



Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB) Executive Committee Open Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, October 1, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Location: Online via [Zoom](#) and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 161 116 4311.

Prepared by: Zachary, DHS on October 1, 2025.

Minutes Status: Approved.

1. Call to Order

- Patty Zallar Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

- **Executive Committee Members Present:** Patty Zallar, Chuck Fehl, Brenda Brunet, and Jenny Marchewka.
- **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport and Angela Brenna
- **Interpreters:** Chantel Wiedmeyer and Kim Barr.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Brenna Brunet made a motion to approve the October 1, 2025, SCOB Executive Committee Meeting Agenda, Jenny Marchewka seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Brenda Brunet made a motion to approve the August 6, 2025, SCOB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Jenny Marchewka seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment (4:05 PM – 5:15 PM)

- Public Comment was held from 4:05 PM to 5:15 PM. No public comment received.

6. GCPD United Council Updates:

- Brenda Brunet provided updates from the United Councils Workgroup meeting that was held on September 25, 2025.
 - Most of the discussion was related to Medicaid Provider Identifier Requirement.
 - Three advocacy letter templates (federal, state, and individual) are being developed to address concerns regarding the Medicaid Provider Identifier requirement. Drafts are in progress and will be shared when finalized.
- DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared two major policy updates that was shared during the meeting.
 - Federal Budget and Government Shutdown:
 - Congress failed to pass a continuing resolution, resulting in a federal government shutdown. This impacted services including Medicare telehealth, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), federal grants and reimbursements, and federal staff technical assistance.
 - Disability Right Wisconsin (DRW):
 - New federal budget proposals threaten funding for DRW, which could potentially impact its ability to provide services to people with disabilities in 2026.
 - Three of DRW's nine Protection and Advocacy programs face a potential loss of funding, which could impact services related to voting rights, employment opportunities, and accommodations in educational and workplace settings.
 - Jenny Marchewka made a motion to include United Council updates, the status of the template/letter, and SCOB future meeting dates and elections on future meeting dates. Chuck Fehl seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Action Item:** DHS Staff Zachary will add GCPD United Council updates, status of the template/letter, and SCOB future meeting dates and elections to the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Discuss Access to Program and Services

- DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared the feedback on challenges navigating the DHS website, particularly regarding American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II compliance.
- The issues that were raised:
 - Complex Data Table.
 - Visual design challenges.
 - Navigation difficulties.
- Zachary shared that DHS leadership is currently working on making website and mobile platforms compliant with ADA Title II updates.
- Chuck Fehl made a motion to invite Lisa Sobczyk and Amber Mullet to the next full council meeting to provide updates on DHS digital accessibility projects and request inputs from councils. Brenda Brunet seconded. Motion carried.
- **Action:** DHS Zachary will contact and invite Lisa Sobczyk and Amber Mullett to SCOB Quarterly meeting.

8. Review Action Items

- DHS Staff will add GCPD Untied Council updates, letter template progress, and elections to the agenda for the next meeting.
- DHS Staff will contact Lisa Sobczyk and Amber Mullett to SCOB Quarterly meeting.

9. Adjournment

- Brenda Brunet made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM.

About the SCOB

The Statutory Council on Blindness was established by the Wisconsin Legislature, [WI State Statute 15.197\(2\)](#), in 1969 and is administratively attached to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Council is appointed by the Secretary of DHS to make recommendation to the DHS and other state agencies on services, activities, programs, investigations, and research that affect persons on Wisconsin who are Blind or Visually Impaired. To learn about the specifics of our mission, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/scob/index.htm>.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you need accommodations to participate, please contact Zachary Davenport at 414-207-8820 or zachary.davenport@dhs.wisconsin.gov