

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Full Council Meeting Minutes**  
March 16, 2018

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer\*  
Ted Chittenden  
Dan Martinez  
Nikki Jeffords\*  
Janet Fisher\*  
Ed Gervasoni\*  
Bea Shapiro\*  
Mike Gordon\*  
Jim LaMay  
Annette Reichman  
Nathan Pullen  
George Martinez  
Rich Sorey

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison  
Teleconferenced\*

**Members Absent**

Mike Kanitsch  
Allan Curry  
Donald Porterfield  
Amy Porterfield

**Guests Present**

Kristen Mackey\*  
Milly Martinez  
Barbara McDonald\*  
Janet Fukuda\*

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. at the RSA Video Conference Rooms located in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Introductions were made, a quorum was present, and the procedural meeting rules were explained.

**Approval of January 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Jim LaMay moved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2018 GCBVI Full Council meeting as written. Nikki Jeffords seconded the motion. Janet Fisher requested some corrections to the minutes regarding the MOCA pilot test by the National Library Service (NLS) Library of Congress. The amended minutes were approved by majority voice vote.

## **GCBVI Chairperson's Report**

This item was tabled.

## **RSA Administrator's Report**

Kristen Mackey reviewed the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) statistics. Kristen Mackey stated the number of blind and visually impaired individuals in the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program were 942, in which 33 individuals were veterans. Ms. Mackey stated there were 101 individuals on the Order of Selection (OOS) Wait List and 77 were in Priority Two. She added that there were 65 new applications to VR and individuals were determined eligible for services within 60 days 83.5%. Kristen Mackey stated the median number of days from application to eligibility was 49 days. Kristen Mackey stated most individuals were made eligible for services within 60 days, although the outliers affected the overall number. Kristen Mackey stated the IPE implementation compliance rate was 82.1%, the average hourly wage was \$16.80, ten clients were placed, and thirteen clients' cases were closed successfully.

Kristen Mackey stated there were 40 deaf-blind individuals in the VR program and one individual was a veteran. Kristen Mackey noted there were two new applications for services and the highest wage was \$26.44 for one individual that was placed.

Kristen Mackey stated for general VR, RSA was currently serving 15,218 individuals, RSA received 135 applications the previous week, and RSA was averaging approximately 96% eligibility determination for all VR cases. Ms. Mackey stated the IPE implementation rate was 96.1%. She added that at the end of February and the beginning of March, there were 43 job placements and the goal was to increase the job placements by 5%.

Kristen Mackey stated that Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRC)s would receive raises effective March 24, 2018. Kristen Mackey stated that through cost savings from the Arizona Management System (AMS), RSA was able to provide raises to VRCs. Kristen Mackey stated VRCs would be assigned to a tiered system commensurate with education and experience. She stated that VRCs at Entry Level would have a bachelor's degree and two years of experience working with individuals with disabilities. Kristen Mackey stated VRCs at Intermediate Level would have a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling or a related field and the VRCs at Senior Level would have a master's degree and a Certified Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) certification. Kristen Mackey stated that State Legislature had not

allocated salary increases since 2007, therefore RSA located funds within the agency to provide the counselors with pay increases.

Kristen Mackey stated RSA was implementing a standard referral scheduling intake process throughout the state, which was piloted in urban and rural areas for two months. Kristen Mackey stated that standard documents, work tools, and orientation documents had been created and provided to all offices and staff. She stated that she anticipated all offices would begin using the same process and information by August 2018. Ms. Mackey stated the overall outcomes of the projects were to reduce the number of referrals not interested in employment, reduce the number of days to make an eligibility determination and to implement standardized documentation processes to allow for consistent transfer of information. Kristen Mackey stated RSA was also implementing a Quality Assurance review, in which a team of two reviewers would review approximately 1000 stratified, random cases for all offices and counselors across the state each month. Kristen Mackey stated the QA team would review specific items related to policy requirements in which the QA staff would indicate a pass or fail for each area and share the results with the team. She noted the QA team would provide a compilation of results and note and trends for areas that would require additional policy clarification, training, or staff coaching. Kristen Mackey stated that RSA's Federal Monitoring visit had concluded and due to some process changes, Federal RSA did not indicate whether they had any findings thus far. She added that RSA did not have a projected date for receiving the final report, although she would inform the GCBVI once RSA received the report. Bob Kresmer inquired whether RSA inquired whether RSA discussed the Blind and Visually Impaired (BVI) Youth Transition Program qualified under the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) services for youth. Kristen Mackey stated RSA provided the BVI Transition contract to Federal RSA, whom would review that contract. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the salary increases would include Orientation and Mobility (O&M) staff. Kristen Mackey stated that VRCs would be the only staff that would receive salary increases, although RSA would review other staff classifications. Bob Kresmer inquired whether RSA still anticipated a fund shortfall within VR. Kristen Mackey stated RSA projected a potential federal shortfall in 2021, although RSA continued to implement cost savings measures.

