

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

May 19, 2017

Members Present

Amy Porterfield*, Chair
Ted Chittenden
Bob Kresmer*
Sharonda Greenlaw
Dan Martinez
Nathan Pullen
Ed Gervasoni*
Janet Fisher*
Donald Porterfield*
Nikki Jeffords
Jeff Bishop*
Mike Gordon*
Jim LaMay
Richard Sorey
Allan Curry
Larry Wanger

Members Absent

Mike Kanitsch
Annette Reichman
Tom Hicks
Bea Shapiro

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assistant
Teleconferenced*

Guests Present

Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator
Diane McElmury, SBVID Operations
Manager
Scott Weber*, APOC
Terell Welch, RSA
Karen McCann, Office of Auditor
General

Call to Order and Introductions

Amy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. at the RSA Video Conference Rooms located in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of March 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2017 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 stated the Executive Committee had identified the date of August 11, 2017 for the GCBVI Strategic Plan meeting in the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Conference Room. Ms. Porterfield stated the Executive Committee had discussed potentially holding a Town Hall meeting during the second portion of the next GCBVI Full Council meeting on July 21, 2017 and invite GCBVI committee members to attend. She noted that committee members could offer suggestions regarding the council development of the Strategic Plan. Amy Porterfield stated the council would be undergoing significant transitions and the council needed to convene and discuss issues facing the blindness community. Amy Porterfield stated the Executive Committee would meet to discuss the potential facilitators for the Strategic Planning meeting and attempt to offer a stipend to the facilitator. Ms. Porterfield stated the council had not asked any of the potential facilitators regarding their willingness to facilitate the meeting, and therefore did not want to discuss the individuals' names with the Full Council yet. Bob Kresmer suggested the council develop a list of individuals to invite to the July GCBVI Full Council meeting. Amy Porterfield stated the Executive Committee would take recommendations from the council and partner with the Public Information Committee to extend invitations to community individuals.

RSA Administrator's Report

Kristen Mackey stated RSA was consistently determining IPE within the required 90 days. Ms. Mackey noted the federal requirement was 100%, although she was pleased that RSA was 90% compliant. Kristen Mackey stated the average number of days for eligibility determination was 32 days and the median number of days was 23 days. Kristen Mackey stated RSA had reduced the IPE timeline, although that created more IPEs for the counselors. Kristen Mackey stated RSA began tracking the client employment retention numbers in compliance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Kristen Mackey stated 74.3% of clients continued to work the second quarter after exiting the program. Kristen Mackey stated 2,771 individuals were currently on the Order of Selection (OOS) Wait List. She stated 2,304 individuals were in Priority Two and 467 individuals were in Priority Three. Ms. Mackey stated 220 individuals were released from the OOS Wait List in November in which 131 cases were closed due to no contact. Kristen Mackey stated fourteen individuals had

moved into plan, nine individuals were in plan development and eleven individuals' cases were in the closure process. Kristen Mackey stated the last 50 cases were removed from the OOS Wait List on April 24, 2017 and RSA anticipated removing an additional 50 cases at the end of May in order to serve 100 individuals from the wait list. Kristen Mackey stated the total number of open VR cases was 16,372, which was a 4.9% increase from the previous year. She stated RSA reduced the number of individuals on the wait list by 34.1%. Kristen Mackey stated 940 individuals' cases were closed successfully, which was 131 more individuals than the previous year. She noted that 140 individuals obtained employment in April. Kristen Mackey stated RSA continued to work diligently with the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) HR team and meet weekly to fill open positions. She added that RSA had filled all but two of the nine open supervisor positions and worked hard to fill all positions.

