



Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB) Quarterly Open Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Online via [Zoom](#) and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 161 404 7666.

Prepared by: Zachary, DHS on November 5, 2025

Minutes Status: DRAFT. These minutes will be presented for approval at the next SCOB Quarterly meeting on March 4, 2026.

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, Tami Franztel, Felicia Clayborne
- **Absent:** Patty Zallar
- **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport, Ann Sievert, Ashley Baker, and Lisa Sobczyk.
- **Interpreters:** Chantel Wiedmeyer and Kim Barr.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Brenda Brunet made a motion to approve the November 5, 2025, SCOB Quarterly Meeting Agenda, Jenny Marchewka seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- Tami Zoern made a motion to approve the September 15, 2025, SCOB Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Brenda Brunet 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. United Council Updates

- Patty Zallar
- Brenda Brunet
 - Brenda provided the updates from the last United Council meeting on October 23rd, 2025. She shared that the presenter, Elmer Moore, Executive Director of Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) joined the United Council meeting to share the information about its work on expanding access to affordable housing by financing rental unit, helping families purchasing homes, and providing down payment assistance programs.
 - DHS Staff Zachary Davenport also added that the council members had opportunity to ask the questions for Elemr about developmental of accessible and affordable housing.
- DHS Staff Zachary provided updates from the Untied Council Workgroup meeting. Zachary explained the three advocacy letter templates: Federal, State, and Individual. These packets served as practical tools for advocacy. These also provided the foundation for collective advocacy letter, a united messaged endorsed by all governor-appointed councils in Wisconsin.
- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the draft letters from the Untied Councils Workgroup will be used as letters moving forward. Tami Zoern seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Digital Accessibility Feedback Opportunity

- Lisa Sobczyk:
 - Shared about Digital Accessibility (DIGA) Stakeholder Feedback Group. The DHS is seeking participating to help identify accessibility barriers, improve user experiences across adaptive technologies, and ensure all Wisconsin residents can effectively access DHS websites, applications, and digital content.

- Several council members expressed interest in participating in the DIGA Stakeholder Feedback Group.
- **Action:** DHS Staff Zachary will end the DIGA Stakeholder Feedback Group recruitment document to all council members.

8. Break

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

9. Discuss Next Year's Meeting Dates for Executive Committee and Quarterly

- DHS Staff Zachary Davenport shared the proposed Meeting Dates for the SCOB Executive Committee and Quarterly Meetings in 2026.
- Jenny made a motion to approve the meetings dates for the SCOB Executive Committee and Quarterly meetings. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Action Item:** DHS Staff Zachary will create and send calendar invitation, including the Zoom link, for all 2026 SCOB meetings.

10. Discuss Election

- Elections were held for the following four officer position that will take effective immediately after this council meeting.
 - Chairperson: Patty Zallar
 - Vice-Chairperson: Brenda Brunet
 - Secretary: Jenny Marchewka
 - Member-At-Large: Chuck Fehl

11. Review Action Items

- DHS staff will send out the calendar invitations to all Council Members.
- DHS staff will send out the letter that Lisa shared and discuss to all Council Members.

12. Adjournment

- Jenny Marchewka made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathi Zoern seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

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