

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Public Information Committee Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019**

Members Present

Ted Chittenden
Dan Martinez
David Steinmetz
Janet Fisher

Members Absent

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Ted Chittenden called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm in the Stillwell Conference Room, 515 N. 51st Avenue, Suite 130, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of November 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Dan Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2018 Public Information Committee meeting. Janet Fisher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

GCBVI Annual Report Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated the committee should begin working on developing the GCBVI Annual Report early in order to complete the report on time. Ted Chittenden stated that he would contact the GCBVI Committee Chairs in approximately a month to submit their reports. David Steinmetz stated his understanding that the GCBVI had member vacancies and inquired whether the council had sufficient members to Chair the committees and provide reports for inclusion in the Annual Report. Dan Martinez stated he was unsure whether all the committees were active and currently had a member to Chair those committees. Ted Chittenden stated he was unsure whether a Chair had been assigned to all committees, although each committee did have council representation. Ted Chittenden stated he did not know, for

example, whether the AT Committee had a Chair currently. Lindsey Powers stated that Bea Shapiro was the Chair of the AT Committee.

GCBVI Outreach Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated he had not heard whether the Lion's Club would be holding an event, although he anticipated that the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) would still be held in July. Dan Martinez stated that David Steinmetz had applied to present the Essential Employment Skills at the upcoming Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) conference. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the council should be represented at the conference. Janet Fisher stated the Arizona Talking Book Library would be represented at the event and could distribute council information. David Steinmetz stated he planned attend the Advocacy Day at the Capitol in March, organized by the ADC and the State Independent Living Council (SILC). Mr. Steinmetz stated the event would include a training session in the morning and an opportunity for individuals to meet with Legislative staff in the afternoon. Ted Chittenden noted that council members could attend the event but could only advocate for issues that the Governor was in support of or neutral on. Dan Martinez stated the council members could not speak on behalf of the council without direct guidance from the council Chair.

Ted Chittenden stated that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) did not hold an Introduction to Blindness Workshop in December or January and he was not contacted to present in February. He noted that he would contact Carlos Paraskevas, who provided the AzCB presentation during the workshop.

Ted Chittenden stated that he received notice that the upcoming Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would be held on two days. Dan Martinez stated that VRATE would not use the Annex, and would use three presentation rooms, which would allow approximately 18 presentations. Mr. Martinez stated the AT Committee could begin discussing their presentation at the conference. Dan Martinez stated he was unsure regarding the decision to hold the event on two days and noted that many state agencies did not participate on Saturdays. Ted Chittenden stated that was his concern as well regarding coverage of the council table. Mr. Chittenden stated that attendees from other cities could experience challenges in attending the event on Saturdays as well.

Ted Chittenden stated that he and Dan Martinez attended the E75 Diversity Builder Awards event, which included a breakfast for employers and an afternoon event for employment seeking individuals. He noted that the

breakfast was well-attended, and the keynote speaker offered a positive message for attendees. Dan Martinez stated he was displeased with the keynote speaker, who came across as somewhat boastful, although he did include some powerful messaging. David Steinmetz met with members of the community to discuss interest in developing a Think Tank that would meet quarterly to discuss competitive integrated employment for visually impaired individuals. Ted Chittenden noted that the quarterly meetings would benefit from having the perspective of clients as well.

GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion

Janet Fisher stated she would like to know the committee's progress towards completing their tasks included in the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee had completed the assigned tasks except for the tasks that involved other committees, such as the Legislative Committee. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee continued to offer support to the Employment Committee and accept feedback from the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database. Mr. Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee had been tasked with supporting the Legislative Committee in promoting state policies, although the Legislative Committee had not met recently. Dan Martinez stated that consumer groups such as the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) were active with the Legislature. David Steinmetz added that the Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC) were active in Legislation such as accessible voting and registration. Dan Martinez inquired whether a member from the ADC would be willing to attend the next GCBVI Full Council meeting to provide an update. David Steinmetz stated he could ask that an ADC representative attend the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting. Ted Chittenden stated the Executive Committee would meet on February 21, 2019 and he would mention the ADC involvement with Bob Kresmer at that meeting. Dan Martinez inquired whether Ted Chittenden had received guidance from the new GCBVI Chair. Ted Chittenden stated the Executive Committee had not met under the new GCBVI Chair, although he anticipated that he would receive direction. Janet Fisher stated she was following the movement of H.B. 2558, which would create and fund a state position of an ADA Coordinator position. Ms. Fisher stated she would like to see more involvement from the council in following such Legislation. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that members of the GCBVI leadership were unable to participate fully. Janet Fisher stated the Executive Committee could potentially encourage other council members to follow Legislation.