Kristen Mackey stated RSA's budget projections for FFY17 and FFY18 remained the same. Ms. Mackey stated RSA continued to address the costs of client cases from the Administrative side as well as the client side in order to serve many individuals. Amy Porterfield requested clarification regarding the projected shortfall amount for 2018. Kristen Mackey stated RSA anticipated a projected shortfall of 2 million for 2018. Ms. Mackey noted part of the decreased amount was due to the delayed deployment of the new case management system, Salesforce. Kristen Mackey stated RSA's match contracts would no longer require mandatory match funds, which was calculated into the projected budget as well. Amy Porterfield inquired how RSA was determining the projected agency budget. Kristen Mackey stated RSA determined the projected budget amount by anticipating the middle amount that could potentially be received. Amy Porterfield stated that community organizations could potentially assist RSA in reducing the projected shortfall for 2018 if RSA could provide the exact amount. Kristen Mackey stated RSA did not include the re-allotment funds. Ms. Mackey stated every fall; RSA could request additional funds that were not used by other states as re-allotted funds. Kristen Mackey stated in 2016, RSA requested 20 million and were allotted 16.8 million in funds. Kristen Mackey stated the projected budget was based on the amount the agency would normally receive in a Federal Fiscal year without the re-allotted funds as RSA did not know what the match component would be. Kristen Mackey stated she could work with the RSA Budget Unit and determine the percentage and number in order to bring down the full federal allotment.

Kristen Mackey stated RSA partnered with the Office of Professional Development (OPD) to offer Core Training classes of a total of fifteen courses offered quarterly in Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff. Kristen Mackey stated all new counselors, Rehabilitation Technicians, and Supervisors were

required to complete the Core Training. Kristen Mackey stated all departments within RSA were reviewing the high cost cases. She noted that three cases were over \$500,000 and 74 case costs were between \$299,000 and \$499,000. She noted if the services were required; the counselors needed to ensure the justifications were included in order to ensure the funds were spent appropriately.

Kristen Mackey stated the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) requested the Fair Hearing numbers, which she would share with the GCBVI. Kristen Mackey stated last year, there were 18 informal resolutions and RSA agreed to twelve set of actions. Kristen Mackey stated there were eleven mediations, five agreements prior to mediation, three written mediation agreements, and one Fair Hearing Trial. Ms. Mackey stated there were thirteen formal Fair Hearings from 2016, in which six were pending, five clients withdrew or settled, and two cases ended in favor of the department. Kristen Mackey stated Natalie Trujillo, RSA Ombudsman, worked diligently with clients and staff to resolve the issues. Dan Martinez inquired whether RSA had information regarding the number of clients that used internal or external services. Kristen Mackey stated anecdotally, 80% of client placements were through vendors in community rehabilitation centers. Dan Martinez inquired regarding the Council Liaison position. Kristen Mackey stated an individual had been chosen for the Council Liaison position, although DERS HR did not approve of hiring that individual. Ms. Mackey stated she would review and modify the position description and repost the position. Kristen Mackey stated Lindsey Powers would continue to serve in the position until an individual had been chosen.

Ted Chittenden inquired whether WIOA required that RSA separate the client retention numbers according to disability. Kristen Mackey stated WIOA did not require that the retention numbers be separated according to disability. She noted that she was working with the RSA Data Unit to identify retention numbers according to the Regions. Kristen Mackey stated Region 1 referred to Maricopa, Region Two referred to Pinal County, and Region 3 referred to SBVID offices. She noted that in Region Three, there was 100% retention. Kristen Mackey stated her goal was to further review the retention rates at the office level. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether RSA could track the timeframes of eligibility with the Transition students. Kristen Mackey stated RSA would begin tracking more Transition statistics in compliance with the Pre-Transition Employment services.

SBVID Program Manager's Report

Amy Porterfield expressed her gratitude to Diane McElmury for her commitment to the blindness community and the GCBVI. Amy Porterfield

stated Diane McElmury had displayed extraordinary skills, compassion, and commitment to the council and Transition age youth. Ms. Porterfield stated the council truly appreciated all of the hard work that Ms. McElmury and her counselors offered to blind and visually impaired clients. Dan Martinez presented an award to Diane McElmury on behalf of the council and he expressed his appreciation to Diane McElmury. Ed Gervasoni thanked Diane McElmury for her hard work in developing the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Deaf-Blind, Combined Vision and Hearing Loss (CVHL) Needs Assessment as well. Diane McElmury, Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) Operations Manager, stated she learned a lot during her time with RSA and SBVID.

