

**Draft**  
**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 27, 2019

**Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Sue LeHew  
Nathan Pullen  
Mark Nelson  
Terri Hedgpeth

**Members Absent**

Ed Gervasoni  
Jaime Trausch  
Julie Jones

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

Bob Kresmer

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of November 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to approve the November 6, 2018 meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Conferences/Event Discussion**

Bea Shapiro stated that AT Committee members presented at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) in November. Ms. Shapiro stated the presentation was casual and the committee members presented on AT competencies and new technologies. Bea Shapiro stated that AT specialists, clients, and counselors attended the committee's presentation. Sue LeHew stated that approximately 20 individuals attended

each presentation, although less individuals attended the second session, and there was a mix of experienced and new AT users. Bea Shapiro stated the presentations went well, although she would prefer to begin preparing for the upcoming VRATE in July. Terri Hedgpeth agreed and noted that she did not enjoy casual presentations as much. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could develop a more structured presentation with an agenda with specific topics to ensure the presentation did not go off track with questions from the audience. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could consider inviting someone to present at the upcoming VRATE for the AT Committee. Nathan Pullen stated his understanding that the council was responsible for connecting general resources to the community and acted as an advisory council rather than a governing panel. Mr. Pullen stated the VRATE Committee was likely in the process of inviting presenters and companies to attend the conference. Bob Kresmer stated that companies would typically attend the event and would not expect to be compensated from VRATE or the council. Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee had invited external AT professionals to attend the event and provide a presentation. Bob Kresmer stated that historically, the AT Committee Chair participated on the VRATE Committee and encouraged committee members to consider participating as well. Terri Hedgpeth stated the committee had sufficient expertise internally and could provide a great presentation on current AT and trends. Ms. Hedgpeth suggested the committee identify the presentation topics that could be included in the VRATE program to entice individuals to attend the presentation. Mark Nelson agreed the committee should identify the topics that would be included in the presentation. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that the AT Committee should let the VRATE Committee know that the committee would present at VRATE in June, although she did not think the committee needed to provide the topics then. Terri Hedgpeth stated that Bea Shapiro could serve on the VRATE Committee and could keep the AT Committee up to date with the event. Nathan Pullen stated the VRATE Committee would not need a fully defined program but would like to know the general topics that would be discussed. Sue LeHew stated if the committee focused on employment, the committee could consider bringing in an outside individual to present. Ms. LeHew suggested the committee provide a one-hour session in order to give committee members more time to visit the exhibit hall. Nathan Pullen agreed that one hour would be sufficient as several individuals leave the second session. Bea Shapiro inquired whether any committee members would be willing to participate on the VRATE Committee. Terri Hedgpeth stated that she would be willing to participate on the VRATE Committee. Ms. Hedgpeth motioned that the AT Committee provide a one-hour presentation at the upcoming VRATE. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## AT Trends

Terri Hedgpeth stated that she attended CSUN and reviewed the HIMS QBraille 40 cell display with notetaking functions, which was a full redesign of the Braille Edge. Terri Hedgpeth stated Lighthouse produced tactile Braille maps of a neighborhood and an individual could order a book of a specific area. She noted there was also a talking brain, which was on display at the National Science of Medicine Museum. Terri Hedgpeth stated the talking brain would be adequate at junior high level due to the lower level of granularity. Terri Hedgpeth stated that Proctor and Gamble developed tactile markings on shampoo and conditioner bottles, although the markings were faint, and could be difficult to distinguish. Terri Hedgpeth stated that AIRA was demonstrating Bose sunglasses frames with speakers built in. Terri Hedgpeth stated the sound output was along the temples and a microphone. She noted AIRA was working on a partnership with Bose to integrate a camera into the glasses and an individual could wirelessly connect with the services. She stated she attended the Google Android session and noted there had been some improvements in TalkBack, although TalkBack and BrailleBack were separate apps, which caused conflicts. She noted that TalkBack does not deliver a consistent user experience because the developers must develop a code for dozens of different phones and tablets from numerous manufacturers. Terri Hedgpeth stated a clothing company, Two Blind Brothers, offered t-shirts for men or women, which had a nice texture and feel. She noted that individuals could order the t-shirts through the website <https://twoblindbrothers.com/> and that most of the proceeds went to Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Bea Shapiro stated CSUN had several video magnifiers, and noted that Humanware, Freedom Scientific, and other companies had similar models. Ms. Shapiro stated a Korean company developed a foldable Bluetooth keyboard for smart phones. Bea Shapiro stated that she was impressed with the tactile maps, which could be useful for Orientation and Mobility instructors. Sue LeHew inquired whether the tactile maps could be purchased for conferences. Terri Hedgpeth stated the tactile maps could be created for conferences and the surrounding areas. Mark Nelson stated that his son attended CSUN and viewed the HP multi-function printer that could print via remote control and would speak out the functions. Mark Nelson stated the new CCTV by Humanware was similar to the Visio book, but had a larger screen which was also a touch tablet. Terri Hedgpeth stated one company focused on using iPads as a magnifier, and individuals could put the document under the iPad and use the camera to magnify the document. Bea Shapiro stated the iPad used an app that was approximately \$1500 to use the magnifier on the iPad. Terri Hedgpeth stated she was able to keep a signal and navigate the exhibit hall at CSUN. Bea Shapiro stated that AIRA

service was free in Walgreens and the company was working with Walmart and Target as well. Terri Hedgpeth noted that AIRA service was free in several airports also.

Bob Kresmer stated that he would like the AT Committee to consider how the committee could support other committees such as the Education Committee. Mr. Kresmer stated the Education Committee learned that Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVIs) experienced challenges in receiving AT training on new technologies and stated the AT Committee could identify some ways to support the Education Committee. Nathan Pullen stated that Sue LeHew had supported the Employment Committee by providing a presentation on AT products at an employer round table event that helped to further the E75 initiative. Sue LeHew stated the AT Committee could provide outreach to schools and encourage teachers to attend conferences such as VRATE. Bob Kresmer noted that several schools were not allowing teachers to take time off to attend conferences. Mr. Kresmer stated the committee could consider assisting in a training for AT staff at schools. Terri Hedgpeth stated that AT Committee members could potentially provide an AT presentation at the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Conference. Mark Nelson suggested that teachers attend a webinar or virtual presentation so that teachers or students did not have to worry about transportation to events.

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

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for April 17, 2019 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- DES Migration to Google Discussion
- Collaboration with Education Committee Discussion
- AT Trends

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.