

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2018

Members Present

Bob Kresmer*, Chair
Jared Kittelson*
Ed House*
Lisa Jackson*
Doris Woltman*
Julie Urban*

Members Absent

Lisa Yencarelli

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Sunggye Hong*
Bill Koehler*
Sharonda White*

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 January 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ed House motioned to approve the January 22, 2018 meeting minutes. Jared Kittelson seconded the motion. Julie Urban requested that her last name be corrected in the minutes. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired Certification Discussion

Sunggye Hong stated the University of Arizona (UA) has been training individuals to become qualified teachers of students with visual impairments. Sunggye Hong stated that surveys indicated that employers felt the teachers met or exceeded their expectations as teachers for visually impaired students. Dr. Hong stated that UA was able to offer instruction to students using a telepresence connection, where students outside of the campus could be connected to other students in the UA campus in real time. Sunggye Hong stated a student could connect to a student in a UA class remotely from his or her home computer. He added that students in a UA classroom would have an iPad, which would represent a student studying remotely and would allow that student to interact with other students in

small study groups. Sunggye Hong stated the remote students could move their iPads to view the instructors. Sunggye Hong stated that UA students participated in a field trip to a doctor's office and were able to bring the iPads representing the students studying remotely so those students were able to participate. Dr. Hong stated that technology had allowed students to participate in courses from Lake Havasu, Phoenix, Show Low and the Native American Reservation. Sunggye Hong stated that UA was able to utilize a time keeping software that allowed the instructors to remotely mentor the student teachers and perform real time observation of the student teachers. Sunggye Hong noted that UA was not currently seeking students outside of Arizona due to the high cost of out-of-state tuition. Sunggye Hong stated UA was also interested in making the program accessible to more students and had developed an accelerated master's program, where students could begin their training as an undergraduate. He noted that upon completion of the program, the student would obtain a bachelor's and master's degree, and a certification in visual impairment and a certification in mild to moderate disabilities. Sunggye Hong stated UA was also applying for federal grants that would support students financially. Dr. Hong stated that UA hoped to continue to receive and prepare more teachers of visually impaired (TVI) students. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the UA program was interested in collaborating with Early Childhood programs. Sunggye Hong stated UA was interested in working with the Early Childhood program at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), which would be seeking additional teachers. Sunggye Hong stated UA was interested in developing additional courses that would meet the requirements of newly recruited teachers at ASDB.

Bill Koehler stated in his experience, he was always aware of the constant need for TVIs, which would become more of a need when a majority of TVIs retired. Mr. Koehler stated that he developed four courses that teachers could take under the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Option B. Bill Koehler stated he developed four courses: Introduction to Vision Impairment, Introduction to Orientation and Mobility, Low Vision Structure and Function of the Eye and Methods, which would begin soon. He stated that the courses were designed to be cost effective and time efficient to meet the needs of practicing teachers. Bill Koehler stated research suggested that current teachers were interested in teaching visually impaired students but were uncomfortable with committing to traditional coursework. Bill Koehler stated he had developed flexible courses that teachers could take to while meeting the required 45 contact hours of a graduate program. Bill Koehler stated that teachers could become trained quicker and could assist with filling TVI capacity. Bill Koehler stated that schools could potentially use the courses to train their teachers, in which the teachers could take the courses when their schedules permitted. Mr.

Koehler stated the courses were not meant to compete with other programs but should provide support to training TVIs. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Mr. Koehler was certified as a TVI. Bill Koehler stated he had a master's degree in education of students with visual impairments, a master's degree in Education, post-graduate work in Special Education specifically in educating students with visual impairment. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Bill Koehler would be teaching the coursework or whether Mr. Koehler would hire staff to teach the courses. Bill Koehler stated he would hire staff to teach the courses. Bill Koehler stated that information about the courses, videos, and letters of support could be found at <https://goo.gl/PKfdev>.