### **SBVID Program Manager Report**

Rich Sorey stated he was pleased with how aggressive BEP had pursued non-governmental opportunities. Rich Sorey stated he was also pleased with the BEP training program and he hoped that operators would continue to remain flexible and be willing to move for opportunities if necessary. Mr. Sorey stated that Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID)

had completed the Transition Road Show in February, in which individuals could attend statewide through the videoconference sites. Rich Sorey stated there were three nights of presentations, which were all well attended. Rich Sorey stated that counselors were working diligently to complete the referrals for the Summer Transition Program. Rich Sorey stated SBVID continued to work on developing Best Practices and to meet with staff and managers to review goals. Rich Sorey stated there were 23 BVI job placements for the year and noted that the number would typically increase towards the end of the year. Rich Sorey stated all staff would receive their MAP performance reviews by the end of March. Rich Sorey stated the Orientation to Blindness Workshop in Phoenix continued to be well attended compared to the workshops in Tucson. Rich Sorey stated the Independent Living (IL) Program was in the process of developing formal metrics and Best Practices for IL to partner with VR. Rich Sorey stated VR should take advantage of IL and offer more services to clients.

Dan Martinez inquired regarding the accessibility of the case management system for blind and visually impaired individuals. Rich Sorey stated that Libera, the case management system, was accessible, although the system was somewhat cumbersome at times. Dan Martinez inquired whether RSA intended to move towards using a different case management system. Rich Sorey stated that RSA would continue to use Libera for an additional two years while reviewing potential case management systems. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding SBVID's progress in reviewing inactive client cases. Rich Sorey stated SBVID had reviewed approximately 30 cases and he anticipated reviewing additional cases in an inactive status. Bob Kresmer inquired whether RSA had provided additional training to counselors to deter counselors from disclosing the cost of services or indicating that services could not be offered due to high costs. Rich Sorey stated the VR supervisors would convey the message to the counselors that counselors should not discuss costs with clients or refer to any caps on services. Jim LaMay stated there were 55 individuals on the Independent Living Blind (ILB) Wait List, which should be higher due to the aging population of Arizona. Mr. LaMay stated that the community was not aware of ILB's services. Rich Sorey stated ILB was interested in providing more services, although ILB did have limited funds and staff to provide those services. Rich Sorey agreed that the elderly population was growing and the ILB program did continue to perform outreach activities. Rich Sorey noted that ILB staff would not receive pay increases, and he would review potential methods for providing that pay increase to ILB staff. Jim LaMay stated that the current ILB Wait List was not long enough to justify advocacy efforts for increased ILB funds. Rich Sorey agreed that the ILB Wait List had been reduced and that more clients had been served.

## **BEP Program Update**

Nathan Pullen reviewed some statistics from the RSA 15 report, which indicated all Business Enterprise Program (BEP) metrics had improved. Mr. Pullen stated that BEP gross sales were \$16,234,000 and there were \$988,000 in set-aside funds from the operators. He added there were no fair minimum payments and the median operator income was \$91,500, which continued to increase. Nathan Pullen stated BEP operators were employing 225 individuals in their businesses. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was training three individuals, whom were almost done with training and would begin on the job training. Nathan Pullen stated BEP partnered with George Martinez, who was providing Quick Books training, SCORE, and other community resources to assist in training the operators. Nathan Pullen stated BEP had been awarded a contract for the 161<sup>st</sup> wing of the National Guard in Phoenix, which was a five-year contract providing dining services. He stated BEP was working on a bid for the Marine Base in Yuma and was reviewing a potential contract with Luke Air Force Base. Nathan Pullen stated BEP closed the cafeteria in the State Capitol basement due to a decreased population within the building, although the program had a food truck come to the location every day from 11:30-1:00 pm. Nathan Pullen stated a Starbucks café had been opened in the Museum Wing of the Capitol, which experienced greater sales compared to a non-branded local chain. Nathan Pullen stated BEP received requests for a similar Starbucks café for the Scottsdale Civic Center and the Surprise City Hall. Nathan Pullen stated that BEP had amended the Operator Agreement and the BEP Policy Manual, which had been reviewed by the Arizona Participating Operator Committee (APOC). Mr. Pullen stated a major change had been to change the set-aside schedule and to review the set-aside schedule annually rather than a fixed amount. Nathan Pullen stated APOC had also decided to place a greater priority of facilities being operated by the BEP operators rather than subcontracted through third-party contractors. He noted that when BEP sites would go to bid, the BEP operators would have a priority to operate those sites.

Ted Chittenden inquired how the changes to the set-aside schedule would affect retaining BEP operators. Nathan Pullen stated that BEP offered a retirement plan separate from the set-aside funds, although most individuals would require supplemental retirement funds. Bob Kresmer inquired whether BEP would consider non-traditional sites, such as a boat harbor or marina. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was not awarded the contract for Katherine's Landing, a Marina at Lake Mohave. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was approached by the County Attorney for Fort Mohave County, regarding a marina. He noted that the community was becoming aware that BEP operators could provide services in non-traditional settings. Nathan Pullen

stated he did not anticipate a significant expansion in government settings and noted that the cafeteria business would likely dwindle over time. He added that BEP was for example, interested in providing services to private businesses, such as LA Fitness.

## **ASDB Report**

Annette Reichman, Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) Superintendent stated she received a request from the deaf community in Tucson to hold a Town Hall to share ASDB's activities. Annette Reichman stated ASDB would include individuals from the blind community as well. She noted that ASDB would hold Chats with the Superintendent on May 1, 2018 at Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) from 6:00-8:00 pm and on May 3, 2018 at the ASDB Tucson campus from 6:00-8:00 pm. Annette Reichman stated all GCBVI council members were welcome to attend the events. Ms. Reichman stated the GCBVI had requested information regarding the benchmarks used at ASDB and she was able to provide that information. She added that because the population was small, she could only provide aggregate benchmark scores. Annette Reichman stated ASDB was using Assessment Technology Incorporated (ATI) also known as Galileo. Annette Reichman stated all students were tested on the standards for their grade level and a score would be assigned indicating where that student fell within the parameters. Annette Reichman stated the benchmarks were: high risk, moderate risk, low risk, and minimal risk. Annette Reichman stated for Elementary School Math, the students showed growth in Math from the first benchmark test in August to the third benchmark test in March. Ms. Reichman stated all students were in the high-risk category, although the students' scores increased from 41 to 52 points between the second and third benchmark. Annette Reichman stated for Elementary English/Language Arts, all students showed growth, and were closer to the Minimal Risk scores. She noted that students made gains in over 100 points from the second to the third benchmark. Annette Reichman stated for Middle School Math, all students showed an upward trend and most students were in the At-Risk category with an increase in points from 29-98 from the second to third benchmark. Annette Reichman stated for Middle School English/Language Arts, students showed in an upward trend and the test scores increased from 16 to 29 from the second to third benchmark. Annette Reichman stated for High School Math, students were on course, although students were below the benchmark for High School English.

