



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

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Location: Online via [Zoom](#) and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 160 594 4027.

Prepared by: DHS Staff Zachary Davenport on January 14, 2026.

Minutes Status: Draft. These minutes will be presented for approval at the next SCOB Executive Committee meeting on April 8, 2026.

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, Brenda Brunet, and Jenny Marchewka.
- **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport, Ann Sievert, and Angela Brenna
- **Interpreters:** Chantel Wiedmeyer and Carly Bieri.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the **January 14, 2026**, SCOB Executive Committee Meeting Agenda, Brenda Brunet seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

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

5. Public Comment (4:05 PM – 5:15 PM)

- public comment received.

6. GCPD United Council Updates:

- The United Council meetings have not occurred since late 2025 due to the holiday period.
- Members discussed on United Council meetings in 2026. The first United Council meeting will be on February 4, 2026.
- Patty Zallar and Brenda Brunet confirmed that they plan on attending the United Council meeting in February.
- Members shared and discussed the implementation of Medicaid/Medicare identification numbers, which became effective on January 1, 2026.

7. Discuss Transportation

- DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared information about Wisconsin Transportation Advocacy Councils, committees and groups that SCOB may be interested in attending.
- Council members discussed transportation as a priority issue, including:
 - Challenges faced by non-drivers
 - Paratransit safety and communication concerns
 - Volunteer driver programs and insurance barriers
 - Cost and accessibility concerns with rideshare services
 - The importance of learning from existing county-based volunteer driver model.
- The council agreed that hearing directly from key transportation advocacy groups would help inform future advocacy and council action.
- **Motion:** Brenda Brunet made a motion to invite Denise Jess and Janet Zander to a SCOB quarterly meeting to discuss transportation advocacy. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Action:** DHS Staff Zachary Davenport will contact Denise Jess and Janet Zander and coordinate scheduling for upcoming SCOB quarterly meeting.

8. Review Action Items

- Members reviewed action items from previous meeting. All prior action items were completed.

9. Plan the Next Meeting SCOB Quarterly Meeting

- Proposed agenda items for Quarterly meeting included:

- Updates on SCOB website regarding Mental Health
- Update on the DHS Digital Accessibility (DIGA) Stakeholder Feedback Group
 - Clarification of how council members can support digital accessibility work within realistic time commitments.
- **Motion:** Brenda Brunet made a motion to invite Lisa Sobczyk to the SCOB quarterly meeting to share more information about the DIGA. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Action:** DHS Staff Zachary Davenport will invite Lisa Sobczyk to the next quarterly meeting.
- **Motion:** Jenny Marchewka made a motion to discuss the SCOB Workplan and accomplishments in 2025. Patty Zallar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Patty Zallar shared an intention to gradually step back from a leadership role after 2026 while remaining active on the council. Members agreed it would be beneficial to add an agenda item to begin discussing future leadership succession and council vacancies with the full council.

10. Adjournment

- Brenda Brunet made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 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