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

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Location: Online via Zoom and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 160 184 2492

Prepared by: DHS Staff Zachary Davenport on July 8, 2026.

Minutes Status: Approved on November 17, 2026.

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1. **Call to Order**
    - Patty Zallar Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.
2. **Roll Call**
    - **Executive Committee Members Present:** Brenda Brunet, Jenny Marchewka, and Chuck Fehl.
    - **Member in Attendance:** Felicia Clayborne.
    - **Absent:** Patty Zallar.
    - **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport and Angela Brenna.
    - **Interpreters:** Chantel Wiedmeyer and Kim Barr.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
    - Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the **July 8, 2026,** SCOB Executive Committee Meeting Agenda, Chuck Fehl seconded the Motion. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes**
    - Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the **April 8, 2026,** SCOB Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Chuck Fehl seconded. Motion carried.

5. **Public Comment (4:05 PM – 5:15 PM)**
    - No public comment received.
6. **Review Action from the last SCOB Quarterly Meeting**
    - **Update on Michael Jandl's appointment:**
        - DHS Staff Zachary Davenport reported that Michael Jandl's appointment remains in process. An official appointment letter from the DHS Secretary's Office is expected soon.
    - **Nutrition Program Screen Questions:**
        - DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared that he continues working with the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI), Sara Koenig, and Neal Minogue regarding possible screening questions related to vision loss and accessibility needs within the nutrition program.
    - **Mental Health White Paper:**
        - DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared that he will contact the Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to determine whether Wisconsin-specific data for individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired is available. Once additional data is obtained, he will schedule a meeting with Jenny Marchewka and Tami Frentzel to continue revisions to the mental health.
    - **Home-Delivered Meal Program Advocacy Letter:**
        - Members discussed the development of an advocacy letter supporting the Home-Delivered Program and decided to postpone planning till the next Joint Finance Committee budget cycle.
    - **Wisconsin Non-Driver Advisory Committee (WiNDAC) Letter:**
        - Member discussed and decided the WiNDAC letter will remain on hold and will be revisited at a future quarterly meeting.
    - **Invite Older Americans Act Title III-E Presentation:**
        - DHS Staff Zachary Davenport reported that Lynn Gall has been invited to present at a future quarterly meting about the Older Americans Act Title III-E Caregiver Program.
7. **Discuss Joint Finance Committee (JFC)**
    - The Executive Committee discussed preparations for Wisconsin's next biennial budget process.

- Members noted that the majority of Joint Finance Committee activity related to the 2027-2029 state budget will occur during spring 2027, following the gubernatorial election
- Discussion included:
    - Preparing future advocacy letters related to council priorities, including the Home-Delivered Meal Program.
    - Continuing to monitor the Joint Finance Committee timeline and public hearing schedule.
    - Developing a better understanding of the state budget process before submitting recommendations.
- DHS Staff Zachary Davenport suggested inviting a DHS staff member to provide an overview of Wisconsin's state budget process during a future quarterly meeting, potentially in December or January. Committee members expressed support for the idea. No formal action was taken. Committee wants to include the topic on the future Executive Committee agenda for further discussion.

8. GCPD United Council Updates

- Brenda Brunet
- DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared the following updates:
    - The United Council meeting was held last week, July 1st.
    - Amber Mullett discussed the plans and goals for the Engage for Change.
    - The goal is to bring together council members from supported disability councils to strengthen relationships and improve engagement with DHS leadership rather than focusing on legislators.
    - This engagement would help:
        - Increase council members' understanding of DHS structure, programs, policies, and decision-making processes.
        - Provide an opportunity to learn how public input and council feedback can inform DHS programs and policies.
        - Build stronger working relationship between disability council members and DHS leadership members and staff.

    - Strengthen collaboration across disability councils, committees, and DHS programs.
    - Focus engagement on DHS leadership and staff-level decision-makers who play key roles in policy and program implementation rather than legislators and DHS appointed positions.
    - Identify next actionable steps for ongoing engagement and future collaboration with DHS leaderships members.

9. Review Action Items

- DHS Zachary Davenport will:
    - Continue monitoring Michael Jandle's appointment.
    - Follow up with Sara Koenig and Neil Minogue regarding nutrition program screening questions.
    - Contact BRFSS regarding Wisconsin-specific vision-related data.
    - Schedule a meeting with Jenny Marchewka and Tami Frentzel once data is received.
    - Follow up with Lynn Gall regarding a future presentation.
    - Invite Denise Jess to attend the next quarterly meeting to provide updates.
    - Members reviewed action items from previous meeting. All prior action items were completed.
- All Members will continue monitoring the Joint Finance Committee timelines.
- Add discussion regarding a DHS budget overview presentation to the next Executive Committee agenda.

10. Plan the Next Meeting SCOB Quarterly Meeting

- Members drafted the next SCOB Quarterly Meeting Agenda.
- Members discussed inviting Densie Jess to provide any advocacy updates to the council.
- Chuck Fehl made a motion to invite Denise Jess to provide the council with advocacy updates. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. **Adjournment**

- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Fehl seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 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