Committee Membership Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated the local Arizona Council of the Blind of Arizona (AzCB) Phoenix chapter had not met recently, although he would discuss the membership vacancies at that meeting. Ted Chittenden stated he forwarded a brief description of the preferred skills for a Public Information Committee member. He noted that the committee would prefer an individual with public media experience, time to perform various committee activities and the ability to attend council events and conferences. Dan Martinez suggested the committee contact Roberta Crow regarding her ability or interest to participate on the Public Information Committee. David Steinmetz stated that he was in contact with Roberta Crow and could inquire whether she would be willing to participate on the committee. Dan Martinez noted that the committee participation was not overly burdensome compared to participating on the full council activities. Mr. Martinez stated the committee could also post the Public Information Committee member request on the GCBVI Facebook page. Janet Fisher suggested the committee member description include the desire that the individual have passion to participate on the committee and support the committee to move forward. Dan Martinez stated the committee could review the committee member description and suggest potential modifications to the description.

Database Discussion

Ted Chittenden inquired whether the EyeKnow.AZ database statistics had improved in January. Janet Fisher stated that overall the statistics went down, although the number of returning users went up. Ted Chittenden stated he had not received any additional feedback from the AT Committee, although the committee was pleased with the ability to print the database resources. Janet Fisher inquired whether the EyeKnow.AZ continued to be publicized within RSA. Lindsey Powers stated the Department of Economic Security (DES) continued to publicize the database on the DES website. Janet Fisher suggested the council continue to post information regarding the database on the council Facebook page. Ted Chittenden inquired whether there had been any new entries to the database. The committee members stated they were not aware of any changes to the database. Dan Martinez stated he would be interested to know the types of information website visitors were seeking. Ted Chittenden inquired whether there was a way to obtain that information. David Steinmetz stated that information could potentially be obtained at the Administrator level. Ted Chittenden stated that Lindsey Powers could request that information from Sara Muth for the most searched items ranked from highest to lowest. Dan Martinez inquired regarding the relationship with the new Secretary of State. Janet Fisher stated that Katie Hobbs was the new Secretary of State, and she

anticipated that Secretary of State office would continue to support the maintenance of the database.

Social Media Discussion

Janet Fisher stated that she was pleased that the GCBVI Facebook page had increased the number of posts reached and post engagements. Dan Martinez stated the council needed to continue to encourage individuals to like and follow the Facebook page. Mr. Martinez added that David Steinmetz was the administrator for the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) page and shared information regarding the GCBVI Facebook page.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Information Committee will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. in the Stillwell Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- GCBVI Annual Report Discussion
- Committee Membership Discussion
- GCBVI Outreach Discussion
- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- Database Discussion
- Social Media Discussion
- VRATE Discussion

Announcements

Janet Fisher stated the Arizona Talking Book Library did not offer refreshable Braille machines and inquired whether the committee was aware of any organizations that did. Dan Martinez stated that AzTAP loaned equipment to individuals as well as low interest loans for the purchase of AT equipment. He added that Computers for the Blind or the American Blind Citizens would potentially offer equipment or funding for equipment.

David Steinmetz announced the Foundation Fighting Blindness Vision Walk would be held on February 23rd at Steel Indian School Park. Registration would begin at 8:00 am and the walk would begin at 9:00 am.

Ted Chittenden announced the AzCB Annual Meeting would be on May 3, 2019 at the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI).

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Dan Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting; David Steinmetz seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 3:30 pm.