

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 22, 2018

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer\*, Chair  
Lisa Yencarelli\*  
Ed House\*  
Lisa Jackson\*  
Doris Woltman\*  
Julie Urban\*

**Members Absent**

Jared Kittelson

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin Asst.  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm in the DERS Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of December 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Julie Urban motioned to approve the December 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Lisa Yencarelli seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Early Childhood Activities Discussion**

This agenda item was tabled.

**Youth Transition Program Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated he received a call from a student whom was upset that she was never informed about the Summer Youth Transition Program. Mr. Kresmer stated that some of the challenges were in informing all students eligible for the Transition programs and the limited capacity to accommodate students in the program. Doris Woltman stated the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) teachers were given the Transition Program information packets to give to students, although the parents sometimes neglected to complete the packets to sign up the students for the program.

Doris Woltman stated that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) staff provided fairs where students could learn more about the VR process and the Youth Transition Programs. Julie Urban stated her understanding that the public-school teachers did not seek out information that could be distributed to students. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the public-school teachers or the school career counselors would be responsible for distributing the information. Julie Urban stated the school districts would vary and would not have a VR contact. Doris Woltman stated the information was presented at the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings with the parents and the student. Lisa Yencarelli stated another issue was that the presentations regarding the Summer Youth Transition Programs were offered in major cities such as Tucson, Flagstaff, and Phoenix, and some students were unable to travel to those sites. Ms. Yencarelli stated ASDB teachers would benefit from obtaining brochures or information about the program. Julie Urban stated she recently received information regarding the Summer Youth Transition Program presentations, which would be in ASDB, Mesa, and through the videoconference sites in Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Yuma.

Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that VR had to create Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so that the schools could work with VR. Ed House stated that a generic MOU was created for all disabilities, which included a visual impairment component. Ed House stated sometimes the agreements were only reviewed at the higher levels, and did not always reach the teachers that would encourage students to participate in the programs. Lisa Jackson stated the ADE had a Parent Gateway page, which included links to other agencies such as the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Assistive Technology (AT) and 441. Dr. Jackson stated that VR could be encouraged to include a link to VR on that page so that parents could locate information regarding VR services. Julie Urban inquired whether the University of Arizona (UA) teacher preparation program included instruction for the teachers regarding where to locate resources for different programs. Bob Kresmer stated he planned to contact Dr. Hong at UA and would inquire regarding the information offered to the teachers. Julie Urban stated that the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) could include a VR presentation about the Summer Youth Transition Program. Bob Kresmer stated that teacher participation at VRATE was historically low as the teachers were unable to get time off to attend.

Mr. Kresmer stated he was unsure whether the information about the Summer Youth Transition Programs made it from VR to the teachers and then to the students. He noted that the Education Committee was interested in reviewing that process and to identify methods for improvements. Lisa Jacksons stated that students could sign up for Transition Program at the same time as when the releases were sent. Bob

Kresmer stated his understanding that the students were signed up for the Summer Transition Program and the releases were sent at the same time. Ed House stated that some providers did not send the reports in a method that was helpful to the parents.

### **ASDB Post Outcome Data Discussion**

Lisa Jackson stated ASDB received lists of students that could participate in the post-school surveys. Lisa Jackson stated the school staff or staff from the regional co-operative would contact the student or the guardian regarding the survey information. Lisa Jackson stated that she previously sent out the survey questions and results to the committee members. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the surveys were administered one-time post-graduation. Lisa Jackson stated that any student in Arizona receiving Exceptional Student services received the survey. Lisa Yencarelli stated the survey was called the Post-Outcome Survey, which was one of the indicators that the state submitted to the government. Lisa Yencarelli noted that every student received the survey one year after graduation, which would indicate whether the individual was engaged or not engaged. Ms. Yencarelli stated the different levels of engagement were competitive employment, enrolled in higher education, enrolled in other post-secondary education or training, or other employment. Lisa Yencarelli stated the results sent included the results agency wide. Bob Kresmer inquired whether "exit" referred to graduation or drop-out rates. Lisa Yencarelli stated exit referred to graduation and drop-out rates. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB had current information for the drop out rate for blind and visually impaired students statewide. Lisa Yencarelli stated she was unsure whether the information was separated out by disability. Mr. Kresmer stated there were national statistics for the drop-out rates of blind and visually impaired students. Julie Urban stated the survey results indicated that the percentage of engaged students was 86.7% and the percentage of unengaged students was 13.3%. Lisa Yencarelli stated her understanding that the information only included student data for ASDB. Lisa Yencarelli stated she could submit a data request to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for the drop-out rates for blind and visually impaired students statewide. Julie Urban inquired whether the engaged status included students participating in day treatment programs. Lisa Yencarelli stated the engagement status depended on the number of hours the individual spent in a day treatment program.

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI would benefit from learning the actual numbers and outcomes of students to discuss the issue with the Legislature. Lisa Yencarelli stated the Post-Outcome Survey only included the statistics from the students that responded to the survey, which was 30 students. Ed

House inquired whether other schools in the state responded to the survey. Lisa Yencarelli stated the report was compiled by the ADE for ASDB specifically. Julie Urban stated the report included students with multiple disabilities, which likely included students statewide. Lisa Yencarelli stated the last slide of the Power Point likely referred to the post-outcome data for students statewide. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee needed to identify the information to request from the ADE or agencies to present to the Legislature. Lisa Jackson stated she could request the post-outcome data by disability. Lisa Yencarelli stated she found a report that included ASDB data compared to the state of Arizona and would share with the committee.

Ed House inquired regarding the number of blind and visually impaired students that exited high school each year. Lisa Jackson stated each school prepared the student exit information, which would include different exit codes. Ed House inquired whether there would be a method to increase the statistics by requesting student data from VR, which could follow the students' progress longer. Ed House stated the committee would be interested in learning what happened to the students after they completed training. Mr. House noted that the information might be confidential, however.

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

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be on March 12, 2018, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, at 1789 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows: Agenda items are as follows:

- Early Childhood Activities Discussion
- Youth Transition Program Discussion
- ASDB Post Outcomes Data Discussion

### **Announcements**

Lisa Jackson stated she received the guidelines for accommodations and would contact Julie Urban regarding a presentation at the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Conference. Lisa Jackson stated she created a spreadsheet which included a list of the accommodations available to students taking the AZ Merit test and would share with the committee.

Bob Kresmer announced that Doris Woltman attended an AT Committee meeting and accurately described the activities of the Education Committee.

**Public Comment**

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

**Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.