Ted Chittenden inquired regarding how students were classified according to Elementary, Middle and High School. Annette Reichman stated 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades were considered Elementary, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades were Middle School, and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades were High School students. Ted Chittenden inquired whether

the benchmark tests were similar to the AZ Merit tests. Annette Reichman stated the benchmark tests were very similar to the AZ Merit tests. Ted Chittenden inquired when students would take the AZ Merit tests. Annette Reichman stated students would take the AZ Merit tests mid-April. Dan Martinez inquired how many students were Braille readers. Annette Reichman stated at the Arizona State School for the Blind (ASB), there were 42 students and approximately half were Braille readers. Mr. Kresmer reiterated that ASB was subdivision of ASDB and inquired regarding student performance of students served by the ASDB co-operatives. Annette Reichman stated ASDB obtained the 2017 AZ Merit test scores for the co-operative students, although the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) indicated the agency would not be able to provide that information. Bob Kresmer stated that Doris Woltman was able to go to each school district within the Southeast Regional Co-Operatives and obtain the AZ Merit test scores of blind and visually impaired students. Bob Kresmer noted the council was still missing the test scores from most of schools and inquired whether ASDB would request that data. Annette Reichman stated that an individual from ADE requested that ASDB stop requesting the AZ Merit test scores. Ms. Reichman noted that ASDB was interested in developing a relationship with the ADE, which was in the best interest of the school. Annette Reichman stated that ASDB received a school improvement grant due to the low AZ Merit test scores, to develop an English Language Arts curriculum. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding ASDB's recruitment strategies to hire additional early childhood teachers. Annette Reichman stated ASDB was actively recruiting teachers within and out of the state. Ms. Reichman stated ASDB would not have all 21 teachers by July 21, 2018, although she anticipated the school would recruit 8-10 teachers. Annette Reichman stated ASDB was also developing a Professional Development plan to recruit teachers that could be trained to work with blind, visually impaired, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHOH) babies and toddlers.

## **GCBVI Committee Reports**

### ***Independent Living***

Jim LaMay stated the Independent Living Committee had been recently established and he had recruited several committee members. Jim LaMay stated the committee would review the GCBVI Strategic Plan, the 2017 ILB report and the ILB Best Practices. Jim LaMay noted the committee would request guidance from the Legislative and Public Policy Committee, which was the lead committee on several GCBVI Strategic Plan outcomes.

### ***Committee on Deaf-Blind Issues***

Ed Gervasoni stated the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) had requested \$195,000 in additional funds for the next five years to provide Support Service Provider (SSP) services to 100 individuals per year. Ed Gervasoni stated ACDHH considered vendors that currently providers those services, although the commission recently decided to offer the SSP services. Mr. Gervasoni noted that ACDHH had developed a SSP Training Curriculum and offer a three-day training to individuals interested in becoming SSPs. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee also encouraged the ACDHH to work with the clients to understand how to use SSP services. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee was communicating with the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) and ACDHH to identify a way to provide SSP services to deaf-blind individuals long term. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee developed a Task Force, interested in implementing a statewide service SSP program. He noted that the Task Force members decided the become a non-profit, DB Connections of AZ Inc., to meet the needs of the deaf-blind. Ed Gervasoni stated the organization was currently assisting several individuals in advocating for their need, with the goal of providing direct services to individuals in the future. Ed Gervasoni stated for 20 years, the Arizona Deaf-Blind Project provided in-house training to interveners, parents, and teachers, statewide. Mr. Gervasoni stated the in-house training had changed to online training and the Deaf-Blind Project was supporting individuals taking that training. Jim LaMay inquired regarding the location of the DB Connections or AZ Inc. Ed Gervasoni stated the organization assisted individuals statewide although he was unsure regarding the organization's exact location.

### ***Public Information***

Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee was interested in developing rack cards, which were smaller cards, that could be distributed to employers with information regarding how blind and visually impaired individuals work.

Ted Chittenden reviewed the EyeKnow.AZ database statistics:

February 1-28, 2017

Number of sessions (visits) – 60

Number of individuals visiting website- 20

January 1 – 31, 2018

Number of sessions (visits) 142

Number of individuals visiting website 117  
Pages viewed per visit 4.25  
Time spent visiting the database (minutes) 3:03  
New visitors 82%  
Returning Users 18%

February 1 – 28, 2018

Number of sessions (visits) 126  
Number of individuals visiting website 101  
Pages viewed per visit 3.17  
Time spent visiting the database (minutes) 1.28  
New visitors 80.9%  
Returning Users 19.1%