Diane McElmury stated she was working to hire three Rehabilitation Counselors for the Blind positions, and two Rehabilitation Technicians (RT)s. Diane McElmury stated Jennifer Klein in Tucson would hire a Purchasing Technician (PT) and PV Jantz had been hired as the Supervisor for the Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf. She noted the Maricopa County offices continued to receive client referrals. Diane McElmury stated there were 160 individuals on the Wait List for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHOH) services and counselors continued to move clients through the process. Ms. McElmury stated SBVID would interview more individuals on the hiring list for the Hard of Hearing Counselor positions.

Diane McElmury stated RSA had been busy completing the MAP appraisals and she worked with all the news supervisors and staff to complete their appraisals. Diane McElmury stated RSA held Orientation to Blindness Workshops in Phoenix and Tucson, and noted the next workshop in Phoenix would be on June 7, 2017. Diane McElmury stated RSA developed Pre and Post Workshop questions to be distributed to the clients that attended the workshops. Nikki Jeffords inquired regarding the Human Services Program Development Specialist position that had been posted. Rich Sorey stated the position would provide Assistive Technology (AT) instruction and assessments to clients.

Diane McElmury stated 20 students would attend the Summer Transition Program at SAAVI Services for the Blind, 21 would attend Foundations for Blind Children (FBC), and five would attend World Services for the Blind. Diane McElmury stated she met with Cathy Kirscher, Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) regarding a Comprehensive Program for CVHL seniors.

Diane McElmury stated as of March 31, 2017 **(Attachment A):**

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 952

The total number of Veterans in VR Program was 34

The total number of individuals in the OOS was 100
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 80
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 20
The number of VR applications was 136
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 43
The median number of days application to eligibility was 36
The eligibility determination compliance within 60 days was 79.7%
The number of new plans written was 134
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 82.2
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 71
The IPE implementation compliance within 90 days was 80.9%
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$50.00
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$15.96
The number of clients placed was 19
The number of clients closed successfully was 23

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

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 48
The total number of Veterans in VR program was 1
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 1
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 1
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 0
The number of VR applications was 2
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 2
The median number of days from application to eligibility was 2
The eligibility compliance within 60 days was 100%
The number of new plans written was 4
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 160.8
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 164
The IPE Implementation Compliance within 90 days was 50%
The number of clients placed was 1

Ted Chittenden inquired whether the new applications for services were from the Phoenix metropolitan area. Diane McElmury stated the new applications for services were received in the Phoenix offices. Ted Chittenden inquired regarding the numbers of individuals closed successfully and the number of cases closed. Diane McElmury stated 19 clients were placed in employment and 23 cases were closed successfully. Nikki Jeffords inquired when the timeline started for a client starting the application process. Diane McElmury stated the eligibility timeline started once the individual signed the application for services. Amy Porterfield inquired whether SBVID would continue to use the team approach of different counselors providing different

services to new clients. Diane McElmury stated the three new counselors for the blind would begin initial training and learn the IPE process. Ms. McElmury stated many counselors did not have prior counseling experience, and needed to learn from the beginning of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process. Dan Martinez inquired whether RSA had identified any occupational trends. Diane McElmury stated several clients chose customer services positions, although clients also chose medical, social and science positions as well. Diane McElmury stated SBVID would review the high cost cases to ensure that RSA was utilizing the resources appropriately and ensure that new counselors were aware of the resources available also.

Rich Sorey, SBVID Program Manager, stated in the brief amount of time that he had worked with Diane McElmury, he had never worked with someone that worked so hard. Mr. Sorey stated he was very appreciative of her hard work and skills. Rich Sorey stated he was grateful to Nathan Pullen and APOC for continuing to improve the BEP program and to create additional opportunities for new BEP operators. Rich Sorey stated BEP had encouraged BEP operator trainees to be flexible and be willing to relocate in order to begin working.

