

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2019

Members Present

Amy Porterfield, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Ted Chittenden
Nathan Pullen
Ed Gervasoni
Jim LaMay
Nikki Jeffords

Members Absent

Donald Porterfield
Bea Shapiro

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Amy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of November 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

GCBVI Slate of Nominations Discussion

Amy Porterfield stated the previous slate of candidates put forward to the GCBVI included Bob Kresmer as the Chair, Nikki Jeffords as the Vice-Chair and Amy Porterfield as the Secretary. Ms. Porterfield noted that Nikki Jeffords would be moving out of state, so the Executive Committee would review the nomination slate.

Bob Kresmer moved that Amy Porterfield be put forth as a nomination for the Vice-Chair for the GCBVI. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Amy Porterfield stated the committee should also consider a nomination for the Secretary position. Bob Kresmer stated he spoke to Allan Curry, who indicated that he would like to participate more in the council and would be willing to serve as the Secretary of the council.

Bob Kresmer moved that Allan Curry be put forth as a nomination for the Secretary position. Nikki Jeffords seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

GCBVI Policy and Legislative Discussion

Amy Porterfield stated that Rich Sorey, Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) Program Manager had resigned from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), which would change the way that the council received information. Ms. Porterfield suggested the council recognize Rich Sorey at the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting. Amy Porterfield stated the blindness comprehensive contract was to be revised, although it was extended until August 3, 2019 instead. Amy Porterfield stated the GCBVI had the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Self-Employment policy, which had been updated to include minor changes. Amy Porterfield stated the NFB Phoenix Seminar would be held on January 22, 2019 and she would distribute the Fact Sheet to the council. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the current budget would include funding for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Amy Porterfield stated that she would inquire regarding the VR budget when she met with Christina Corieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor.

Bob Kresmer stated at the previous GCBVI Full Council meeting, the council discussed the Federal arbitration with Luke Air Force Base regarding the Randolph Sheppard Act and inquired regarding the level of support to council could offer. Amy Porterfield stated her understanding that the Governor was not in support of an appeal and the council would need to rely on consumer groups for advocacy efforts. Amy Porterfield stated she would speak further with Christina Corieri, although her understanding was that the Department of Economic Security (DES) Director received instruction from the Governor's office to stop the appeal. She noted that she had not received the information in writing and would need to speak to Christina Corieri regarding the next steps. Bob Kresmer stated the council also discussed how BEP could market the program to appear more desirable to clients and inquired whether Nathan Pullen had an update on that effort. Nathan Pullen stated

the BEP program was a desirable employment opportunity and BEP had enhanced the training program. Nathan Pullen stated BEP had partnered with VR and Terell Welch, Employment Coordinator, on developing employer relationships and providing outreach regarding BEP as an employment outcome. Bob Kresmer stated that Rich Sorey had discussed the need for better training of VR counselors and inquired how BEP could partner with VR to promote the program. Nathan Pullen stated that Terell Welch was working with employment ready clients, although BEP did need to continue to work with counselors internally to promote BEP as an employment outcome. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee could assist Nathan Pullen and BEP with developing any materials necessary to promote the program. Bob Kresmer stated the council also discussed a meeting with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) regarding funding for blind and visually impaired individuals under 55 and inquired whether the council was still interested in that meeting. Amy Porterfield stated the meeting had to be rescheduled and noted that Jim LaMay would likely want to participate in that meeting as well. Jim LaMay expressed his concern regarding the Strategic Plan and noted the Independent Living Committee was responsible for providing support on several items, although the committee had not received guidance from the lead committees. Amy Porterfield stated once the council had elected new leadership, the Executive Committee would discuss how to provide guidance on those items.

Nikki Jeffords stated that she had opened a case with VR and had experienced challenges in receiving VR services. Ms. Jeffords inquired how individuals experiencing challenges with VR could express their concerns. Amy Porterfield stated that many VR clients did not know who to contact or how to advocate for their services. Amy Porterfield stated the council would benefit from partnering with VR counselors to address the issue. Nikki Jeffords stated that the consumer groups could provide advocacy training to new clients. Bob Kresmer stated the consumer groups did provide New Customer training although many individuals did not attend. Mr. Kresmer stated the Executive Committee could discuss potential ideas for increased advocacy for clients.

GCBVI Membership Discussion

Amy Porterfield stated the council currently had open positions for a National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) and an Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB) representative. Amy Porterfield stated that the council would also have an open Community Member position as well. She added that the council received an application from Terri Hedgpeth and inquired whether the council received any additional applications. Lindsey Powers stated that David Steinmetz indicated that he would apply for council membership as

well. Ted Chittenden stated that John McCann expressed interest in applying for the AzCB position.

Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting date of the Executive Committee would be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- Policy and Legislative Discussion
- GCBVI Membership Discussion

Announcements

Nikki Jeffords stated the Employment Committee would hold an E75 breakfast on February 1, 2019 for employers and an afternoon presentation from Sean Callagy for clients at Ability 360.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm.