

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Employment Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2019

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Nikki Jeffords
Terell Welch
Ben Fox
Bea Shapiro
Jordan Moon

Members Absent

Kevin Foster

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

Approval of the January 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Nikki Jeffords motioned to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting. Ben Fox seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Event Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated the committee was finalizing the employers that would be recognized at the event. Mr. Pullen noted that representatives from Peckham and Rio Salado College had agreed to attend the event. Terell Welch stated that Rio Salado College had agreed to purchase a table at the event. Mr. Welch stated that USAA hired four clients and the company agreed to attend the event and would be recognized. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the committee should develop a press release indicating the companies that would be recognized at the event. Terell Welch stated the committee could include all of the companies that would be attending the

event. Ben Fox stated he could develop a press release and forward to Jillian Seamans, Department of Economic Security (DES) Public Information Officer (PIO) for approval. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether Rio Salado College had agreed to attend the event. Nathan Pullen stated Nikki Jeffords could reach out to her contact at Rio Salado College and noted that the individuals coming from the college were not related to employment. Nikki Jeffords stated she contacted someone from APS, and the company would send someone to attend the event. Terell Welch stated that a representative from SRP had also agreed to attend the event. Mr. Welch noted that SRP had not hired blind or visually impaired individuals, although the company was starting a new hiring campaign. Nathan Pullen inquired whether Jordan Moon had contacted Pendergast School District regarding their attendance. Jordan Moon stated that representatives and the employee hired at Pendergast would be attending. Terell Welch inquired regarding who Reggie Laister had invited to attend. Jordan Moon stated Reggie Laister invited a representative from the Beacon Group, Health Services Advisory Group and Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB). He noted that several companies had other events on February 1, 2019 and were unable to attend the E75 breakfast. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether anyone had contacted Norwegian Cruise Line and noted the company had a large call center in the east valley. Terell Welch stated he tried unsuccessfully to get a client hired through Norwegian. Ben Fox stated that individuals from Wells Fargo and Hotel Pro had also agreed to attend the event.

Nikki Jeffords summarized that the committee had identified five companies that would be awarded. Lindsey Powers stated her understanding that the committee would recognize Peckham, Pendergast Elementary School District, APS, USAA and potentially Maricopa Community Colleges or Rio Salado College. Nikki Jeffords suggested the committee recognize both Maricopa Community College and Rio Salado College. Nikki Jeffords inquired regarding who would be recognizing the companies at the event. Nathan Pullen stated he would recognize the employees at the event and planned to recognize Business Enterprise Program (BEP) operator Megan. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether there would be a registration table at the event. Nathan Pullen stated that BEP staff had volunteered to help out at the event. Nikki Jeffords stated that name tags would be nice for employers during networking. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could print table cards for the companies that would provide sponsorship for the event. He added that Ben Fox had agreed to develop a program, which would include short biographies of Sean Callagy, Miss Arizona, and information and logos of the employers that would be attending. Jordan Moon inquired whether the committee would offer bags with brochures and information for attendees. Lindsey Powers stated that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) did not have any bags to distribute at the event. Nikki Jeffords stated the

committee could place brochures and information at a table in the back of the room.

Nathan Pullen stated he extended an invitation to Jillian Seamans and the PIO staff, although the committee should take pictures as well in case DES staff were unable to attend. Mr. Pullen stated he also ordered a step and repeat banner that would include the E75 and GCBVI logos that individuals could take pictures in front of and post to social media. Jordan Moon inquired whether Sean Callagy was scheduled to speak at the Reverse Job Fair as well. Nikki Jeffords stated that Sean Callagy was the keynote speaker at the E75 breakfast and the afternoon presentation from 11:00-1:00 for clients or job seekers. Jordan Moon inquired whether Ability 360 staff would attend the afternoon presentation. Nathan Pullen stated that Phil Pengrazio had agreed to speak briefly during the afternoon presentation. Terell Welch stated that he invited the three comprehensive services programs: Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI), Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) and SAAVI Services for the Blind to attend the afternoon presentation. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients had also been invited to attend. Terell Welch stated that Reggie Laister indicated that he would bring individuals from Tucson and Yuma. Nikki Jeffords stated that Amy Porterfield had indicated that SAAVI Services for the Blind clients would attend as well. Jordan Moon noted that Reggie Laister was also bringing clients to attend the Reverse Job Fair. Nathan Pullen stated he clarified with attendees and RSA staff that individuals actively seeking employment could go to the Reverse Job Fair and individuals in the comprehensive services could attend the afternoon presentation. Jordan Moon inquired whether the committee had developed a press release for the afternoon presentation also. Nathan Pullen suggested that consumer groups share the information regarding the afternoon presentation.

Nikki Jeffords suggested that committee members or Ability 360 staff help guide attendees to the conference room from the parking garage. Jordan Moon stated he would stand outside to help guide attendees and welcome them to the event. Terell Welch inquired whether the committee should request logos from each company. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee could develop a Power Point that could be played in the background during the event. Nathan Pullen stated the conference room had 4 screens in pairs and that 2 screens could play a Power Point presentation and the other 2 could play the E75 video. Terell Welch stated that because the event was a breakfast buffet, he did not think it required an invocation. Mr. Welch stated that employers could network during that time and Miss Arizona could then welcome everyone to the event. Terell Welch stated the companies could also have time to speak briefly. Nathan Pullen expressed his concern that

every attendee would feel obligated to speak. He noted the committee could hold a follow up round table event and invite the employers to attend. Jordan Moon stated the companies recognized would have time to speak briefly. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could invite at least one employee to speak about his/her experience on obtaining employment. Jordan Moon inquired whether two minutes would be enough time for employers or employees to speak. Nathan Pullen agreed and stated the employees could speak about how they were able to use their education or skills to obtain employment and how it positively impacted their life. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the committee would have assigned seating. Nathan Pullen stated the committee would have some tables reserved for companies that provided sponsorship, and everyone else could sit anywhere. Terell Welch stated the committee could review the list of employers attending and identify where those individuals would sit.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee will be on January 30, 2019 from 3:00 am to 4:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows: Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nikki Jeffords seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.