Rich Sorey stated Independent Living Blind (ILB) hired two Rehabilitation Teachers, who had started training. He noted there were fewer individuals on the Wait List, although his goal was to eliminate the wait list and to be able to provide services to all individuals. Rich Sorey stated the DHOH Job Fair was successful and he anticipated hearing about great results from the event. Rich Sorey stated he was in the process of filling the SBVID Administrative Assistant position. Mr. Sorey stated he was pleased with the collaboration from staff on holding the Introduction to Blindness Workshops. He stated SBVID would review the high cost cases and provide the justification if those services were necessary or modify services for cases not requiring the same level of services. Rich Sorey stated SBVID had been able to fill positions, although there were several open positions critical to the overall operation of the agency. Dan Martinez inquired whether RSA received the desired results from the Introduction to Blindness Workshops. Rich Sorey stated he received favorable feedback from staff indicating that clients were pleased with the workshop. He noted he would be interested to review the feedback from the client surveys although he was pleased with the progress thus far. Amy Porterfield inquired whether RSA would fill Diane McElmury's position upon her retirement. Rich Sorey stated he anticipated that RSA would fill Diane McElmury's position, although the hiring process could be quite lengthy.

BEP Program Update

Nathan Pullen stated BEP was pursuing an opportunity with the National Forest Service to operate a marina in Lake Mead, which would be a 5 million a year contract. Nathan Pullen stated BEP received guidance from the Attorney General's Office that BEP would not receive preference over the contract, although BEP would not be precluded from bidding against private sector companies. Mr. Pullen stated BEP recently remodeled the Durango Grill facility in Maricopa, and noted BEP would potentially bid on a new facility being built near the prison in the future. Nathan Pullen stated BEP updated the equipment, included a Seattle's Best Coffee shop with smoothies. He stated BEP would complete a similar remodel of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (ACCCC) café and include a Seattle's Best Coffee shop. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was interested in the branded coffee shops due to the high profit margins from coffee. Nathan Pullen stated BEP hired a Fiscal Manager, Jocelyn Elliot, who had government and accounting experience.

Nathan Pullen stated BEP had eleven staff and one temporary staff position. Nathan Pullen stated the Arizona Participating Operators Committee (APOC) would hold a meeting on May 22, 2017 and stated all council members were welcome to attend. He noted that APOC would discuss potentially changing the set aside that operators paid to the program. Nathan Pullen the current set aside was 20% and the committee would need approval from the Legislature to change the set aside amount. Mr. Pullen noted that APOC was hesitant to go to the Legislature requesting changes due to the possibility that the Legislature could modify additional items within the mini Randolph Sheppard Act.

Nikki Jeffords inquired whether current BEP operators were receiving training. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was currently evaluating training options and would discuss training at the upcoming APOC meeting. He stated several individuals would undergo the interview process to determine whether those individuals were eligible for training. Dan Martinez inquired regarding the reason for potentially changing the amount that operators provided to the program. Nathan Pullen stated some operators worked diligently to increase their income, and were therefore paying a higher amount or percentage into the program. Mr. Pullen stated previously BEP had lost the ability to subcontract sites to the agency, which was a loss of \$240,000 a year. Nathan Pullen stated BEP did not intend to change the set aside completely, but to develop a tiered set aside amount for operators. Scott Weber, APOC, stated Arizona had one of the highest set aside programs in the country and had discussed lowering the set aside amount. Mr. Weber stated APOC could reduce the set aside for operators and modify the amount for subcontractors, to allow operators to receive more funds and provide more services. Nathan Pullen stated the changes to the set aside

