

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 10, 2018

**Members Present**

Sharonda White, Chair\*  
Sue Lehew\*  
Nathan Pullen\*  
Julie Jones\*  
Ed Gervasoni\*  
Bea Shapiro\*

**Members Absent**

Adam Cruz  
Terri Hedgpeth  
Jaime Trausch

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin Assistant  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

Bob Kresmer\*  
Doris Woltman\*  
Jose Gutierrez

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Sharonda White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm in the DERS Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of December 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Ed Gervasoni motioned to approve the December 13, 2017 meeting minutes. Julie Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion**

Sharonda White stated that Bob Kresmer and Doris Woltman were attending the meeting to discuss the GCBVI Strategic Plan tasks that the Education Committee had been assigned. Lindsey Powers reviewed the tasks that the Education Committee was the lead committee and the AT Committee was a support committee.

- Accessibilities standards are developed and implemented for instruction and testing for infants and toddlers through Post-Secondary Education

- Best practices are developed and implemented and available for all Arizona school districts to administer expanded core curriculum education
- Develop and implement collaborative data collection mechanism to track test scores K-12 for all school districts in Arizona

Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee workgroups focused on infants/toddlers, Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Post-Secondary Education issues related to blind and visually impaired youth and students. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee would need assistance from the AT Committee in developing standards for accessibility that could be used in K-12 and post-secondary education. Mr. Kresmer noted that accessibility was a broad term, and the Education Committee wanted to ensure that all blind or visually impaired students were aware of the accessibility standards. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee was also interested in establishing Best Practices that could be used in all school districts so that all schools utilized the same accessibility standards. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee wanted clarification regarding how the committee could assist the Education Committee in completing tasks included in the Strategic Plan.

Bob Kresmer stated Doris Woltman could provide more information regarding how the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) Southeast Regional Co-operatives were developing standards that could be used in all ASDB schools. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative was in the early stages of developing a model that could be replicated in other schools. Ms. Woltman stated the co-operative had a dedicated technology instructor, Julie Jones, who was able to bring technology into the classroom and provide to the students. Doris Woltman stated the co-operative changed their service model to include Braille technical aids, which were stationed at the schools of the students requiring Braille materials. Doris Woltman stated the goal was to produce every document, assessment, and benchmark in Braille. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operatives wanted to be able to provide Braille and tactile tools to the other co-operatives that required those resources. Bob Kresmer inquired the number of co-operatives that were under the Southeast Regional Co-operative. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative oversaw 64 schools and charter schools. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the number of co-operatives. Doris Woltman stated that there were five co-operatives. Doris Woltman stated Julie Jones' position was important as she was able to provide support to the teacher, the students, and the school districts. Bob Kresmer stated that ASDB tried to have a central depository of materials that could be sent to students, which was not a successful model. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast

Regional Co-Operative preferred that teachers give the co-operative two weeks' notice to prepare Braille and tactile tools for students. Bob Kresmer stated some school districts distributed Google Chromebooks or eReaders and inquired what devices the blind and visually impaired students received. Julie Jones stated some students received a Braille note, or a computer program that would be compatible with the technology that other students were using.

Ed Gervasoni inquired how blind and visually impaired students were able to access the information that were included in videos or hands-on resources. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operatives were able to order tools and modify to be tactile resources for the students. Bob Kresmer stated there were numerous school districts in Arizona, and no state laws that governed accessibility standards. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee was interested in collecting test data from schools and would welcome assistance from the AT Committee. Sue Lehew inquired whether there were approximately 219 school districts in Arizona. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that there were more than 219 school districts in Arizona. Sue Lehew inquired whether the Southeast Regional Co-Operative was interested in developing accessibility standards for the school districts and the charter schools. Doris Woltman noted that the schools needed to be part of the ASDB co-operative system. Sharonda White inquired regarding the number of technical Braillists served the Southeast Regional Co-Operative. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative had ten technical Braillists that currently served the 14 students that required Braille. Doris Woltman stated the technical staff also produced large print, modified materials, and develop tactile tools for any blind and visually impaired student. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee did not know the number of blind and visually impaired students being served in Arizona. Bea Shapiro inquired whether anyone was responsible for proofreading the documents produced. Doris Woltman stated Southeast Regional Co-Operative staff and teachers reviewed the documents produced for quality control. Bob Kresmer stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative was interested in developing the model that ASDB could duplicate in the remaining co-operatives.

Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee hoped to collaborate with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to develop a method for capturing student test results from high stakes tests. Mr. Kresmer stated that ideally the successfully performing schools could assist schools in which most students failed the high stakes test. Sue Lehew inquired whether the technical Braillists worked with the teachers of the visually impaired (TVI)s to ensure that the student had the necessary AT skills to use the technology distributed. Julie Jones stated the TVIs would communicate with the Braille

technical aids on the students' progress regarding the student's technical skills. Sue Lehew inquired whether there was a method to track the students' gained skills. Doris Woltman stated the TVIs or subject matter experts communicated with the technical Brailist continually regarding the students' technical skills.

Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee wanted to partner with the AT Committee to develop accessibility standards that could be applied across the state and develop a method to collect student test data. Bea Shapiro stated that accessibility was a broad term and inquired regarding the accessibility standards the Education Committee referred to. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the AT Committee had discussed the topic of accessibility standards and would be able to provide reasonable and usable accessibility standards. Mr. Kresmer stated that each school district and student should have the same access to the information provided in the schools. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee had an idea of what the Education Committee needed and would wait for more direction from the Education Committee. Bob Kresmer stated that a member from the AT Committee was welcome to attend Education Committee meetings to remain apprised of the tasks of the Education Committee. Sharonda White thanked Bob Kresmer and Doris Woltman for attending the meeting and for providing more information regarding how the AT Committee could assist the Education Committee.

### **2017 VRATE Presentation Follow-Up**

Sharonda White stated at the previous meeting, the committee discussed some items that should be shared with the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Committee. Sharonda White stated she would share that feedback with the VRATE Committee prior to the next committee meeting.

### **AT Trends**

Sue Lehew inquired whether any committee members experienced malfunctions after the Apple iOS update. Sharonda White stated she experienced difficulties after the iOS 11 update and noted that her Braille display jumped lines, disconnected at times, and would not reconnect. Bea Shapiro stated the previous money reader update supported U.S., Canadian, and some European countries currency. Sharonda White inquired whether and committee members had success using the barcode reader technology. Bea Shapiro stated she found the free barcode reader to work better than the paid version. Sharonda White inquired whether Bea Shapiro had any helpful hints when using the barcode reader. Ms. Shapiro stated she held

her phone so that her index finger was at the top of the camera and the rest of her fingers were around the camera. Bea Shapiro stated that allowed for her to know which way the camera was facing and enable her to effectively use the technology.

### **Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for February 21, 2018 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- VRATE Presentation Follow-Up
- AT Trends

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

A call was made to the public with no comments forthcoming.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue Lehew seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.