

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)  
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2018**

**Members Present**

Sharonda White, Chair\*  
Sue Lehew\*  
Bea Shapiro\*  
Julie Jones\*  
Ed Gervasoni\*

**Members Absent**

Adam Cruz  
Terri Hedgpeth  
Jaime Trausch  
Nathan Pullen

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

Scott Mehosky\*

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Sharonda White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of January 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Sue Lehew motioned to approve the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes. Sharonda White seconded the motion. Sue Lehew requested that the minutes be corrected to indicate that she was inquiring about the accessibility standards of schools rather than speaking for the agency. Ms. Lehew also requested that clarifying information be added to the AT Trends discussion regarding the barcode reader technology. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion**

Sharonda White stated that she was unable to attend the previous Education Committee meeting although she intended to attend the upcoming meeting. Ms. White stated that she would attend the Education Committee meeting and would identify how the AT Committee could assist the Education Committee in completing outcomes included in the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Sharonda White stated that AT Committee members had been asked to review the EyeKnow.AZ website and inquired whether any committee

members had reviewed the website recently. Bea Shapiro stated she had reviewed the website previously, although she had not viewed the website recently. Sharonda White encouraged committee members to visit the EyeKnow.AZ website <https://eyeknow.az.gov/> and identify any resources that could be added or whether the website was accessible to users. Ms. White stated committee members could review the website and send her feedback, which would be included in her report at the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting. Ed Gervasoni stated he would share some information regarding the website.

## **AT Trends**

Ed Gervasoni inquired whether any committee members would be attending the (CSUN) Assistive Technology Conference. Julie Jones stated that she would be attending CSUN and had attended the event in previous years. Sharonda White stated that she discovered that she could create and edit a music playlist using Amazon Echo, and that the music could be stored in the music account. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the sound quality of the Amazon Dot was good compared to other speakers. Sharonda White stated she used nice speakers and that the sound quality was great. Scott Mehosky stated that he had an Amazon Echo with speakers. Bea Shapiro stated that CSUN might include a demonstration of Amazon Echo HomePod. Scott Mehosky stated he was a fan of Apple products, although the Amazon Echo HomePod unfortunately only worked with Apple products. Mr. Mehosky stated he was considering purchasing a Sonos Play, which was compatible with Spotify, Pandora, and iTunes. Bea Shapiro stated that the technology allowed the user to perform many tasks in the home in addition to listening to music.

Sharonda White inquired whether Focus 40 would take the place of BAUM USA technologies. Bea Shapiro stated that Freedom Scientific would likely take the place of previous technologies, although she heard good things about Vario Ultra. Sharonda White stated she had an older version of the Focus and it was not very travel friendly. Bea Shapiro noted that she did not like the new layout design of the Focus 40. Sharonda White inquired whether any committee members had used Smart Plugs. Sue Lehew stated that she had Wemo Smart Plugs but had not used them. Ms. Lehew noted that the user could decide how integrated the technology should be. She stated the individual could connect to Amazon Echo or their cell phone using Wi-Fi access. Bea Shapiro stated the smart surge protectors could be controlled from Amazon Echo as well.

## **2017 VRATE Feedback Discussion**

Sharonda White stated she contacted an individual from the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Committee and would follow up with the VRATE Committee Chair as well. Ms. White stated she would request that the AT Committee have more time to present at the next VRATE conference, which would allow committee members to demonstrate some technology products. Scott Mehosky stated that the AT Committee's presentation at the previous VRATE conference was the same time as a home modification presentation. Bea Shapiro agreed and noted that previous AT Committee presentations were scheduled the same time as competing presentations. Sharonda White stated she expressed interest in serving on a VRATE Committee and would advocate for the committee.

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

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for March 21, 2018 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Trends
- VRATE Discussion
- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- AT Committee Activity Discussion

### **Announcements**

Bea Shapiro announced that CSUN was scheduled from March 19-23, 2018 in San Diego and that individuals could visit the exhibit hall without having to pay to attend the event.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Julie Jones seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.