



**State of Wisconsin**  
Statutory Council on Blindness

1 West Wilson Street, Room 551  
Post Office Box 2659  
Madison, WI 53701-2659

**Telephone:** 608-266-3147

**Website:** [dhs.wisconsin.gov/scob](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/scob)

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## **Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB) Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 3, 2025  
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

### **Quarterly meeting Action Items and Motion Items**

#### **A. Action Items**

1. **Action Item:** DHS Staff Support will explore whether Independence First can provide transportation support for SCOB members.

#### **B. Motion Items**

1. **Motion Item:** Chuck Fehl made a motion to approve March 3, 2025, Quarterly Meeting Agenda as amended. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. **Motion Item:** Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the November 5, 2024, Quarterly meeting minutes. Tami Franztel seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Motion Item:** Kathi Zoern made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kerry Robinson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

#### **C. Meeting Minutes**

##### **I. Welcome and introductions: Patty Zallar, Chairperson.**

**Committee members present:** Patty Zallar, Chuck Fehl, Jenny Marchewka, Kerry Robinson, Brenda Brunet, Kathi Zoern, Tami Franztel.

**Committee members absent (Excused):** N/A.



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**Guest Present:** Felicia Clayborne, Denise Jess, and Jaclyn Borchardt.

**DHS staff support present:** Jason Anderson, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources (BADR); Amber Mullett, DHS, BADR; and Ann Sievert, DHS, BADR.

**II. Patty Zallar, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.**

- The meeting was made available via phone at (669) 254-5252 with Meeting ID: 160 072 1845 and via [Zoom](#).

**III. Review and Approve Meeting Agenda**

- Chuck Fehl made a motion to approve March 3, 2025, Quarterly Meeting Agenda as amended. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. The motion carried. Motion Item 1.

**IV. Review and Approve November Statutory Council on Blindness Quarterly Minutes**

- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the November 5, 2024, Quarterly meeting minutes. Tami Franztel seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.

**V. Public Comment on Issues Affecting Wisconsin Residents Who are Blind or Visually Impaired**

- No public comment was made.

**VI. Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Vision Forward Collaborative Meeting Update**



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- Amber Mullett provided background information on potential collaborative opportunities with Wisconsin Council of the Blind (WCB), Vision Forward, the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (OBVI), the Center for the Deaf-Blind Persons (CDBP), and Independent Living Centers (ILCs). The goal of the collaborative meetings is to coordinate efforts, reduce duplication, and advance shared policy priorities.
  - Denise Jess provided an overview of the WCB, a statewide nonprofit organization focused on collaboration and removing barriers for individuals across Wisconsin who need support.

## **VII. GCPD and Subcommittees Updates**

- Patty Zallar shared the updates from GCPD Quarterly meeting that was held virtually in January.
- Chuck Fehl shared the updates from the united council meeting that was held virtually in February.

## **VIII. Presentation and Discussion of Certified Vision Rehabilitation Occupational Therapist (CVROT)**

- Jaclyn Borchardt provided a presentation about Vision Forward and aging related issues.
- Jacci Borchardt provided an overview of CVROT, including its purpose and goals.

## **IX. Discuss Governor's Budget**

- Denise Jess shared several public policy highlights with SCOB:



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- Governor Tony Evers' State Budget Proposal of Interest to Blind or Low Vision Wisconsinites.
  - Federal Issues of Concerns for People with Disabilities.
  - Tax Credit for Blind Workers.
  - WCB Advocacy Activities.

## **X. Break**

- 15 Minutes Break (11:30 A.M – 11:45 A.M).

## **XI. Engage for Change Updates**

- Council members discussed the plans for transportation for Engage for Change.
- **Action Item 1:** DHS Staff Support will explore whether Independence First can provide transportation support for SCOB members.

## **XII. SCOB Workplan Development**

- Amber Mullett shared four priority areas with goals for 2024-2027 SCOB Strategic Workplan:
  - Mental Health
  - Access to program and services
  - Transportation
  - Data and Partnership
- Council members agreed to use the SCOB Workplan as a framework for structuring future meeting agendas.
- At the next SCOB Executive meeting, Executive Council members will decide which priority area they want to work on first.



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### **XIII. Adjourn**

- Kathi Zoern made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kerry Robinson seconded the motion. Motion Carried. See Motion Item 3.

**The meeting Adjourned at 1:00 P.M.**