

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT  
(GCBVI)  
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2017**

**Members Present**

Jeff Bishop, Chair\*  
Nathan Pullen\*  
Terri Hedgpeth\*  
Sue Lehew\*  
Bea Shapiro\*  
Ed Gervasoni\*  
Julie Jones\*

**Members Absent**

Adam Cruz

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin Assistant  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Jeff Bishop, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of February 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Ed Gervasoni moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 Assistive Technology Committee meeting as written. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous voice vote.

**AT Trends**

Bea Shapiro stated she attended the CSUN Conference and indicated she looked at the new Braille display, which automatically advances at the end of the line. Ms. Shapiro stated the Braille display comes with speakers and Bluetooth, which were nice features. Terri Hedgpeth stated the most exciting product was the AIRA Google glasses, in which a person would offer visual interpretation to the individual wearing the glasses. Ms. Hedgpeth

stated an individual could purchase a subscription plan, and then download the app onto their smart phone. Terri Hedgpeth stated she was able to test the glasses and noted she walked outside and received visual interpretation regarding her surroundings. She noted she then went into a coffee shop and stood in front of a cooler and inquired regarding the products in the cooler. Terri Hedgpeth stated the individual providing visual interpretation told her the types of salads, sandwiches, and drinks in the cooler. Terri Hedgpeth stated anyone interested in obtaining an AIRA subscription could go to the website <https://aira.io/#home>. Terri Hedgpeth stated she was able to use the OrCam also, and noted Lynn Noone was the distributor in Arizona for the OrCam. Terri Hedgpeth stated OrCam did not offer human interface, although the camera was able to recognize faces through face recognition. Terri Hedgpeth stated she looked at various tablets and noted a foreign company developed a tablet with fingerprint impressions. She noted another foreign company developed a key pad for the iPhone or iWatch, which included speakers. Terri Hedgpeth stated she looked at the new HIMS notetaker and Freedom Scientific Windows 10 notetaker that would be released in August. Bea Shapiro noted AIRA was targeting the U.S Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Labor department to encourage individuals to use AIRA for work or leisure activities. Terri Hedgpeth stated AIRA would assist her with walking on campus and navigating between benches and tables outside. Jeff Bishop stated the AIRA technology would be beneficial for blind individuals that lived alone.

Terri Hedgpeth stated she attended sessions regarding website accessibility, mobile testing accessibility, and a session on indoor navigation. Ms. Hedgpeth stated about 26 companies were installing ibeacons, which offered navigation instruction for locations with the ibeacons. She noted her understanding that the ibeacons were placed in the foyer or lobby of buildings, and did not offer additional information about the rest of the building. Sue Lehew inquired regarding the maintenance and update of the ibeacons. Terri Hedgpeth stated the ibeacons would be placed in a centralized location by the business and noted the individuals using the ibeacons would rely on sighted individuals to provide the description of the location.

Jeff Bishop stated at CSUN, he met with Google, Microsoft and VFO representatives to discuss new technology releases. Mr. Bishop noted VFO would release the new Zoom Text Fusion and was working to merge JAWS and Zoom Text seamlessly. Jeff Bishop stated Microsoft discussed their accessibility improvements and Google discussed the new Chrome box and Google docs. Jeff Bishop stated the JAWS update greatly enhanced the performance of Google docs with JAWS, and noted that accessibility had improved. Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the hot keys for accessing

Chrome box. Jeff Bishop stated the hot keys changed with the new update. Mr. Bishop stated VFO was collaborating with Microsoft on the Edge browser, and noted the collaboration was a work in progress. Jeff Bishop stated Google indicated that Chrome was a viable browser, and noted that Firefox would have the same extensions. Jeff Bishop stated individuals could read the Kindle without downloading the accessible version, which would allow the individual to read the books, comments, and access the dictionary. Jeff Bishop stated the culture was shifting and companies were not trying to compete with each other as much as they were collaborating to improve AT and accessibility.

Sue Lehew inquired whether any local Arizona vendors attended CSUN, such as Mark Nelson. Julie Jones stated Mark Nelson was at CSUN, although he saw individuals through appointment. Nathan Pullen stated he appreciated the committee's feedback regarding the OrCam and stated he would wait to request a demo for the new OrCam. Mr. Pullen inquired whether any other vendors distributed the OrCam. Terri Hedgpeth stated Lynn Noone was the only distributor in Arizona. Nathan Pullen inquired whether a blind vendor could use OrCam and be able to distinguish between the different items in a vending machine. Sue Lehew noted the OrCam had a barcode database, which offered information about different items. Terri Hedgpeth stated the AIRA glasses would be a great option for blind vendors to be able to access the items in a vending machine.

### **AT in Schools Discussion**

Jeff Bishop stated he spoke to the individual in charge of Assistive Technology (AT) at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB). Jeff Bishop stated he contacted several Procurement staff regarding the policies surrounding subscription based services and had not received a response. Nathan Pullen inquired whether Jeff Bishop contacted the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) or the Department of Economic Security (DES). Jeff Bishop stated he contacted the ADOA. Bea Shapiro stated DES would be purchasing Office 365 for staff through a subscription potentially. Sue Lehew stated the Procurement staff might not be able to answer Jeff Bishop due to the large number of contracts and variables. Ms. Lehew noted the ADOA might purchase subscription based services for staff, but RSA would not be permitted to directly purchase subscription based services for clients. Sue Lehew stated clients were receiving services, that would have an end date, and RSA could not make a commitment to continuing to pay for subscriptions. Jeff Bishop inquired whether the Procurement office was adhering to a certain law of policy regarding subscriptions. Sue Lehew stated she was unaware of the specific policy, although her understanding was that the Attorney General's office reviewed

the issue. Jeff Bishop inquired whether Rich Sorey, Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) Program Manager would have knowledge of the procurement policy. Nathan Pullen stated he attempted to purchase subscription based services for operators, and noted he was told the issue was often budgetary. Mr. Pullen noted Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients received services for a finite time, and DES did not want to extend services beyond that time. He added that budget appropriations were done annually, and DES could not have an automatic outstanding fee without having knowledge of the budget funds available. Jeff Bishop stated if VR was willing to pay for a student's education for a certain amount of time, VR should be able to pay for the technology or software necessary. Sue Lehew stated most software subscriptions required credit cards to renew services, and noted that DES Procurement did not allow direct payments from the client service system by credit cards. Nathan Pullen stated VR could not pay the monthly fee for a cell phone, for example, but the agency could reimburse the client, who would pay the bill. Terri Hedgpeth stated the student might benefit from purchasing an older version of Microsoft Office. Jeff Bishop stated individuals would only receive updates, if they purchased the complete Office 365.

Julie Jones stated several school districts were using software as old as Windows XP. Jeff Bishop stated all schools should be pushing for schools to purchase new technology and software for students. Julie Jones stated the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) schools would not benefit from purchasing newer software if the computer platforms were so outdated. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the ASDB staff were using Windows XP or Windows 7. Julie Jones stated ASDB staff were using Windows 7. Ms. Shapiro noted that ASDB students should be using the same software as the staff. Julie Jones stated some students were unable to access the school's Internet and noted that students did not have access to technology until the computer could be fixed. Sue Lehew stated her understanding that schools purchased technology according to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and would purchase technology with the features that best matched that student's needs. Julie Jones stated the staff and students needed to be upgraded to the same software in order for everyone to have the same access. Jeff Bishop stated there were several improvements. Mr. Bishop stated all students needed to have the same access to technology, regardless of whether the student had a disability. Julie Jones stated ASDB provided hard copies for students, although when those students entered college, they did not have the same experience using technology. Ms. Jones noted Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) provided technology through the Transition Summer Program, although some of the equipment was not compatible with the school systems. Jeff Bishop stated the Assistive

Technology should encourage schools to purchase the best technology possible for students.

### **ADE Transition Conference Accessibility Update**

This item was tabled.

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

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for April 19, 2017 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Trends
- AT in Schools Discussion
- Microsoft Presentation

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Bea Shapiro moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri Hedgpeth seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.