

Quarterly Meeting
Statutory Council on Blindness
Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 10th, 2022

1:00PM to 4:00PM

Via Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Conference Call Access Information:

USA Toll-Free: 1 669 254 5252

Meeting ID: 160 045 8692

Action Items and Motion Items

Motion Items:

1. **Motion Item:** Kate Coerper called for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Amber Mullett motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Kathleen Enders seconded
2. **Motion Item:** Rhonda Staats made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Patty Slaby. No discussion. Motion passed.
3. **Motion Item:** Kate Coerper entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Patty Zallar and seconded by Kathleen Enders. Hearing no discussion, this motion passed, and the meeting adjourned 2:41

Action Items:

1. **Action Item:** Ann Sievert and Amber Mullett will put a proposal together for the pacing of the council meetings, and what speakers to invite.
2. **Action Item:** The council will also send a message about the results of the community conversations. Amber Mullett and Ann Sievert will draft a message and send to the council for feedback.
3. **Action Item:** Amber Mullett and Ann Sievert will put together a proposal with a list of potential speakers for the theme of loneliness and social isolation and share with council.

4. **Action Item:** The council executive committee will meet early in January. Amber Mullett and Ann Sievert will send out a doodle to the executive committee to pick a date.

Meeting Minutes

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Council Members Present: Kate Coerper, Rhonda Staats, Patty Zallar, Amber Mullett, Kathleen Enders, Patty Slaby, Kathi Zoern

DHS Staff Support Present: Ann Sievert, and Kate Connell, Department of Health Services, Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources.

Guest: Maggie Northrop

II. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 a.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. Amber Mullett motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Kathleen Enders seconded. The motion carried. Rhonda Staats called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting. The motion was seconded by Patty Slaby. No discussion. Motion passed.

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

No comments made.

IV. **Discussion about Community Conversations with Maggie Northrop**

Maggie Northrop reviewed the SCOB community conversation notes, themes and quotes. Amber Mullett asked Maggie Northrop several questions: What themes stuck out to her to help inform our narrative?

What are the next steps for the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)? How can SCOB engage with the SHIP? What information from other parts of the division would she recommend SCOB engage with to inform their next steps?

Maggie Northrop responded that one thing that really stood out was how much the stories overlap with stories coming out of other communities, while at the same time how these stories had their unique piece. The issues are common, but they are felt and experienced differently. This may mean common solutions may be found. Communities can work and support each other in moving forward. There are several examples of commonalities across communities. Transportation was a big issue across all communities. There were, however, several unique pieces for individuals who are blind and visually impaired. For example: Individuals who are blind or visually impaired need to look for others to fill in the gaps, transportation does not go outside of cities, need for long distance transportation, long waiting times and access to bus stops. Access to information was another big theme with individuals who are blind and visually impaired. For example, accessibility of the internet, websites and technology and how to access information despite the digital divide. There is a need for infrastructure to provide training in assistive technology. Access to civic engagement and social connectedness was also a big theme. For example, there was a desire to be independent at the polls and a desire to be engaged with decision making bodies.

Maggie Northrop provided an update on SHIP. There will be an executive summary in the next two weeks and full implementation plan developed early next year. That will include developing partnerships. They plan to map out priority areas and what key people should be involved, and identify what priorities are people already working on. They will seek out new partnerships and join existing partnerships.

Kate Coerper talked about addressing each community conversation theme at the council meetings in 2023. The council could invite speakers to talk about the themes and discuss how to move forward, while making sure they address the unique needs of the blind and visually impaired. Amber

Mullett said this process ties into SHIP implementation plan. The council could work with the SHIP to identify potential products, policy papers. The council could do some partner mapping with the SHIP. Maggie Northrop said she would be happy to support council's efforts and collaborate with them on the SHIP implantation plan.

Amber Mullett discussed the council's role and the department's role. She proposed that the department staff take the responsibility to put robust agendas together for the council meetings while partnering with others in the organizations and the department. The council's role will be to learn about a topic, provide recommendations to the department and identify next steps (e.g., action items, website updates). Council members agreed with the direction Amber Mullett proposed.

Next Steps:

Ann Sievert and Amber Mullett will put a proposal together for the pacing of the meetings, and what speakers to invite to meetings.

The next quarterly council meeting will be a daylong meeting via zoom to address the topic of social connectedness. Ann Sievert and Amber Mullett will put together an agenda for council to consider.

The council will send the meeting announcements, recommendations and action steps out to organizations that they invited to the community conversations. The council will also send a message about the results of the community conversations. Amber Mullett and Ann Sievert will draft a message and send to the council for feedback.

Amber Mullett and Ann Sievert will put together a proposal with a list of potential speakers for the theme of loneliness and social isolation and share with council.

The council executive committee will meet early in January. Amber Mullett and Ann Sievert will send out a doodle to the executive committee to pick a date.

The next full council meeting will be Thursday February 9th from 9:00-3:00

V. Adjourn

Kate Coerper entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Patty Zallar and seconded by Kathleen Enders. Hearing no discussion, this motion passed, and the meeting adjourned 2:41