would encourage operators to expand their business. Amy Porterfield stated her agreement that the Legislature could potentially modify parts of the mini Randolph Sheppard Act and suggested the GCBVI determine the Governor's position on the topic. Bob Kresmer inquired whether BEP continued to locate potential facilities outside of Maricopa County. Nathan Pullen stated BEP would continue to follow up with facilities outside of Maricopa County although BEP had to ensure there were enough operators to cover certain rural areas. Nathan Pullen stated BEP did have 30 new vending machines in Flagstaff and was in the process of developing a northern Arizona vending route. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the progress with the Marine Base in Yuma. Nathan Pullen stated BEP had identified an operator that would work with California in providing services to the Marine Base in Yuma. Amy Porterfield inquired whether BEP had been able to hire a BEP Trainer position. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was actively trying to recruit an individual to be the BEP Trainer. Amy Porterfield inquired whether BEP had created smaller opportunities for new operators. Nathan Pullen stated BEP had moved some operators to different facilities, and noted some facilities were open for bid. He added some vending machines had been moved to an existing vending route, and some routes could be transitioned to a standalone route. Amy Porterfield inquired regarding any incentive for new operators to operate out of the rural areas. Nathan Pullen stated and Rich Sorey had discussed potentially offering relocation assistance to current VR clients. Mr. Pullen stated BEP would make the expectation clear during training that all new BEP operators were encouraged to relocate and pursue new opportunities if necessary. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the Marine Base in Yuma was a federal or state facility and whether BEP received the opinion from the state or federal Attorney General's Office. Nathan Pullen stated the Yuma Marina Base was a federal property and noted that due to the Concession Act, BEP did not have priority over the contract. He stated BEP received the opinion from the State Attorney General's Office, although he did have further questions regarding the funding used to purchase equipment.

Self-Driving Car Presentation

Amy Porterfield stated the GCBVI had the opportunity to evaluate the self-driving car and Ms. Porterfield had asked Nikki Jeffords to participate. Nikki Jeffords stated she had the opportunity to ride in a Waymo vehicle, formally known as Google self-driving cars. Ms. Jeffords stated two Waymo employees sat in the front seat, and Nikki Jeffords and two of her co-workers sat in the back seat. Nikki Jeffords stated as a blind person, the driving experience was similar to what she normally experienced, although her co-workers stated that watching the steering wheel move autonomously was surreal. Nikki Jeffords stated some engineers were present and

receptive to feedback and questions. She noted the cars could potentially include some beeps or sounds to indicate the car had arrived to a blind or visually impaired individual. Nikki Jeffords stated Waymo anticipated the cars would be on the road within two years. Ms. Jeffords stated the cars included 3-D maps, which included speed bumps and construction zones. Nikki Jeffords stated about 22 companies were working on autonomously driving cars, although Waymo was interested in offering a shared driving service such as Uber or Lyft. Amy Porterfield inquired whether the Waymo accessibility team indicated what the GCBVI could do to collaborate and ensure that accessibility was built into the cars. Nikki Jeffords stated the Waymo Accessibility Team did not expand on that, although she did invite representatives to attend a GCBVI Full Council meeting and speak at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Ted Chittenden stated Arizona required an individual to have a driver's license even if riding in a self-driving car. Mr. Chittenden inquired whether the state would need to change the existing law in order to allow a blind or visually impaired individual to ride in a self-driving car. Nikki Jeffords stated Waymo was developing several prototypes and noted one would not have a steering wheel or brake and gas pedals. She noted that another company was working on Legislation that would not require an individual to have a driver's license in order to ride in a self-driving car.

GCBVI Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Amy Porterfield stated the Executive Committee explored issues surrounding council membership and the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Ms. Porterfield stated she discussed previously that the council was interested in holding a Town Hall meeting during the second half of the July Full Council meeting.

Nikki Jeffords motioned that the council dedicate the second portion of the GCBVI Full Council meeting on July 21, 2017 to a Town Hall Meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion.

Dan Martinez stated the Town Hall meeting allowed the council a great opportunity to receive input from the community and the individuals the council served.

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Amy Porterfield stated the Executive Committee identified that the council needed representation from an individual in education at the Policy level. She stated she would meet with Dawn Wallace, Policy Advisor on Education,

to discuss potential individuals that would be interested in serving on the council. Amy Porterfield stated the council would also benefit from representation from an individual in the business or corporate field. Amy Porterfield stated the council also had one position open from the Arizona Association of the Parents of the Visually Impaired, although that organization was defunct. Amy Porterfield stated the council had previously agreed to request the representation be changed to a parent of a blind or visually impaired child. She noted at the time the Office of Boards and Commission was not accepting any changes to the council Bylaws at that time.

Dan Martinez suggested the council representation include a parent, grandparent, or guardian of a blind or visually impaired child. Bob Kresmer accepted the amended motion. Ed Gervasoni seconded the amended motion. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the motion should include a parent of a blind or visually impaired adult. Larry Wanger stated if council was interested in issues facing children and education, the council would benefit from a parent of a child. Donald Porterfield suggested the council accept parents of adult children as well, as those parents would have experience navigating the educational system.

