



Statutory Council on Blindness Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 4:00PM-5:00PM.

Via Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Conference Call Access Information:

USA Toll-Free: 1- 669-254-5252

Meeting ID: 762977

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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. Rhonda Staats seconded. The motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10th executive committee meeting. Patty Zallar made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Rhonda Staats. No discussion. Motion passed
- 3. Motion Item:** Kate Coerper entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Rhonda Staats and seconded by Patty Slaby. Hearing no discussion, this motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.

Action Items:

- 1. Action Item:** Kate Coerper will invite Christopher Squire to the May 25th Quarterly council meeting to get more information about the project and answer any questions the council members may have.
- 2. Action Item:** Rhonda Staats will forward this information to the transportation subcommittee of the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities to see if they would also like to be involved in this effort.
- 3. Action Item:** Ann Sievert will contact Jason to invite him to the May 25th quarterly council meeting.

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and introductions:

Kate Coerper, Chairperson greeted everyone.

Council members present:

Rhonda Staats, Kate Coerper, Patty Zallar, Amber Mullett

Council Members Absent: Patty Slaby

DHS staff support present:

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

II. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm. 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. Rhonda Staats seconded. The motion carried. Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 10th executive committee meeting. Patty Zallar made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Rhonda Staats. No discussion. Motion passed.

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

No public comments made.

IV. Set Agenda for May 25th Quarterly Meeting

Council member discussed potential agenda items for the May 25th quarterly meeting. All council members agreed that recruitment should be an agenda item for the May 25th meeting. In addition, they would like to invite Christopher Squire from Department of Transportation bureaus of Project Development (WisDOT BPD) to present at the meeting. Christopher contacted the council informing them that the WISDOT BPED is working with an engineering consultant to update the curb ramp portion of their design guidance for roadway and other improvement projects. WisDOT is evaluating the potential use of a connection type called a "Blended Transition". Blended Transitions include raised pedestrian street crossings, depressed corners or similar connections that have a grade of 5 percent or less. Christopher is reaching out to groups advocating for people who are visually and/or physically impaired within the state for input on this new Blended Transition type of curb ramp. He asked if the Statutory Council on Blindness would participate in a meeting to provide input. Council members agreed that they should be involved in this effort, however, would like to learn more about the project. Kate Coerper will invite Christopher to the May 25th Quarterly council meeting to get more information about the project and answer any questions the council members may have. In addition, Rhonda Staats will forward this information to the transportation subcommittee of the

Governor's Council for People with Disabilities to see if they would also like to be involved in this effort. The council would also like Jason Glosier from the Wisconsin Council of Independent Living Centers, to do the presentation on Community Engagement and Advocacy that he could not do at the February meeting. Ann Sievert will contact Jason to invite him to the May 25th quarterly council meeting.

The council members did a recap of the February 9th quarterly meeting focused on the theme of Social Isolation and Loneliness. They discussed several options for potential follow-up action steps. Ideas included:

- Create a list of things to consider when thinking about how individuals who are blind and visually impaired experience social isolation and loneliness. Share with the Coalition on Social Isolation and Loneliness, Maggie Northrop with the State Health Improvement Plan, and the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI) to post on their website.
- Participate in the Coalition on Social Isolation and Loneliness, get on their list serve and respond to information posted.
- Share data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and the American Community Survey (ACS) regarding individuals who are blind and visually impaired (e.g., poverty rate, education level, employment status) on the OBVI website and other forums to highlight the barriers that individuals who are blind and visually impaired are facing and the inequities they face.
- Invite Aging Directors/Managers and Independent Living Center (ILC) Directors to Statutory Council on Blindness quarterly meetings to talk about how their programs serve individuals who are blind and visually impaired. The council can provide suggestions on how to make their programs more accessible to individuals who are blind and visually impaired.
- Request that the ILC's/Aging programs do a feasibility study to assess how they are serving individuals who are blind and visually impaired.
- Share stories on what the impact, lived experiences, of individuals who are blind and visually impaired facing social isolation and loneliness.

The council would like to discuss this further and agree on some action steps at the May 25th quarterly meeting. The council discussed the fact that they have limited capacity right now so need to identify actions that have the biggest impact with the least amount of effort. They need to remember that their role is to "advise" the department and other entities on issues impacting individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

V. Adjourn

Kate Coerper entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Rhonda Staats and seconded by Patty Zallar. Hearing no discussion, this motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.