI as of 2/4/26!
- How can services be provided to reach as many as possible for example Northern WI
- NIU would recruit people in WI to provide instruction to meet the need

- PM – How did the survey go out? Through this committee, facebook. No formal method. WCBVI, AER both shared this, also through DPI lists; schools psych, WEOP, PT, DLS, etc...
- SK – open to feedback.
- PM – Was this shared with CESA? Shannon – yes, CESA 5 did get the information
- KR – sent to Erin, Jennifer, Carrie would love help getting to each CESA leader
- DS – How important to DPI for strategic planning, spread word at career fairs, to higher ed students. NIU only with TVI bachelor's program.
- PM – Strategic teacher retention and recruitment
- Survey will remain open

TVI training in Wisconsin

11:00 Glen Stacey Memorial Fund Update, Lisa Hoard, WCBVI Outreach Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Data Specialist

<https://wcbvi.k12.wi.us/resources/glen-stacey-memorial-fund/>

2024/2025 Glen Stacey Cycle: The Glen Stacey Memorial Fund Committee received 22 applications. 21 were reviewed.

- Proposals Approved 15, Partly Approved-4 & Denied-2.

- Total Requested Amount: \$189,262.69.
- Total Amount Awarded: \$66,732.45.
- Total Requested for Reimbursement: \$56,888.27.
- Total Expended: \$36,202.01.

CK-appreciation! Why do you think discrepancy btw approved and expended? LH- Many times org or person submit and didn't need as much as they thought or event doesn't happen. People don't submit for reimbursement or miss flexible deadlines.

CO- appreciation! Approved \$1500 and do not use all approved funds. Harder to get expenses reimbursement. Timeframe to submit reimbursement question (a month or within the cycle).

LH - Financial dept has said we are a net 30 but you do have to the following Aug to get reimbursement.

KR. - Updates on Glen Stacey will now come once a year.

11:20 Follow up on Action items

Lisa Stefl and Holly Smith joined the Braille Needs Subcommittee. Anyone else? It's a monthly meeting as needed. Next meeting is March 3rd at 3:30. Summary later in the meeting.

Kay sent email on October 23, 2025 from Organization/Vision forward Rep, Colleen Kickbush shared the Early Detection of Vision Impairments in Children Act (EDVI) <https://advocacy.preventblindness.org/edvi-act-of-2024/> Colleen asked that Council members visit the website to review the summary PDF <https://advocacy.preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2025/06/EDVI-Act-Advocacy-Toolkit...>

The VI Para subcommittee and WCBVI Outreach Consultants reconvened in spring to continue the work to organize a resource that promotes the specialized skill set of Special Education paraprofessionals who are working with students who are blind and visually impaired. The WCBVI Consultants completed the document, and it is now housed on the [Special Education Paraprofessionals](#) page under additional resources.

WCBVI Outreach is adding a Professions in Blindness page and Special Education Paraprofessionals will be on that page with a link to more resources for SE Paras.

Dates for 2026-27 Council Meetings!

- Susan P will share dates of some other important meetings with Kay
- Nov 5, 2026 luncheon per CO no braille games scheduled yet for 2027
- Coll. Vision Conf first week or two in May
- Are Weds ok with people?

11:45-noon Subcommittee Updates and Discussion

Braille Needs Subcommittee [Braille Needs Subcommittee Update 2-4-2026.docx](#)

KR – Events May 16th Bookworm Gardens

- How can we get the message out more on what the subcommittee is doing
- CK - March 11th Vision Forward Family Connections
- CO – ABLE downturn in giving free books out. Ways to get braille into the hands of children
- - Vision Forward - Beyond Vision braille games May 6th
- JR – how do school libraries build their braille library for children?
- CO - Larger districts do make sure there are books.
- A list of where braille books can be found would be helpful
- Lots of resources out there
- DS – OSRs looking to explore and build their resources, shared Able's books
- JO – great topic for subcommittee to look at on how do libraries build their braille library for children
- BV and CO WTTBL (WI Talking book and Braille Library) has a braille book and audio

Noon-12:15 BREAK - 10 Min Break Come back 11:34 AM

12:15-12:30 Council Representative Updates

[WAER Updates 2.4.2026.docx](#)

National Federation of the Blind WI

Our 2026 state convention is right around the corner! It will take place on March 27-29 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Madison West, located at 1109 Fourier Drive, Madison, WI 53717.