Jared Kittelson stated that Marc Fisher, Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) CEO was in conversations with Michael Crow, Arizona State University (ASU) President regarding the shortage of TVIs. Jared Kittelson stated Dr. Crow arranged a meeting with FBC and the ASU Dean of Education and the editor from the Exceptional Students with Visual Impairments Deaf-Blind Quarterly. Mr. Kittelson stated FBC was interested in the development a fast track bachelor's degree in Special Education and a TVI endorsement from the ADE. Jared Kittelson stated the program had not been developed, although ASU appeared confident that it would be approved by the ADE. Jared Kittelson stated FBC participated in national recruitment efforts and had invested in a house near FBC, where intern students could live while completing internships at FBC. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the certification process with FBC. Jared Kittelson stated that ASU was in the process of discussing how students could receive certifications. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the timeline for the implementation of the program. Jared Kittelson stated that he anticipated the program would be available in early 2019 or potentially in the fall of 2019.

Ed House stated there was also a shortage of adult rehabilitation teaching and inquired whether any of the organizations would expand their programs to adult services. Sunggye Hong stated UA offered a counseling program, although in his experience, most students were not as interested in the program due to the additional graduate course hours. Ed House stated he was particularly interested in training for teachers of blind and visually impaired adults. Sunggye Hong stated as part of the federal tuition support, UA would be able to train Transition counselors, using four courses. Bill Koehler stated that his courses were aimed primarily at early childhood teachers, although the coursework could potentially be used by other teachers. He noted that he was not actively seeking those teachers, however. Julie Urban inquired regarding the cost of the Bill Koehler's courses. Bill Koehler stated that the four courses were offered under Option B, and the fees could change, although they were approximately \$700-\$900 a course. Mr. Koehler stated the cost also included textbook rentals and he

provided any course materials to the students. Lisa Jackson inquired how four courses would prepare teachers for certification or the practicum. Bill Koehler stated that teachers would take the practicum separately and he noted that he targeted individuals that were currently teachers. Lisa Jackson stated she was unsure how four courses would qualify as the training required to become a TVI. Bill Koehler stated he currently offered four courses, although he would offer more courses in the future. Mr. Koehler added that eight years of practicum experience could be substituted for two years of teaching experience. Sunggye Hong stated the goal was to train TVIs and train qualified teachers and he expressed his concern that online courses would not allow for the supervision of the teachers. Dr. Hong agreed that there was a shortage of TVIs and noted that UA offered evening courses and offered financial support to students. Bill Koehler stated in his experience, a teacher could have experience teaching first or second grade and could take that knowledge and experience to teach other grades. Bill Koehler stated that similarly, if a teacher is trained well, that teacher can use that experience in a variety of settings. Lisa Jackson expressed her concern that individuals taking the four courses would not receive appropriate Braille training to be able to work with students that read Braille. Bill Koehler stated a Braille course would be developed by individuals proficient in Braille and would have the competency to teach Braille. Mr. Koehler noted that there were no Braille competency standards currently. Bob Kresmer thanked Sunggye Hong, Bill Koehler, and Jared Kittelson for presenting at the meeting and noted that Lindsey Powers would send out their contact information for any follow up questions.

Early Childhood Activities Discussion

Lisa Jackson stated the AIMS Science Test was new and noted that it was not accessible to students using Zoom Text. Dr. Jackson noted that students taking the test that required accommodations would need to take a Special Paper version, as the test did not allow significant text magnification to students.

Youth Transition Program Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated a workgroup had developed that was interested in the interactions between the assessments performed compared to the assessments performed within the school districts. Mr. Kresmer stated the workgroup was generating questions to be included in a survey to TVIs, parents, and special education directors to be able to identify how to help parents and the students be more successful. Bob Kresmer stated that committee members were welcome to suggest any questions that could be included in the survey that would identify the methods that were successful

and what could be improved in the reports sent to the parents and the school districts.

ASDB Post Outcome Data Discussion

This agenda item was tabled.

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
- ACT/SAT Post Outcome Data Discussion

Sharonda White stated the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee could assist the Education Committee in completing the shared GCBVI Strategic Plan outcomes. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee would identify the tasks the AT Committee could perform to assist the Education Committee.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.