Ted Chittenden stated that Dan Martinez developed a template for the GCBVI Annual Report, which would include a report coverage dates, GCBVI authorizations, Mission, Vision and Values, GCBVI Chair's letter, RSA Administrator's letter, Strategic Plan top priorities, Committee Reports, Council Roster, and Success Stories. Mr. Chittenden noted that he would contact the Committee Chairs to request committee reports including the activities of each committee to be submitted to him by June 30, 2018. Ted Chittenden stated the GCBVI also created a council Facebook page and he encouraged council members to visit the website. Sharonda White inquired whether the EyeKnow.AZ database included different types of resources, or only resources for employers. Ted Chittenden stated the EyeKnow.AZ database included many different types of resources. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the committee had information regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database that could be distributed. Dan Martinez stated the Employment Committee could send Ms. Jeffords some cards with information regarding the database.

### ***Employment Committee***

Nikki Jeffords stated the E75 Diversity Builder events was held on January 26, 2018 at Ability 360 and noted that approximately 20 employers attended. Ms. Jeffords stated the Employment Committee partnered with Arizona State University (ASU) and had two interns that would assist the committee in providing outreach to employers. Nikki Jeffords stated that Employment Committee members had agreed to be responsible for different tasks included in the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the Employment Committee still intended to hold three smaller events. Nikki Jeffords stated the Employment Committee agreed to hold three events in 2018 and noted the next event would potentially be a breakfast

event sponsored by Tucson Electric Power. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee also discussed offering an Employment Track at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Ted Chittenden stated the Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB) agreed to assist the Employment Committee in obtaining donations for future E75 events.

### ***Assistive Technology (AT)***

Sharonda White stated that AT members reviewed the EyeKnow.AZ database and indicated the site was easy to navigate, although some of the resources could be updated. Sharonda White stated that some AT Committee members would be attending CSUN. She added that she had attended some Education Committee meetings to understand how the AT Committee could assist the Education Committee in completing GCBVI Strategic Plan outcomes. Ted Chittenden stated that Sharonda White was welcome to attend the next Public Information Committee meeting and further discuss Strategic Plan outcomes.

### ***Education***

Bob Kresmer stated the committee had developed workgroups in early childhood education, Transition Youth Services, and was actively recruiting additional members. Bob Kresmer stated the new AIMS Science test administered to students was not accessible and was offered by paper only. Bob Kresmer stated the committee continued to seek information regarding how blind and visually impaired students compared to their sighted peers as well as reviewing the council Strategic Plan.

## **Ex-Oficio Member and Blindness Community Organization Updates**

### ***Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library***

Janet Fisher stated the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped had released ads to radio stations, and different TV channels, to inform the public that the services exist. Janet Fisher stated the library had received some calls from individuals that heard or saw the ads regarding the library's services. Janet Fisher stated the library held their Volunteer Luncheon, in which about 125 individuals attended sponsored by Arizona Friends of Talking Books. Ms. Fisher stated Congress had introduced the Marrakesh Treaty, which had gone through the second read. She noted the treaty would require countries to enact copyright exceptions to allow making and distribution of accessible format copies such as Braille and audio books including by importation and exportation. Janet Fisher stated other countries had signed off on the treaty and the U.S. had not thus far. Janet

Fisher stated the library would receive a visit from a NLS consultant, who would compare the library to other libraries and review the new standards for libraries for the blind and physically handicapped.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the refreshable Braille devices would be available to patrons and whether Ms. Fisher had any Newsline usage statistics. Janet Fisher stated her understanding that Perkins School for the Blind was the only facility offering refreshable Braille devices and would offer quantitative information to identify whether the project would move forward. Ms. Fisher noted the library was still participating in the MOCA pilot program, which pulled audio books from an individual's BARD wish list and recorded the book into a cartridge that could be used in a digital reader. Janet Fisher stated the library reported quarterly Newsline statistics and there were 1325 active users, usership had increased by small increments and the total minutes used was over 43,000. Janet Fisher stated she developed a statistic sheet for 2017, in which individuals read 690,320 books, magazines, newspapers, and DVD's. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the student usage of library resources. Janet Fisher stated that historically, children library usage was not high, as most students used their public library or school libraries.

