

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 13, 2020

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Ed House  
Doris Woltman  
Lisa Yencarelli

**Members Absent**

Lisa Jackson  
Julie Urban  
Jared Kittelson

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

Bill Koehler

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of November 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Ed House motioned to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2019 meeting. Lisa Yencarelli seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**TVI Program Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated he invited Bill Koehler to attend the meeting because he had received questions regarding teacher certifications and the types of teaching certifications. Bill Koehler stated that six teaching courses had recently been accepted and met the most recent requirements from 2018. Mr. Koehler stated the courses covered the content required and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) was considering endorsing the coursework to be offered to current teachers. Bill Koehler stated a group of teachers were preparing for a class in Spring and potentially another class in

Summer. Bill Koehler stated the endorsement process was a wonderful option to help to reduce the shortage of Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI)s and to get more teachers in areas that were in critical need. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the 18 hours of credits that would be endorsed would be enough to provide certification to a TVI. Bill Koehler stated that according to the current certification, the coursework would be enough to provide certification. Bob Kresmer inquired whether a Braille course had been added. Bill Koehler stated that a course on Braille and supervised instruction had been added. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Braille instructor was certified to teach UEB. Bill Koehler stated the Braille teachers' proficiency would vary, although UEB would be the primary version taught. He noted the current certification requirement indicated there were multiple ways for an individual to show proficiency in Braille such as the test conducted by the University of Arizona. Doris Woltman inquired how an individual could find more information about the TVI courses. Bill Koehler stated the courses were offered through Brandman University and information could be found on their course catalog all course numbers would begin with EDNU.

Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the number of teachers that would be participating. Bill Koehler stated 12 teachers were participating in Spring and he anticipated that teachers from large schools would participate if the coursework was endorsed by the ADE. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Lisa Yencarelli knew about the endorsement process through the ADE. Lisa Yencarelli stated she was not involved in that process, although she agreed that an endorsement would help to increase the pool of TVIs. Ms. Yencarelli stated she reviewed a survey that would have been distributed to determine the interest, which would be shared with the ADE. Bill Koehler stated the ADE requested stakeholder feedback through an additional survey. He noted the initial feedback was positive and individuals expressed an interest in the coursework. Bob Kresmer stated he anticipated that he would receive questions regarding teacher certification and training as well as teacher skills in areas such as Orientation and Mobility (O&M) and Assistive Technology (AT), and inquired whether there were any updates in those areas. Bill Koehler stated O&M was not included in the current certification requirements, although he had suggested that O&M be included as a coursework topic. Lisa Yencarelli stated there was no teacher certification for O&M instruction. Bill Koehler noted some states required teacher training in O&M, although some states did not. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) recognized the Blindness Professionals Certification Board certification in addition to the AER certification, although the ADE did not yet seem to recognize the additional certifications. Lisa Yencarelli stated she was looking into that and whether that was an ADE requirement. Bob Kresmer stated he wanted to

ensure that information regarding the TVI coursework be distributed to teachers interested in the classes. Bill Koehler stated he was excited that the ADE was considering an endorsement of the coursework, and he would continue to suggest O&M coursework be added. Mr. Koehler stated there was a requirement that all teachers obtain coursework on dyslexia, which he thought was odd. Bob Kresmer stated he would develop recommendations that would be shared with the GCBVI Full Council and shared with the Legislature. Bill Koehler stated he be happy to share the information that he shared with the ADE with the council. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Education Committee was ready to make recommendations to the council. Ed House stated he supported all initiatives to increase credentialed staff and the endorsement from the ADE. Doris Woltman stated she supported any coursework for teachers and noted the importance of student teaching experience. Lisa Yencarelli stated she agreed that an endorsement would help the schools and the teachers. She noted her understanding that all teaching certificates required a dyslexia component. Bill Koehler stated that itinerant teachers spent a lot of time traveling and would not have a lot of time for special skills training such as dyslexia. Bob Kresmer stated he would develop general recommendations that would be shared with the Education Committee for feedback prior to submission to the Full Council. Ed House stated that some of the coursework could be open to Rehabilitation Counselors for the Blind or Business Enterprise Program (BEP) staff as well as teachers interested in becoming TVIs. Bob Kresmer stated that he would share that with the committee that was discussing the counselor staff training.

### **ASDB Update**

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI Full Council would likely request an update regarding the future of the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) campus as well as an update regarding distance learning for students. Lisa Yencarelli stated she would request any information that the council would like from Annette Reichman and share at the upcoming meeting. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB staff received information from Sue Kay Kneifel regarding the Summer Youth Transition Program. Lisa Yencarelli stated she would inquire whether that information had been received. Bob Kresmer stated the information should have been shared with ASDB staff and sent to the co-operatives and teachers. Mr. Kresmer inquired whether there was an update regarding the number of teachers that had been hired as part of the Early Intervention program. Lisa Yencarelli stated she did not have the number of vacancies, although she would obtain that information.

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI had also been working with the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) regarding support for children and older individuals with combined vision and hearing loss (CVHL). He noted that Support Service Providers (SSP) were only provided to adults and inquired regarding services to children with CVHL. Lisa Yencarelli stated that ASDB did not provide SSPs to students, although students could obtain interveners. Lisa Yencarelli stated the Arizona Deaf-Blind Project provided training through online modules and in classroom training to prepare individuals to become interveners. Ms. Yencarelli stated the Arizona Deaf-Blind Project provided technical support or communication instruction to any parent or school team statewide. She noted that Megan Mogan, Deaf-Blind Specialist, was part of the Deaf-Blind Issues Committee and provided updates to that committee and Ed Gervasoni. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the council should consider the certification requirements for interveners. Lisa Yencarelli stated that interveners would be able to receive a micro-credential and noted that other states provided those to interveners. Bob Kresmer inquired whether a micro-credential would potentially put individuals out of work. Bill Koehler stated that a micro-credential was not required and noted that not many individuals would seek that credential due to the small population of students with CVHL. Bill Koehler stated a micro-credential would help to ensure how an intervener was supervised and who supervised the interveners. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the number of interveners in Arizona. Lisa Yencarelli stated she could obtain the number of interveners employed by ASDB. She noted the positions were hard to fill, and when a paraprofessional expressed interest in the position, ASDB would obtain training for that individual. Lisa Yencarelli stated there was a national certification for interveners.

### **High Stakes Testing Discussion**

This item was tabled.

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

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- TVI Program Update
- ASDB Update
- High Stakes Testing Discussion

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

A call to the public was made with no response's forthcoming.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Ed House motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Yencarelli seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm.