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Statutory Council on Blindness (SCOB)
Quarterly Open Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2026, from 9:00 PM to 12:30 PM

Location: Online via Zoom and telephone, **Meeting ID:** 160 218 8075

Prepared by: Zachary, DHS on June 22, 2026.

Minutes Status: DRAFT. These minutes will be presented for approval at the next SCOB Quarterly meeting on October 27, 2026.

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1. **Call to Order**
    - Patty Zallar, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.
2. **Roll Call**
    - **Members Present:** Patty Zallar, Brenda Brunet, Jenny Marchewka, Chuck Fehl, Kathi Zoern, and Tami Frentzel.
    - **Members Absent:** Kerry Robinson.
    - **DHS Staff Present:** Zachary Davenport, and Angela Brenna.
    - **Interpreters:** Nicole Keller and Kim Barr.
    - **Guests:** Sara Koenig, and Neal Minogue.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
    - Jenny Marchewka made a motion to approve the June 22, 2026, SCOB Quarterly Meeting Agneda. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes**
    - Chuck Fehl made a motion to approve March 4, 2026, SCOB Quarterly Meeting Minutes. Kathi Zoern seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Public Comment (9:05 AM – 9:15 AM)**
    - No public comment received.
6. **Wisconsin Meals on Wheels, Sara Koenig and Neal Minogue**
    - Sara Koenig, DHS Elder Nutrition Program Manager, and Neal Minogue, DHS Older Americans Act Program Supervisor, provided an overview of Wisconsin's nutrition programs under the Older Americans Act. Presentation slides were provided prior to the meeting.
        - Sara clarified that "Meals on Wheels" is commonly used as an umbrella term for home-delivered meal services. At the state level, DHS typically refers to the program as the home-delivered meal program or nutrition program. The nutrition program also includes congregate or community dining, nutrition education, nutrition counseling, and other nutrition services.
        - Transportation was identified as a major barrier. Sara shared that 10% of surveyed community dining participants reported they could not attend a dining site because they lacked transportation.
        - Neal emphasized that the Older Americans Act nutrition program is "more than just a meal." He explained that home-delivered meal drivers may be the only person a participant sees regularly and may notice changes in health or safety concerns. Drivers have helped identify emergencies, including participants who have fallen at home. Neal also shared that 93% of home-delivered meal drivers are volunteers.
    - Council members discussed the importance of screening questions that identify vision loss or other access needs.
    - Council members also discussed advocacy opportunities. Sara identified the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network as a potential partner and offered to share a contact with DHS Zachary Davenport. Sara also described past advocacy efforts, including paper plate campaigns where meal recipients wrote messages about what the program means to them.
    - **Motion:** Jenny Marchewka made a motion to begin developing a letter in support of Older Americans Act nutrition program, to be finalized and issued at the appropriate time. Tami Frentzel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Neal suggested that Lynn Gall, who oversees caregiver support programs, could present to the Council at a future meeting about Title III-E of the Older Americans Act, including the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- **Motion:** Jenny Marchewka made a motion to make room at a future meeting for a presentation regarding caregiver programs under the Older Americans Act, including Alzheimer's and disability-related caregiving. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Action:** DHS Staff will contact and invite Lynn Gall to provide a presentation to the next SCOB Quarterly meeting.
- DHS Zachary clarified whether the Council would like direct involvement in conversations about adding screening questions related to vision loss and access needs, or whether staff should work with OBVI and bring draft questions back to the Council.
- Council members agreed that DHS Zachary should work with OBVI and Sara Koenig on possible screening questions, with the final questions brought back to the Council for review and feedback.
- **Motion:** Tami Frentzel made a motion for DHS Zachary to work with OBVI on adding questions related to the nutrition program screening process. Kathi Zoern seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Action:** DHS Zachary will contact and bring the discussion on adding questions related to nutrition program screen process with OBVI.

7. New Council Appointment

- The Council discussed the application of Michael Jandle for membership on SCOB. The Executive Committee shared that he had attended the previous Executive Committee meeting and introduced himself and his background.
- Kathi Zoern made a motion to accept Michael Jandle as a new member of the Statutory Council on Blindness. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. SCOB Mental Health Workgroup Updates

- DHS Zachary Davenport shared that he recently received more feedback from his colleagues with suggestions to strengthen the white paper by adding more Wisconsin-specific data. One suggested source was

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, which could help show the impact of mental health and socialization among people with vision loss in Wisconsin.

- DHS Zachary recommended that the Council hold off on voting on the white paper until additional edits are completed.
- The Council discussed and agreed that adding Wisconsin-specific data would strengthen the document. The Council also supported holding the vote until the next quarterly meeting.
- **Motion:** Kathi Zoern made a motion to hold off on voting on the white paper until additional updates recommended by DHS staff are added. Jenny Marchewka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Draft Letter for Newly Elected Governor

- The Council discussed possible letters to the newly elected Governor, the future Secretary of the Department of Transportation, and possibly the future Secretary of the Department of Health Services.
- Council members agreed there was no need to send the letter immediately because the Governor's election and appointments will not occur until later. Members discussed whether to review the letter now or hold it until the next quarterly meeting.
- **Motion:** Tami Frentzel made a motion for Zachary to hold the letter until the September quarterly meeting for review before it is sent. Brenda Brunet seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Action Item:** Council members were asked to review the draft letter and provide feedback before the next quarterly meeting.

10. GCPD United Council Updates

- Brenda Brunet and DHS Zachary Davenport shared the following updates:
    - Planning continues for the Engage for Change event at Monona Terrace in Madison.
    - A draft agenda is being reviewed and registration information will be shared once final approvals are completed.
    - The Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) quarterly meeting and awards ceremony will be held the day before Engage for Change.

- DHS Angela Brenna shared that lodging arrangements are being coordinated, including requests for rooms near elevators and other accessibility considerations.
- Members were encouraged to watch for registration materials and upcoming event information.
- DHS Zachary will share United Councils updates from other councils with members by email.

11. Review Action Items

- Patty Zallar and DHS Zachary Davenport reviewed the following action items from the meeting:
  - Zachary will begin the process to move Michael Jandle's appointment forward through DHS.
  - Zachary will work with OBVI and Sara Koenig on possible screening questions related to vision loss and access needs for the nutrition program.
  - Zachary will continue working with Jenny and Tami on edits to the mental health white paper, including additional Wisconsin-specific data.
  - The Council will continue developing advocacy letters related to nutrition, transportation, and funding.
  - Members will review the draft letter related to the Wisconsin Non-Driver Advisory Committee before the September quarterly meeting.
  - Zachary will hold the transportation-related letter until the future DOT Secretary has been appointed and sworn in.
  - Zachary will invite someone to a future meeting to discuss Older Americans Act Title III-E caregiver programs.
  - United Councils updates will be shared with members by email.
  - Zachary will send the meeting minutes and action items by email after the meeting.

12. Adjournment

- Brenda Brunet made a motion to adjourn. Jenny seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.