### ***Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI)***

Jim LaMay stated ACBVI held a fundraiser, Dining in the Dark, and was able to raise funds and awareness of blindness and visual impairment. Jim LaMay stated the agency signed a contract that allowed staff to provide accessibility training and website consultations for businesses and employers. Ms. LaMay stated ACBVI remained busy implementing RSA contract services and offering A+ certification. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ACBVI staff would be attending CSUN. Jim LaMay stated that approximately 5 staff members would attend CSUN. George Martinez inquired regarding the website consultation service. Jim LaMay stated ACBVI could run accessibility tests for businesses and indicate any areas the websites were not accessible. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the recruitment efforts to recruit students to enroll in the A+ certification program. Jim LaMay stated one individual signed up for the program, and two other individuals had expressed interest in the certification. Dan Martinez inquired how businesses were made aware of ACBVI's website accessibility training. Jim LaMay stated ACBVI would include that service on their website in addition to the current state contract, which allowed the agency to work with One-Stop staff, VRC's and Valley Metro staff. Janet Fisher inquired whether the ACBVI provided website accessibility standards for State websites. Jim LaMay stated ACBVI provided website maintenance for the RSA Assistive Technology website. Janet Fisher stated she would

encourage individuals to pursue the ACBVI's website accessibility services. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the A+ certification was offered in person. Jim LaMay stated that all training was offered in person because the individuals would obtain hands on experience.

### ***Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB)***

Dan Martinez stated that AIB CEO, Dick Monaco, would be retiring and was currently accepting applications for the position. Mr. Martinez stated that qualified blind and visually impaired individuals should be encouraged to apply for the position. Bob Kresmer inquired whether AIB had completed the transition from a state agency to a non-profit organization. Dan Martinez stated the transition to a non-profit had been completed. He noted that AIB employers were busy completing the necessary tasks, and the organization was doing quite well.

### ***Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB)***

George Martinez stated the AzCB Publicity Committee was interested in providing outreach to the elderly population, specifically with the newly blind. Mr. Martinez stated that many individuals lost their vision suddenly and struggled to live independently. George Martinez stated he would refer individuals to the EyeKnow.AZ database and other community resources. George Martinez stated the AzCB remained active in advocating with the Legislature against items that would adversely affect the blind community. Barbara McDonald stated the AzCB Annual Membership meeting would be held on April 28, 2018 at the ACBVI.

### ***National Federation of the Blind (NFB)***

Bob Kresmer stated the NFB of Arizona (NFBA) continued to be active in advocating with the Legislature to introduce a bill, The Blind Person's Right to Parent, which prohibited the discrimination in the ability of a blind parent to raise, adopt, foster, or remain custody of a child. Bob Kresmer stated the bill has gone through the Senate and was currently waiting for a vote by the House of Representatives. Bob Kresmer stated the NFB would hold the annual Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) program in May and July where students received immersion training. Bob Kresmer stated the NFB National Convention would be held from July 3-8, 2018 in Florida.

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

The next meeting of the GCBVI Full Council will be on May 18, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. in the Video Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st

Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

### **Announcements**

Nikki Jeffords stated she accepted a position with the National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision with the Mississippi State University. Rich Sorey stated he would welcome training to counselors of the blind and visually impaired.

### **Call to the Public**

Barbara McDonald stated the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library Book Club met once a month and patrons were loaned Victory Reader Stream and iPads.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Jim LaMay moved to adjourn the meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm

As of December 31, 2017:

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 942  
The total number of Veterans in VR Program was 33  
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 101  
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 77  
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 24  
The number of VR applications was 65  
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 57.7  
The median number of days application to eligibility was 49  
The eligibility determination compliance within 60 days was 83.5%  
The number of new plans written was 79  
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 75.6  
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 64.5  
The IPE implementation compliance within 90 days was 82.1%  
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$62.50  
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$16.80  
The number of clients placed was 10  
The number of clients closed successfully was 13

As of December 31, 2017, the Deaf Blind Population statistics:

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 40  
The total number of Veterans in VR program was 1  
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 0  
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 0  
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 0  
The number of VR applications was 2  
The number of new plans written was 1  
The IPE Implementation Compliance within 90 days was 0%  
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$26.44  
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$26.44  
The number of clients placed was 0  
The number of clients closed successfully was 1