

Draft Board of SBVI Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2017
Holiday Inn Express, Ft. Pierre, SD

Members Present: Catherine Greseth, Tami Francis, Connie Sullivan, Cole Uecker, Kay Miller, Jill Kundtz, Alan Vandenburg, Koni Sims, Eric Rippentrop, Patrick Czerny, Gaye Mattke

Members Absent: Roberta Ecoffey, Cheri Knispel, Tana Buresch, Marcia Hultman

Others Present: Ronda Williams, Sandy Neyhart, Nancy Hoyme, Becky Blume

Orientation for new members was held and attended by new members, as well as several other members.

Catherine Greseth, Chair, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

Membership Update:

Jill Kundtz from Rapid City and Tami Francis from Sioux Falls were appointed to the Board effective July 2017. Both appointees are blind and represent Business and Industry. Cole Uecker, representative of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) and Connie Sullivan, representative of the Department of Education Braille and Talking Book Library, were reappointed to another 3 year term. Dr. Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon resigned her position on the Board due to relocation out of state. Her position is currently vacant. Gaye Mattke notified the Board that she will be contacting a replacement for Dr. O'Connor's position. Roberta Ecoffey represents the Tribal VR program. Cheri Knispel represents the National Federation of the Blind and former consumer. Tana Buresch is a representative of Parent Connection. Marcia Hultman is the Workforce Development Council representative.

Koni Sims made a motion to approve the agenda. Eric Rippentrop seconded. Motion carried.

Connie Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16th meeting. Koni Sims seconded. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates:

Catherine Greseth is a member of the Mayor's committee in Rapid City. She relayed the story of Thore Jehshus, who uses a wheelchair, getting stuck on the 3rd floor due to elevator issues. The fire department was called and the ordeal got media attention. She coordinated two National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) events in Rapid City.

Eric Rippentrop was elected to the South Dakota Association of the Blind Board. He is going to Israel in the near future.

Koni Sims is the only medical massage practitioner in the state. SDAB did not have a convention this year. She will be receiving the Governor's Award for Outstanding Citizen at the luncheon on October 3rd. She is a member of the transportation board in Sioux Falls. Koni was involved in a serious pedestrian/car accident in May. She will be participating in the White Cane March in October. Last year, approximately 100 people participated and the event was held on 41st Street. This year, the police have expressed concerns about participants if the march crossing 41st Street. The White Cane committee is working to address those concerns.

Alan Vandenburg is a vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselor in Sioux Falls. With new requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, there is more tracking and documentation required by VR counselors.

Jill Kundtz works at Rapid City Regional Hospital as the spiritual coordinator. She is a current VR consumer.

Kay Miller is a representative payee. She now has a satellite office in Sioux Falls and also works with the Veterans Administration (VA). She is the Peer Support leader for the Mitchell group.

Cole Uecker notified the Board of the name change from South Dakota Advocacy Services to Disability Rights SD. One of the big issues is guardianship and even if the individual has a guardian, the individual still has rights. He suggested contacting Disability Rights SD regarding the White Cane March route.

Patrick Czerny informed the Board that DakotaLink received a grant to offer a low interest loan program. This could be used for vehicle modifications or assistive technology. DakotaLink is in the process of setting up the system with the goal to have it ready by spring 2018. DakotaLink has been busy with students returning to college and CCTV and computer training program referrals.

Connie Sullivan explained to the Board that the Braille and Talk Book Library (BTBL) is a federal program under the National Library Service. The South Dakota program was recently evaluated. The BTBL offers a book discussion where participants have a conference call to discuss a specific book. Approximately 20 people participated.

Tami Francis owns her business where she makes custom coats. Her business is growing and she is in need of an employee but needs step by step advice on how to go about hiring. Tami shared with the Board how she used the camera from her CCTV to thread her serger machine. KELO did a news segment on her business. She donates coats to Children's Home Society and other organizations. She is the recipient of the Governor's Award for Outstanding Employee this year.

Board Annual Report: The Annual Report is the Board's report of data from the Federal Fiscal year (Oct-Sept). It also outlines the Board's activities from the previous year. SBVI has a good format

that shows the data, but also includes success stories. The report is submitted electronically to the Governor and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner by the end of the calendar year. It is also posted on the SBVI website and available in alternative formats by request. SBVI staff will compile a draft report by the December meeting. Final edits will be made after members review it, and the report will be submitted by December 31st.

Committee Updates:

The Executive Committee is made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Member at Large.