Bob Kresmer motioned the council modify the GCBVI Bylaws to include representation from a parent, grandparent or guardian of a blind or visually impaired child. Ed Gervasoni seconded the motion. The council approved the motion by majority voice vote.

Amy Porterfield stated the council had a suggested change to the motion and inquired whether any council member wished to motion for an amendment. Nikki Jeffords stated her agreement that a parent of an adult child could offer a good perspective to the council. The council did not motion to amend the previous motion. Amy Porterfield stated the Executive Committee would review the membership screening process.

Committee on Deaf-Blind Issues

Ed Gervasoni stated the committee accepted a new member, Steve Wilson. Mr. Gervasoni stated he would like to recruit a member of the GCBVI to sit on the committee in the event that he was unable to Chair the meeting. Ed Gervasoni stated the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) requested \$300,000 in additional funding from the Legislature, although the request was denied. He noted that ACDHH would partner with AHCCCS in order to provide services to deaf-blind individuals through the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS). Ed Gervasoni stated the ACDHH anticipated the agency would receive additional \$192,000 from the

telephone tax. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee worked diligently to develop a statewide Task Force which would be tasked with developing a statewide Services Support Provider (SSP) program. Ed Gervasoni stated the Task Force had been developed, and had recently set up a non-profit organization, Deaf-Blind Connections in Arizona. Amy Porterfield stated Bea Shapiro had expressed interest in joining the Committee on Deaf-Blind Issues.

Public Information

Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee had not received any reports from the Committee Chairs for inclusion in the GCBVI Annual Report. Mr. Chittenden stated the committee had decided to then write a summary version of the Annual Report.

Ted Chittenden stated from March 1-March 31, 2017, the EyeKnow.AZ database had:

Number of sessions 116
Number of individuals visiting the website 96
Pages viewed per visit 2.52
Time spent visiting the database (minutes) 2.52
New visitors 75%
Returning Users 25%

April 1-April 30, 2017

Number of sessions 89
Number of individuals visiting the website 81
Pages viewed per visit 2.56
Time spent visiting the database (minutes) .41
New visitors 82%
Returning Users 18%

Amy Porterfield stated if the Public Information Committee would be willing to accept the Committee Chair reports late, Lindsey Powers could send a reminder to the Committee Chairs to submit their reports. Ted Chittenden stated if the Committee Chairs submitted their reports by June 9, 2017 the Public Information Committee would consider including those reports in the GCBVI Annual Report. Amy Porterfield urged the Committee Chairs to submit their committee reports to Ted Chittenden for inclusion in the Annual Report. Ted Chittenden stated the GCBVI would have a table at the AzTAP Conference on July 24 and July 25, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale

Resort and all council members were invited to help staff the table at the event.

Education Committee

Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee had identified goals and methods for the committee. Mr. Kresmer stated that a workgroup of the committee supported the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) request for additional \$800,000 for early intervention services statewide.

Legislation and Public Policy Committee

Amy Porterfield stated Henry Darwin, Interim Department of Economic Security (DES) Director Henry Darwin, requested assistance from the GCBVI on eliminating the policies that slowed down the processes. Amy Porterfield stated the committee had developed workgroups to review the RSA Policy Manual, the Administration Rules, and the Procurement Policy Manual. Ms. Porterfield stated the committee received an invitation to meet with the Procurement Office to discuss the procurement policies. Donald Porterfield stated the GCBVI would have the opportunity to identify some strategies for advocating with the Legislature during the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting.

Assistive Technology Committee

Jeff Bishop stated the AT Committee invited two individuals from Microsoft to attend a meeting to discuss the accessibility improvements within Microsoft, specifically Office 365. Jeff Bishop stated the AT Committee had discussed the importance of VR clients having access to Office 365 subscription based updates and would recommend that RSA move to Office 365. Jeff Bishop stated Microsoft was committed to improving accessibility and had made significant progress.

