

Draft
Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Full Council Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2018

Members Present

Amy Porterfield
Bob Kresmer*
Ted Chittenden
Dan Martinez
Donald Porterfield*
Janet Fisher*
Ed Gervasoni*
Bea Shapiro*
Mike Gordon*
Jim LaMay
Nathan Pullen
George Martinez
Rich Sorey
Allan Curry*

Members Absent

Mike Kanitsch
Nikki Jeffords
Annette Reichman

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison
Teleconferenced*

Guests Present

Kristen Mackey*
Milly Martinez
Janet Fukuda*

Call to Order and Introductions

Amy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:10 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 March 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2018 GCBVI Full Council meeting as written. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority voice vote.

GCBVI Chairperson's Report

Amy Porterfield provided an update regarding the Department of Economic Security (DES)'s Procurement processes involving providing services to blind and visually impaired clients. Amy Porterfield stated that she met with DES Procurement staff and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff regarding how to solve the issue. Ms. Porterfield noted that one solution was to amend the current law, although that would potentially make all contracts null and void, which should be avoided. Amy Porterfield stated that RSA proposed a new system that would allow one vendor to coordinate with all service providers to provide services to blind and visually impaired clients. Kristen Mackey stated the Managed Service Provider system would allow greater flexibility to serve all disability populations.

RSA Administrator's Report

Kristen Mackey stated that DES was in the second year of a Strategic Plan. Ms. Mackey noted that one of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)'s goals was to release individuals off of the Order of Selection (OOS) Wait List and noted that RSA would exceed their previous goals. Kristen Mackey stated that DES's high level goals were to create a high level culture, increase timeliness of services and increase the quality of services to clients.

SBVID Program Manager Report

Kristen Mackey reviewed the Services for Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) and Deaf-Blind (DB) statistics (**Note: Attachment A**)

Amy Porterfield inquired regarding the team approach to providing services to SBVID clients and regarding the wait times for clients. Rich Sorey stated the team approach was currently offered in Phoenix offices and he was unsure whether the approach was the best. Mr. Sorey stated that he was able to hire more staff and he was hopeful that would alleviate some of the client wait time. Bob Kremer stated he heard that individuals continued to wait for Independent Living (IL) services. Rich Sorey stated that he did prioritize IL cases if the individuals required immediate services, although there was not sufficient funding to provide services to everyone quickly.

BEP Program Update

Nathan Pullen provided an update on the Business Enterprise Program (BEP), which included an update on BEP operator training and potential BEP operator sites. Mr. Pullen noted that BEP was pursuing additional BEP sites such as in northern Arizona, Pinal County, and a prison in Yuma. Nathan Pullen stated that BEP had been approached by the city of Surprise and the Scottsdale Civic Center for offering café services as well. Nathan Pullen

reviewed a letter written to Representative Pete Sessions as a follow up in support of the Randolph Sheppard Act.

ASDB Report

This item was tabled.

GCBVI Committee Reports

Amy Porterfield reviewed the GCBVI Strategic Plan outcomes and the progress that had been made thus far.

Committee on Deaf-Blind Issues

Ed Gervasoni stated that individuals were eligible for community intervener services under Medicaid, although clients receiving acute care were not eligible. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee continued to work with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) regarding how to provide those services to deaf-blind individuals. Ed Gervasoni stated the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) would receive \$192,000 in additional funds for the next five years to provide Support Service Provider (SSP) services to 100 individuals per year. Ed Gervasoni stated ACDHH had decided to offer those services internally instead of using outside providers. Ed Gervasoni noted that one change to the Support Service Provider (SSP) program was that transportation would no longer be provided, which was an issue to the deaf-blind consumers.

Public Information

Ted Chittenden reviewed the EyeKnow.AZ database statistics:

April 1 – 30, 2018

Number of sessions (visits) 160

Number of individuals visiting website 133

Pages viewed per visit 3.54

Time spent visiting the database (minutes) 3:54

New visitors 88.6%

Returning Users 11.4%

September 12, 2016 – April 30, 2018

Number of sessions (visits) 3032

Number of individuals visiting website 2215

Pages viewed per visit 3.43
Time spent visiting the database (minutes) 2:10
New visitors 89.6%
Returning Users 10.4%

Assistive Technology (AT)

Sharonda White stated that AT members reviewed the EyeKnow.AZ database and stated the committee had questions regarding whether the resources could be downloaded, whether the resources were the same as those from the Resource Directory, and who was responsible for updating the website. Ted Chittenden stated the EyeKnow.AZ website resources were taken from the Resource Directory. Janet Fisher stated the website did allow users to download the resources. Ted Chittenden added that Carlos Paraskevas requested updates from organizations included in the website and Lindsey Powers updated that information.

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 would continue to release ads to radio stations, and different TV channels, to inform the public that the services exist. Janet Fisher stated the library had received some an increase in applications from individuals, although other states had received more interest. Janet Fisher stated the Arizona Friends of the Library would hold their Whine-a-Thon in September and individuals could visit the library's Facebook page for more information.

Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI)

Jim LaMay stated ACBVI held was offering recreational activities to individuals and would hold a boat cruise at Lake Pleasant. Mr. LaMay thanked SAAVI Services for the Blind staff, Reggie, for providing ONET instruction to individuals.

Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB)

Ted Chittenden stated the AzCB National Conference would be held in June in St. Louis. Mr. Chittenden stated the AzCB held their Annual Business Meeting in which 7 of the 8 officer positions had been filled.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Donald Porterfield stated the NFB of Arizona (NFBA) was successful in advocating with the Legislature for the 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. Donald Porterfield stated the bill passed through the Senate, the House of Representatives, and was signed by Governor Ducey. Mr. Porterfield 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, and the State Convention would be held from August 30-September 2, 2018.

SAAVI Services for the Blind

Mike Gordon stated that summer continued to be busy at SAAVI with the BELL academy and the Transition Camp, Ready Set Go. Mike Gordon stated that SAAVI had been asked to coordinate the Youth Track by Parents with Blind Children, which would include an emphasis on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GCBVI Full Council will be on July 20, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. in the Video Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

Announcements

Ted Chittenden stated he received an update indicating that Barbara McDonald, member of the Public Information Committee was doing much better.

Call to the Public

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm

As of March 31, 2018:

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 1,021
The total number of Veterans in VR Program was 35
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 100
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 76
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 24
The number of VR applications was 135
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 51.0
The median number of days application to eligibility was 43
The eligibility determination compliance within 60 days was 87.1%
The number of new plans written was 140
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 77.5
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 66
The IPE implementation compliance within 90 days was 83.3%
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$62.50
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$10.00
The number of clients placed was 31
The number of clients closed successfully was 26

As of March 31, 2018, 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 33
The number of new plans written was 39
The IPE Implementation Compliance within 90 days was 100%
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 3
The number of clients closed successfully was 1