The Strategic Planning and Policy Committee assists with the state plan and policies that need to be revised. Members include: Connie Sullivan, Alan Vandenburg, Eric Rippentrop, Marcia Hultman, and Cole Uecker. Ronda Williams is the staff liaison.

Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Committee meets periodically if AT resources or policies need to be reviewed. This committee is comprised of Board members and others who have extensive knowledge of AT. Committee members are Patrick Czerny, JoMarie Laughlin, and Chelle Hart. Nancy Hoyme is the staff liaison.

The Public Relations Committee helped with the development of marketing and outreach materials in the past. The more recent activities were the Governor's Awards nominations. Catherine Greseth, Eric Rippentrop, and Koni Simms are members of this committee. Heath Ducheneaux was suggested to represent the Tribal VR on the committee; however, he has not been available for conference calls. Sandy Neyhart and Nancy Hoyme are the staff liaisons.

Catherine Greseth is the Board representative on the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) committee. She assists in approving financing and activities for various events happening around the state in October.

Eric Rippentrop is the Board representative on the Governor's Awards committee. He works with a Board of Vocational Rehabilitation committee to select nominations to be submitted to the Governor.

Board committees and membership will be an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

SBVI Program Updates:

Business Enterprise Program(BEP) - BEP is a program under the Randolph Shepherd Act that allows blind individuals to operate their own food service business in state and federal buildings. South Dakota has four blind vendor operators. The annual vendor meeting will be held in Pierre on October 21st. Nancy Hoyme will be gathering data for the annual federal report.

Independent Living (IL) Older Blind – The IL program serves people over the age of 55 with the goal of remaining independent and in their own home. Rehab Teachers are located in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City.

CCTV lease/loan program began in 2004. There are currently 222 units in circulation. SBVI contracts with DakotaLink to handle the administrative duties, and some handling of machines. There is a manageable waiting list. CCTV program was funded with money donated as memorials.

The AT Access project offers 5 hours of training on personal devices for blind or visually impaired individuals of any age. SBVI will take referrals from SBVI Rehab staff or individuals who wish to self-refer.

Sandy Neyhart, SBVI IL Specialist has served on a committee planning the Aging Gracefully Expo which is scheduled for September 23rd. Attorney General Marty Jackley will be one of the presenters. Kathi Herried will do a presentation on Alzheimer's disease.

Vocational Rehabilitation – There are currently 7 SBVI counselors around the state who assist blind or visually impaired individuals to obtain or maintain employment. Assistive technology devices and training and medical restoration represent about half of the expenditures from the case service budget.

SBVI held an all staff training in August. Presenters covered a variety of topics related to vision loss and team building activities were held. Staff chose between a tour of the low vision clinic at the VA or the Braille unit at Pheasantland Industries. Staff also participated in evening team building activities.

Under WIOA, more documentation and reporting are required. DRS and SBVI updated the case management system to handle the updates. There are new guidelines for performance measures.

The Fall Conference will be held October 2-4 in Pierre. Building Bridges on a Solid Foundation is the theme this year. Several speakers will cover a variety of topics. The Governor will be presenting the Governor's Awards during the luncheon on October 3rd. Organizers are planning for approximately 250 attendees.

Ronda will report on the Consumer Satisfaction Survey and year-end report at the next meeting.

Rehabilitation Center for the Blind: Lori Kwasniewski, program specialist, resigned from her position on August 25th. She accepted a job working with transition students at Community Campus. Jennifer Geffre finished her Masters in Orientation and Mobility and earned her certification.

Transition week is scheduled for June 10-14, 2018. Board members in the Sioux Falls area are invited to serve as mentors during that week. Eleven students participate in Transition Week in 2017 compared to four in 2016.

Three staff members, along with Sioux Area Metro and SDN Communications representatives addressed accessibility issues associated with relocating the bus shelter to the northeast corner of the building. A buzzer and video camera were installed to allow transit users to utilize the rear security entrance for access into the building.

Three medical students from the Sanford USD School of Medicine participated in skills of blindness classes for 3 days in August. Medical school curriculum includes diversity training at a variety of places to help students experience different lifestyles and cultures.

The SD Diabetes Coalition is meeting in Chamberlain on September 27th. Dawn Backer and Sandy Neyhart will be presenting on services SBVI provides.

First Friday events continue. Topics for the next 6 months are:

November –SDRC Open House

December – Adaptive Leisure

January – Winter Travel

February – Cyber Security & Assistive Technology

March – Medication Safety

April – New Technology

Governors Awards: Eric Rippentrop reported that Tami Francis and Koni Sims were selected to receive Governor's Awards. Thank you to Sandy and Nancy for the help in completing the nomination forms. The nomination forms are available online year round. Eric Rippentrop was also nominated for an award. The Board sponsors this activity. Governor's Awards recognizing employment of people with disabilities will be held October 3rd in conjunction with Fall Conference.

