

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)

Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2025

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair

Jeff Bishop

Sue LeHew

Bob Kresmer

Karla Rivas-Parker

Members Absent

Nathan Pullen

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ.

Introductions

Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Call to the Public

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

Approval of Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the October 14, 2024 meeting minutes. Jeff Bishop seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated that Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would be November 14th at Ability 360 again and the committee should be thinking of their presentation. She noted that the previous committee presentation was well attended, and some individuals had to stand. Bob Kresmer inquired whether there were larger rooms for presentations. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that approximately 100 people attended the presentation although some had to stand. Ms. Shapiro stated Ability 360 was working on offering better sound and microphones as it was difficult to hear questions from the back of the room. Jeff Bishop suggested the committee set up the room as a classroom for the next presentation and individuals could bring their own devices for an interactive session. He noted that it would depend on if Ability 360 had the available resources. Bea Shapiro stated that she was unsure whether the room could be set up as a classroom. Sue LeHew stated she had attended classroom style rooms, although they were smaller than the presentation rooms and used long tables. Jeff Bishop stated the most important part would be to have power for different technology and devices. Mr. Bishop stated the committee could focus on the types of activities that people do most such as document creation, resolving applications, and utilizing technology to be more efficient. He noted that it would give individuals hands-on experience. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the questions from the previous presentation offered insight regarding the attendees' ages or backgrounds. Jeff Bishop stated that some individuals had basic knowledge, and some asked more advanced questions so the committee would need to target all ages and experience levels. Sue LeHew suggested the committee divide the topics into IL, education and employment and cover topics under each. Bob Kresmer

inquired about who would assist with the sound. Bea Shapiro stated it would be the VRATE Board and Ability 360 staff

AT Committee Outreach

Jeff Bishop stated he edited the committee's podcast and was waiting to hear about permission to use music. He noted the next podcast could be about VRATE. Bea Shapiro agreed and stated the committee could invite David Steinmetz to attend as the VRATE Chair.

AT Trends

Jeff Bishop stated that he attended CSUN and tried the new glasses which provided more real time feedback although the technology was new. He noted the new Meta RayBans came out and the user could speak to someone in another language. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Jeff Bishop saw the new Glidance. Jeff Bishop stated he tried the device which offered guidance similar to a guide dog, although it was unforgiving if the user does not walk in a straight line. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that it was like a walker. Jeff Bishop stated the user would push it forward and it would offer feedback regarding what was in front, but it would not navigate for the user. He added there were also several Braille displays, and the new Orbit player would be shipped out soon. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Arizona Talking Book Library would offer a new player. Bea Shapiro stated that not all states would be offering the new wireless players.

Council Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for May 21st. The agenda items are:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Outreach
- AT Trends

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.