# **Minutes**

# **Iowa Commission for the BlindSeptember 20, 2022**

1. Call to order and determination of quorum. The quarterly meeting of the Iowa Commission for the Blind was called to order at 12:00 p.m., by Sandi Ryan, with the following members present Sandi Ryan, chair, and Ryan Brems, member, which was a quorum. Commissioner Geveva Jacobsen resigned her position as commissioner. Commission Chair Ryan has spoken with two individuals at the Governor’s Office and has been assured this will be filled. Sandi thanked Gevena for her service. Others in attendance: Emily Wharton, Janice Eggers, Sarah Willeford, Kim Walford, Keri Osterhaus, Karly Prinds, Helen Mejia, Cheri Myers, Carolyn Barrett (AAG), Cari Waddell, Maddie Mardesen, Shawn Mayo, Lisa Schneider, Amy Robasse, Ambrose Fowler-Harney, Matt Nemmers, and Thomas Topping.
2. Public Comment— Amy Robasse from SILC will speak later in the meeting.
3. Approval of the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Brems moved, and Ms. Ryan seconded, to amend the agenda and add the SILC Presentation as the next item. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Presentation by SILC Executive Director, Amy Robasse. Working from home so saving money from not having an office. Rebuilding the board and training with direction from the board. Rebranding with logos, colors, accessibility, mission statement, and strategic planning for goals and growth. Shared the goals for SILC that have been identified. Educating others about what Independent Living is as well as partnering with other groups. Discussed the upcoming IL Day on the hill.
5. Approval of June 14, 2022 and August 2, 2022 board minutes. Mr. Brems moved approval of the minutes as written. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
6. Approval of 2023 Calendar - Mr. Brems moved approval of the calendar as written. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
7. Agency Director Report - Ms. Wharton shared:
   1. Updates on a couple of items. Long serving chair, Kevin Bodtke passed away earlier this month. He was a true advocate and want to give credit for all he has done for the Business Enterprise Program.
   2. Department of Education Contract update with the materials contract. We received word on Thursday to clarify that projects started by 9/30/22 would provide an extension of the contract to pay for these items. We asked for the contract to be extended to the end of the state fiscal year. They are not wanting to extend past of the FFY end of 9/30/22. We are communicating to the school districts as best as we can. Sarah Willeford elaborated the details of the process including the webinars, explaining the ensuing confusion with over 300 phone calls, order cancellations, rumors IMC was closing, etc. Athena will be launching the beginning of October. We are in a holding pattern with the school districts. Emily shared that Sarah and the IMC staff have been tremendous through this. Can’t commend them enough.
   3. Budget Request – merit-based increases (performance based), IMC staff salaries, also shown as consumable and non-consumable breakdown in lieu of the contract that has not been renewed. The capital ASK for tuck-pointing and roof repairs.
   4. Last week attended the public hearing for the Department of Aging which is being merged into the Department of Health and Human Services.
   5. We also had a visit from consultants from the Governor’s Office to look for efficiencies. We gave a tour, shared IDB’s mission, working with our partners, and our commitment to blind Iowans.
8. Approval FY24 Budget Request as presented. Mr. Brems moved approval of the FY24 Budget Request as presented. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
9. Approval of the IBEIC Manual. Mr. Brems moved approval of the IBEIC Manual as written. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed.
10. Adjournment – Mr. Brems moved the meeting adjourn. Ms. Ryan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Brems, Acting Chair

Commission for the Blind

Janice EggersSecretary to the Commission/ Executive Secretary

Department for the Blind

/jce