The winners include:

Koni Sims - Outstanding Citizen with a Disability

Tami Francis - Outstanding Employee with a Disability

Pizza Ranch of Spearfish - Outstanding Private Employer (Small Employer)

County Fair Food Store of Mitchell - Outstanding Private Employer (Large Employer)

Meri Erickson of Groton - Outstanding Transition Services Award

Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. - Distinguished Service Award

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM):

Catherine Greseth informed the Board of NDEAM activities and speakers around the state during the month of October (Listing is included with the minutes). The theme is “Inclusion Drives Innovation.” Board members are encouraged to attend an NDEAM activity in their community. If there is a cost associated with attending, please contact Becky or Gaye to make arrangements to have the registration direct billed or to be reimbursed.

Eric Rippentrop made a motion that the Board support NDEAM and Governor’s Awards to the extent of funds requested by BVR. Connie Sullivan seconded. Motion carried.

Consumer Organizations: National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of South Dakota and South Dakota Association of the Blind (SDAB) have representation on the Board of SBVI. SDAB did not have a state convention this fall. NFB hosts their convention in the spring. The Board usually has a public forum in conjunction with the NFB convention and would be willing to do the same with SDAB, if requested. Costs associated with attending the conventions may be covered for Board members.

Director’s Comments: Medication Safety for Blind Awareness Week was observed by SBVI staff who visited pharmacies in their respective areas to raise awareness about access to prescription labels for people with vision loss. Staff shared information about “Scrip Talk,” a talking label reader, large print and Braille labels as well as, SBVI services. Pharmacies would need to purchase

software and stickers for Scrip Talk, and individuals would receive the reader for no charge. Staff also informed pharmacists of other ways to mark prescription bottles for better accessibility. Individuals need to inform the pharmacist or doctor that they require large print or another accessible format. For more information on accessible prescription drug labeling go to: <http://www.afb.org>, or the National Council on Disability website at: <https://www.ncd.gov/publications/2016/best-practices-accessible-prescription-drug-labeling>.

The White Cane March will be held on October 14th. The Board supported costs of digital billboards to educate about the white can law. Kami and Shawn from KSFY plan to be there again this year. There will be speakers and the Mayor will read a proclamation. Koni Sims will be speaking after the walk. The event is to raise awareness about White Cane safety.

SBVI is paying to air the Lakota radio ad on KINI and KLND radio stations. KILI in Pine Ridge has not responded to calls. The Rehab Center toll-free number is listed in the ads and staff will keep track of inquiries received due to the ads. The ads will run 3 times per day during drive time for 2 months.

The Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act became effective as of Tuesday, September 5, 2017. The final regulations cover all four-wheeled hybrid-electric passenger vehicles under ten thousand pounds. The regulations prohibit a pause switch; manufacturer supplied selectable sounds, and any tampering with the device. The vehicle must emit a sound of at least 44 decibels when stationary, 48 decibels when moving in reverse, and between 51 and 62 decibels dependent upon forward driving speed. The rule requires that all hybrid-electric vehicles produced on or after September 1, 2019 be compliant.

The 2018 Legislative Session begins January 9, 2018. The Department's appropriation hearing is not yet scheduled. The

Legislative Research Council website is kept up-to-date with all the legislative happenings. <http://www.sdlegislature.gov/>

The Department is preparing the 2019 Budget request. SBVI has received more Ticket to Work and Cost Reimbursement monies than we have authority to spend. SBVI will be asking for \$100,000 in other fund spending authority.

Secretary Pearson presented to the GOAC on the department's performance. The Department will be exploring options for metrics to measure performance.

The Department is continuing the Person Center Thinking (PCT) trainings. There will be 2-day PCT trainings in October and November. The PCT leadership group will continue to meet quarterly.

The Board of SBVI received the membership renewal for the SD Coalition of Citizen's with Disabilities. Connie Sullivan serves on the Disability Advocacy Network as a representative of the Board of SBVI. Dues are \$100. Eric Rippentrop made a motion to continue membership with the SD Coalition of Citizen's with Disabilities. Catherine Greseth seconded. Motion carried.

Consensus of members was to hold the next meeting will in Pierre on December 8th.

Eric Rippentrop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Koni Sims seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Becky Blume, Senior Secretary