# Minutes

# Iowa Commission for the BlindJune 11, 2024

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 Janice Eggers, with the following commission members present Michael Hoenig and Sara Coleman. Others in attendance: Emily Wharton, Sarah Willeford, Kim Walford, Karly Prinds, Keri Osterhaus, Connie Mendenhall, Ambrose Fowler-Harney, Cheri Myers, Carrie Chapman, Thomas Topping, Lisa Snyder, Shawn Mayo, Helen Mejia, Becky Young, Enrique Mejia, Heather Kent, Maggie Boelman, Matt Nemmers, Jerry Cole, and Karen.
2. Public Comment – none.
3. Election of the chair. Secretary Eggers opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Hoenig asked if Sara would be interested, Sara said yes. Commissioner Hoenig moved to approve Commissioner Coleman be chair. Commissioner Coleman seconded, and the motion passed.
4. Approval of the consent agenda and the March12, 2024, board minutes. Commissioner Hoenig moved approval of the minutes as presented. Commission Chair Coleman seconded, and the motion passed.
5. Agency Director Report - Ms. Wharton shared:
	1. Happy to have a commission Chair.
	2. Any questions from the questions or comments from the commissioners? Appreciate the write-ups from the program administrators. Shout out to Connie for all the outreach across the state, questions on SILC and getting our name back out there and in the ring for consideration. Sara seconds Mike’s comments. Sara asked about SFY at the end of 6/30/24. Also, travel expenditures out of state. Emily updated Sara on the out of state travel. Sara, questions on finance, can we see the last 5-year trend. Cheri, I can prepare a trend report for the last 5 years. Commission Hoenig asked about IT purchases? Director Wharton shared that the new Case Management System is a large portion of that expense this year along with Athena, the IMC online ordering system.
	3. Director Wharton shared she had given her letter of retirement effective July 18, 2024, to the governor’s office. They indicated they would work with the leadership team on selecting the interim director. A press release has been sent to the governor’s office. Emily thanked the staff and leadership team for the continued support and then read the poem *The Way It Is* by William Statford.
	4. Commission Chair Sara Colemen shared thank you for your service to this agency, we do the best we can in the circumstances we are dealt. You are a role model. When you became director in 2016 is when I started to use the department. My personal thanks for your service.
	5. Mike Hoenig shared he has had the opportunity to know you and it has been an honor to see you lead this agency. Appreciated you going to bat for blind Iowans and putting the agency first.
6. Approval of Policies: Technology Purchasing - Commissioner Hoenig motioned to approve the Technology Purchasing Policy as presented. Commission Chair Coleman seconded, and the motion passed.
7. Gift and Bequests Policy Amended –
	1. IDB Centennial Celebration for SFY25 not to exceed $50,000. Commissioner Hoenig motioned to approve the IDB Centennial Celebration up to $50,000. Commission Chair Coleman seconded, and the motion passed.
	2. NFBI Iowa Braille Camp – Commissioner Hoenig asked to move into closed session.
8. Consideration of Closed Session. Mr. Hoenig inquired about holding a closed session. Ms. Eggers read paragraph 1a from the Code of Iowa, Section 21.5(1)(a) and 21.5(1)(j). Mr. Hoenig moved to adjourn to closed session. Commission Chair Sara Coleman seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote: Mr. Hoenig, yes; and Ms. Coleman, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned into closed session at 12:40 p.m. The meeting entered closed session at 12:53 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Hoenig to move out of closed session at 1:14 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting entered open session at 1:17 p.m.

1. Closed Session –
	1. Mr. Hoenig moved that request from NFBI Iowa Braille Camp for $2,500 for the Bell Camp for students be approved. Commission Chair Coleman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Commission Chair Sara Coleman:
	1. Asked how many clients are being served in VR and the center? VR is currently serving 443 clients, 9 students and staff in the center, and 9 summer students.
	2. We would like to mention that we welcome the consumer groups to apply for G&B Requests as we want to support activities for blind Iowans.
2. Adjournment – Commissioner Hoenig motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commission Chair Coleman seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Coleman, Chairperson

Commission for the Blind

Janice EggersSecretary to the Commission/ Executive Secretary

Department for the Blind

/jce