You may make reservations using the following link.

[National Federation of the Blind](#)

You may also call the hotel directly at 608-826-0500, and reference the National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin convention.

Room rates start at \$109 plus tax for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

Stay tuned for more information on convention as it becomes available. This information, along with online convention registration, will also be posted on our website in the coming days.

We look forward to making this convention our best yet! You will not want to miss our exciting and informative speakers, vendors, and resources, and we sincerely hope you can join us!

Colleen K – Vision Forward Events

- With WCBVI Braille Challenge 7 students attended Friday Jan 30
- 3rd Wed 10 and 1 parent support groups in person and virtual

- Caregiver wellness summit (free event) guest speaker Kevin O'Connor (and breakout groups, panel discussion) in person event, virtual link for Kevin's speaking and possible panel discussion. Being shared with WI and MN
 - WAER list serve to register or on Vision Forward's webpage

Rachel K – praise to Overture center and thank you from WAERS for the opportunity to learn about these events. C.O. said these things they want to be shared during parent groups and added to newsletters.

JH – nominee for WAER award possible Overture center

AJ – echo's Rachel K praise Overture center <https://www.overture.org/visit/accessibility/>
<https://www.channel3000.com/news/overture-center-offers-tactile-tours-to-make-broadway-accessible-f...>

12:30-1:30 DPI representative updates

1. Director of Library Development, Bureau of Libraries, Division of School and Library Operations, Beth Tomev [BVI DPI Bureau of Libraries Update 1.20.26.pdf](#)
2. WI Talking Book & Braille Library, Library Services Manager, WI Talking Book & Braille Library, Beth Voecks [BVI Council WTBBL Updates February 4th meeting.docx](#)

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

Center Director, Dan Wenzel [Feb 4, 2026 WCBVI Update Education and Residential.docx](#)

- 2/5/26 Braille Fest
- 2/6/26 Braille Challenge
- May 16th - Dance
- May 21st resource fair and spring concert
- Dan will add an “upcoming event” section to his report

Outreach Director, Dawn Soto [WCBVI Update Outreach.docx](#)

Meghan Fredel, Education Consultant, update on Professional Development

4. Department of Public Instruction (DPI) IDEA updates and DPI resources for students with disabilities. Section Manager of Student Engagement, Bureau of Teaching and Learning, Division of Academics, Daniel Parker [2026-01 Wisconsin DPI Special Education Updates.pdf](#)

PM – teacher recruitment and retention highlighted already, no other updates

1:30 Action Items Jenn Raclaw

Kay will put on May agenda and share with DPI admin [Public Comment, Erin Hansen, CESA 4.docx](#)

Kay: connect with Paul on CESA admin connections to share NIU program

Braille Subcommittee address: how do libraries build their braille library for children, put together list of where braille materials can be found. Connect with Beth Voecks-WTBBL happy to help reaching out to school libraries-on April 7 agenda

Kay: look for best dates for 2026-27 (for Paul and Susan please check in before setting dates) **Dates for 2026-27 Council Meetings!**

Wed best Dan

Wed good Dawn

Thurs until 2 Dawn

Not first Wed JO

Not third Tuesday, third Thursday and third Friday of the month JO

Collab VC-asked JH 2/23

Every other week starting Wed, Jan 14 leave at 1:00P CO

CO-not Nov 4-added to BVI

Susan-Directors dates <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J-cz9mnJT-l7-9ca8Tf8kgerG2LY9dtMdpDdnR6l2Oo/edit?tab=t.0>

Added above to BVI -2/23

Check w WESP DHH-2/23

Kay: reach out to those whose terms are ending-sent to RK and GT 2/23

Dawn: Share the Why of WAERvis. Who is it for? Community Partners.

Recruitment

We have a full council! Our recruitment efforts are through these channels: Special Education and Pupil Services Newsletter (formerly 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.

[Reminders](#) Julie Hapeman

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.

2025-2026 Meeting Date May 13th.

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

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.

Public comment, as needed

Motion to adjourn Julie H and 12:40

2nd Cheryl O

passed yes