

Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI)
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2016
Best Western Ramkota, Pierre

Members Present: Eric Rippentrop, Gaye Mattke, Marcia Hultman, Connie Sullivan, Koni Sims, Alan Vandenburg, Cheri Knispel, Tana Buresch, Kay Miller, Catherine Greseth, and Patrick Czerny.

Members Absent: Julie Briggs, Cole Uecker, Roberta Ecoffey, Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon, and Bruce Micheel.

Others Present: Ronda Williams and Becky Blume

Eric Rippentrop called the meeting to order. A joint meeting was held with Board of Vocational Rehabilitation in the morning. Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and SBVI staff presented on the new regulations of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), how it affects the agencies, and what South Dakota is doing to meet the new requirements.

Connie Sullivan made a motion to approve the agenda. Koni Sims seconded. Motion carried.

Catherine Greseth made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10th Board meeting. Patrick Czerny seconded. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Board Annual Report

The Annual Report is the Board's report to the Governor of South Dakota and Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and is due by December 31st each year. The format includes a letter from the Board chair, table of contents, Board membership and information, data from SBVI programs, satisfaction survey results, and success stories. DHS Communication Officer developed a new cover and will assist SBVI staff with contents and layout. A draft report will be sent to the members for review. Any edits should then be reported back to SBVI staff. At the December meeting, the Board will vote to finalize the report so it is ready for submission by the deadline. Marsha Hultman suggested including the

work the department is doing with the SD Retailers Association and the Department of Labor and Regulation in the annual report.

Membership Update

Dr. Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon and Patrick Czerny were reappointed for another three year term. Cole Uecker was appointed to replace Tim Neyhart to represent the Client Assistance Program. Roberta Ecoffey was appointed to replace Lyle Cook as a representative of the Tribal VR program directors. Tana Buresch was appointed to represent the Parent Connection and replaced Teresa Nold. Cheri Knispel replaces Ken Rollman as a consumer organization representative.

Committee Updates

The Executive committee is made up of the Chair (Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon), Vice-Chair (Bruce Micheel), and Member-at-Large (Catherine Greseth). The Executive committee also serves as the Bylaw committee. Gaye Mattke, Director is the Division is contact for the Executive Committee.

The Strategic Planning and Policy committee members include Bruce Micheel, Connie Sullivan, Eric Rippentrop, Marcia Hultman and Alan Vandenburg. Ronda Williams is the staff liaison. This committee meets when necessary to develop policies. Gaye will ask Cole Uecker if he would be interested in serving on this committee.

Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) members include Patrick Czerny, Lynda O'Connor, JoMarie Laughlin, and Chelle Hart. Nancy Hoyme is the staff liaison. ATAC is comprised of Board members and other members who have vision loss and use assistive technology. The ATAC developed a resource guide that is on the SBVI website, and also assists with new policies related to assistive technology.

Public Relations (PR) committee members include Julie Briggs, Catherine Greseth, Eric Rippentrop, and staff liaisons Sandy Neyhart and Nancy Hoyme.

Board Representation for Joint Activities/Events

Catherine Greseth and Julie Briggs are the SBVI representatives on the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) committee. Communities in the state submit proposals for events to promote employment of people with disabilities. There are currently nine communities hosting NDEAM events in the month of October. The Board contributes to NDEAM events. Board member attendance at NDEAM events will be covered; please notify Becky regarding events you plan to attend.

Catherine Greseth shared that she and her daughter Mary will be presenting at a couple of events. Mary will be speaking about her experience with vision loss in a private school setting. Parochial schools are not held to the same standards for accommodations as public schools. Discussion was held on SBVI outreach to private schools. Counselors can visit the schools but they are not legally bound by the same standards for accessibility as public schools.

Eric Rippentrop is the SBVI representative on the Governor's Awards committee. Discussion ensued on how it is meaningful to have the Governor present the awards in the Capitol Rotunda. The recipients are very deserving and those who attended reported that they found the event to be very moving. The Board of SBVI is a sponsor of the Governor's Awards along with the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Members were encouraged to nominate individuals for the Governor's Awards. Koni Sims made a motion that the Public Relations committee actively seek and nominate an individual(s) for the 2017 Governor's Awards. Catherine Greseth seconded. Motion carried.

Blind Organization Conventions

Stipends are available for those attending conventions with preference given to first time attendees. The South Dakota Association of the Blind recently held their annual convention and three people received stipends. Gaye read the report from a first time attendee. Koni Sims and Connie Sullivan both gave reports on their impressions of the convention. There was a question/answer dialog with SBVI staff and attendees.

The annual Fall Conference will be held in October. If Board members are interested in attending, speak to Becky regarding arrangements.

Program Guides

The divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired are drafting a program guide for the new competitive employment requirements. The Strategic Planning and Policy committee may need to meet and discuss prior to the next meeting.

Directors Report

Gaye (on behalf of the Board) received a request from the White Cane March committee to help cover expenses for the event in October. The request included food/water, interpreters, and window clings. Discussion was held. The Board cannot pay for food. It was mentioned that an anonymous donation was received for the window clings. Koni Sims made a motion that Board of SBVI sponsor the event by covering the cost of sign language interpreters. Patrick Czerny seconded. Motion carried. The Helen Keller regional representative plans to attend and will need tactile interpreters. The march will be held on October 22nd and has been moved to 41st Street to allow for better coverage.

The 92nd Legislative Session will be held January 10 through March 10, 2017. Gaye is not aware of any bills/issues that will affect SBVI.

The Board of SBVI is a member of the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (SDCCD) and it is renewal time. Connie Sullivan is the Board representative on the Disability Advocacy Network that deals with disability related legislative issues. Connie will continue in this position. Catherine Greseth made a motion to renew the SDCCD membership. Koni Sims seconded. Motion carried.

Person Centered Thinking (PCT) activities/trainings are continuing with quarterly meetings. Department of Human Services employees are implementing PCT in meeting formats and day-to-day business. Coaches have the option to “bring a friend” so more people are being trained and getting involved.

Catherine Greseth asked if SBVI Board could sponsor the regional Dare to Dream conference on October 15th. Gaye suggested that a proposal be submitted and offered to send Catherine the form.

Connie Sullivan made a motion that the next meeting be held in Pierre on December 9th. Kay Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Cheri Knispel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patrick Czerny seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.