Employment Committee

Nikki Jeffords stated the Employment Committee had identified the date for the next E75 Diversity Builder Award Event on January 27, 2017, which would be held at Ability 360. Ms. Jeffords stated Jeff Bishop had agreed to help the committee develop an E75 website, which would include all forms such as the Award Nomination form, the registration, and the E75 Newsletter. Dan Martinez stated the Employment Committee was pleased to have non-council members on the committee that served as a vital part of the committee and the council. Mr. Martinez stated on behalf of Tom Hicks,

Employment Committee Chair, he offered his thanks to Terell Welch for his dedication to the committee and ability to execute committee activities.

Ex-Oficio Member and Blindness Community Organization Updates

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Donald Porterfield stated the NFB National Conference would be held on July 10-15, 2017 in Orlando and the State Conference would be held in Phoenix on August 31-September 3, 2017. Donald Porterfield stated NFB was monitoring Uber, who had previously refused to transport individuals with guide dogs. Donald Porterfield stated the NFB National Convention chose different state affiliates to host the event and noted that Arizona had been chosen as one of the host affiliates. He noted that Arizona was one of the top ten state organizations in leadership roles. Donald Porterfield stated the NFB Braille Academy had operated in Tucson the previous several years, although the Braille Academy would be in Phoenix on July 24-August 4, 2017, where children were exposed to Braille, cooking, and sports.

Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB)

Jeff Bishop stated the AzCB National Convention would be in Reno in which several AzCB members would attend. Jeff Bishop stated the convention focus would be on announcements from technology companies such as Amazon.

Arizona State Schools from the Deaf and Blind (ASDB)

Ed Gervasoni stated ASDB completed the first phase of Strategic Planning and had established the principles: accountability, collaboration, and transparency. ASDB would meet with internal and external stakeholders to gather feedback on the establishment of ASDB's principles. Mr. Gervasoni stated 40 students participated in the Braille Challenge on February 13, 2017.

Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library

Janet Fisher stated the Library would hold a Summer Reading Program for Children and Adults from June 1-August 1, 2017. Ms. Fisher stated interested individuals would receive prizes for the number of books they read. Janet Fisher stated the Library held a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 29, 2017 and noted the library had about 250 volunteers. Janet Fisher stated Secretary of State; Michelle Reagan attended the Luncheon and presented a Proclamation from the Governor for Volunteer Week.

Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI)

Jim LaMay stated the ACBVI completed the Request for Proposal for the Blindness Comprehensive Program, a SCC application, and Vortec Technology visited. Jim LaMay stated the ACBVI was discussing modifications to the database system or the purchase of a new system which would allow donor data recognition and follow up with clients that left the program. Jim LaMay stated ACBVI celebrated its 70th year anniversary, and would hold an Open House on October 6, 2017 in collaboration with the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library. He stated the ACBVI held a Volunteer Luncheon on April 28, 2017.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GCBVI Full Council will be on July 21, 2017 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. in the Video Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

Announcements

Mike Gordon stated that SAAVI Services for the Blind had been invited to coordinate the Youth Track at the National NFB Convention.

Nikki Jeffords announced that VRATE had been changed to November 17, 2017 at the Glendale Civic Center and Kirk Adams, American Foundation for the Blind President would be the keynote speaker.

Call to the Public

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Nikki Jeffords moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed Gervasoni seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

As of March 31, 2017:

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 952
The total number of Veterans in VR Program was 34
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 100
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 80
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 20
The number of VR applications was 136
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 43
The median number of days application to eligibility was 36
The eligibility determination compliance within 60 days was 79.7%
The number of new plans written was 134
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 82.2
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 71
The IPE implementation compliance within 90 days was 80.9%
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$50.00
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$15.96
The number of clients placed was 19
The number of clients closed successfully was 23

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

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 48
The total number of Veterans in VR program was 1
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 1
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 1
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 0
The number of VR applications was 2
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 2
The median number of days from application to eligibility was 2
The eligibility compliance within 60 days was 100%
The number of new plans written was 4
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 160.8
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 164
The IPE Implementation Compliance within 90 days was 50%
The number of clients placed was 1