



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

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**Date of the Meeting:** Friday, September 15, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Location:** Online via [Zoom](#) and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 161 653 5452.

**Prepared by:** Zachary, DHS on September 15, 2025

**Minutes Status:** APPROVED.

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### 1. Call to Order

- Chuck Fehl, Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

### 2. Roll Call

- **Executive Committee Members Present:** Chuck Fehl, Brenda Brunet, and Jenny Marchewka.
- **SCOB Members Present:** Kerry Robinson, Kathi Zoern, Jenny Marchewka, Tami Franztel, Felicia Clayborne
- **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport.
- **Interpreters:** Nicole Keller and Kim Barr.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

- Felicia Clayborne made a motion to approve the September 15, 2025, SCOB Quarterly Meeting Agenda, Kathi Zoern seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

### 4. Approval of the Minutes

- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the June 9, 2025, SCOB Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Kathi Zoern seconded. Motion carried.

## 5. Public Comment (9:05 AM – 9:15 AM)

- Public Comment was held from 9:05 AM to 9:15 AM. No public comment received.

## 6. Subcommittee Updates

- Telling Your Story:
  - DHS Staff Zachary shared that this is a new section on the SCOB website to highlight personal stories from Council members. The purpose is to provide a dedicated space for members to share their advocacy experiences and involvement with SCOB. Council members interested in contributing their stories were invited to email DHS Staff Support for posting on the website.
- Website Approval:
  - DHS Staff Zachary shared all the proposed website section that was presented to the Council for review. Following the discussion, Tami Franztel made a motion to approve adding all the reviewed sections to the SCOB websites. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- **Action:** DHS staff will update the SCOB website.

## 7. Policy Updates

- Zachary Davenport, DHS Staff Support:
  - Shared that the Wisconsin Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) will not be continued beyond the current grant year, ending September 30, 2025, per notification from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). WDBTAP will continue to operate and support families and schools through that date, while the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) submits a formal request for reconsideration and continues advocating for the families and students served.
  - Patty Zallar submitted a public comment on behalf of SCOB for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) 2025 ADA Transition Plan.

## 8. Break

- 15 Minutes Break (10:30 AM – 10:45 AM)

## 9. Wisconsin Coalition for Social Isolation and Connection Updates

- All Executive Council Members shared that they have not received any updates or information from Wisconsin Coalition for Social Isolation and Connection.
- **Action Item:** DHS Staff Zachary will contact the Wisconsin Coalition for Social Isolation and Connection to confirm whether any Council members who signed up have been received or acknowledged by the Coalition.

## 10. GCPD United Councils Updates

- DHS Staff Zachary reminded that the GCPD continues hosting monthly United Council Workgroup meetings to strengthen collaboration among Wisconsin's disability-related councils. The group focuses on identifying shared advocacy priorities, developed united messages, and coordinating collective actions across councils.
- SCOB Representation:
  - Patty Zallar and Brenda Brunet attend the United Council meetings on behalf of SCOB, sharing council updates and relaying key information back to SCOB's Executive and Quarterly meetings.
- Legislative Updates, DHS Staff Zachary:
  - Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act: The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) is proposing to roll back disability hiring goals and reporting requirement for federal contractors. The public comment due on October 24, 2025.
  - Home Care Worker Rule: The DOL's Wage and Hour Division proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that could remove overtime and wage protections for family or self-hired caregivers. The public comment period closed on September 2, 2025.
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) In-Kind Support Rule: The Social Security Administration proposed excluding SNAP (FoodShare) from public assistance definitions, which could reduce or eliminate SSI benefits for up to 400,000 individuals nationwide.

## 11. Discuss Access to Program and Services

- The Council reviewed the *Access to Program and Services* document, which includes questions about barriers individuals experience when

accessing DHS website or health program information. DHS Staff Zachary asked members to discuss document collectively and to email their responses directly to DHS Staff Zachary. The feedback gathered will be shared with DHS leadership to highlight accessibility issue and support ongoing efforts to improve the accessibility of DHS's website and related services.

- **Action Item:** DHS Staff will send a reminder to all SCOB Council Members to complete their Access to Program and Services questions.

## 12. Review Action Items

- DHS staff will update the SCOB website.
- DHS Staff will contact the Wisconsin Coalition for Social Isolation and Connection to confirm whether any Council members who signed up have been received or acknowledged by the Coalition.
- DHS Staff will send a reminder to all SCOB Council Members to complete their Access to Program and Services questions.

## 13. Adjournment

- Kathi Zoern made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

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## 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](mailto:zachary.davenport@dhs.wisconsin.gov)