



Statutory Council on Blindness Meeting Minutes

August 31st, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Via Zoom:

Conference Call Access Information:
USA Toll-Free: 669-254-5252
Meeting ID:

Action Items and Motion Items

Motion Items:

- 1. Motion Item:** Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Patty Zallar motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Kathleen Enders seconded. The motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May, 2023, meeting. Patty Zallar made a motion to approve the minutes with spelling correction. The motion was seconded by Kathi Zoern. No discussion. Motion passed.
- 3. Motion Item:** Kate Coerper entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Enders and seconded by Kathi Zoern. Hearing no discussion, this motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:47AM.

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Kate Coerper, Chairperson greeted everyone.

Council members present:

Kate Coerper, Patty Zallar, Kathleen Enders, Kathi Zoern, Amber Mullett

DHS staff support present:

Ann Sievert Department of Health Services, Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources.

Guests: Jules Lee, Feeding Wisconsin, Aaron Schuh, Connor Kane, Jennifer Marchewka, Brenda Brunet, Kerry Robinson, Charles Fehl.

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04a.m. by Kate Coerper. This meeting was available via zoom link and teleconference.

Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Patty Zallar motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Kathleen Enders seconded. The motion carried.

Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May,2023, meeting. Patty Zallar made a motion to approve the minutes with spelling correction. The motion was seconded by Kathi Zoern No discussion. Motion passed.

III. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Wisconsin Residents Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired.

No public comment was made.

IV. Get to Know you Activity.

Individuals took turns responding to the question: What makes you happy, brings you joy?

V. Overview and History of Council by

Amber Mullett, Director, Office for the Promotion of Independent Living

Promotion of Independent Living

Amber Mullett, Director of the Office for the Promotion of Independent Living (OPIL) provided a high-level overview of the Department, OPIL and the various councils within OPIL. She talked about the Statutory Council on Blindness, its history, and activities the council has engaged in over the years.

VI. Presentation by Jules Lee, Foodshare Outreach Director, Feeding WI

Jules Lee provided an overview of Feeding Wisconsin. One of the organizations key purposes is to address the issue of food scarcity within certain populations. Jules attended the meeting to get input from council members on how food scarcity shows up within the blind community. Council members shared their knowledge and lived experience on this topic. Members pointed out that within the blind community the issue may not be lack of money to buy food but getting access to food due to lack of transportation to get to grocery stores and the challenges of ordering groceries on line.

VII. Discussion, Questions and Next Steps

The meeting was opened up to any questions that the council applicants had regarding the meeting, the purpose of the council, their role on the council and any other issues they wanted to discuss. Each applicant had an opportunity to say what they were interested in working on if they were to serve on the council. Amber Mullett talked about a Council Summit that was coming up in early October and strongly recommended that applicants attend. The summit would be a chance for new members to learn more about the various councils, the issue they are working on, and strategies for collaboration among councils.

IX. Adjourn

Kate Coerper entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Enders and seconded by Kathi Zoern. Hearing no discussion, this motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:47AM.