

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
June 3, 2019

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Ed House  
Lisa Yencarelli  
Jared Kittelson  
Lisa Jackson  
Julie Urban

**Members Absent**

Doris Woltman

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of April 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Julie Urban motioned to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2019 meeting. Ed House seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**VRATE Presentation Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Board inquired whether the Education Committee would be interested in presenting at VRATE. Bob Kresmer noted the VRATE Board was interested in encouraging more school counselors, Teachers for the Visually Impaired (TVI)s, and educational professionals to attend the conference. Lisa Jackson inquired regarding the date for VRATE. Lindsey Powers stated that VRATE was scheduled for November 15 and 16. Lisa Jackson stated that she could forward information to the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) Superintendent and suggest that TVIs attend the

conference. Lindsey Powers stated that she would forward information regarding VRATE to the committee. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee would need to identify the presentation topics and speakers that could present at VRATE. Mr. Kresmer noted that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) professionals, medical and low vision professionals, and consumer groups typically attended VRATE. He added that most VRATE attendees were older than 55, and the VRATE Board hoped to attract students and teachers to attend during the two-day conference. Julie Urban stated the VRATE Board was interested in developing a program for Braille music. Bob Kresmer stated he would inquire regarding the general agenda for VRATE and identify when the Education Committee would be presenting.

Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the Bachelor's program for teachers interested in becoming TVIs. Jared Kittelson stated that Dr. Crow, Arizona State University, believed in the program and would continue with the program. Jared Kittelson stated ASU coordinated an informational meeting, in which 20 potential TVI students attended. Mr. Kittelson stated the potential candidates were being vetted for their credentials. Jared Kittelson stated that Governor Ducey approved of the budget of 15 million for the Arizona Teacher's Academy, which was a scholarship program for students interested in becoming teachers. Jared Kittelson stated that he would forward the information to the committee members to be forwarded to anyone interested. Bob Kresmer inquired how the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) was prepping for the youth summer programs. Jared Kittelson stated that 47 youth had signed up for the summer program, which started that day. Bob Kresmer inquired how FBC was preparing for the Youth Transition Program. Jared Kittelson stated that he was not involved in the Youth Transition Program.

### **ASDB Update**

Bob Kresmer stated that during the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) Board meeting, the Board was discussing continuing education for teachers and inquired whether that training had occurred. Lisa Yencarelli stated that teachers attended the Second Annual Assistive Technology (AT) Summer Institute the week prior. Ms. Yencarelli stated that TVIs and Braille Technical Aids attended and received presentations on the Humanware Brailnote Touch, AT assessments, JAWS, Zoom Text and the Tiger Embosser. Lisa Yencarelli stated the teachers also received presentations regarding the new AT procedures, all devices from the American Printing House for the Blind, and Bookshare. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the teachers stayed in the dorms during the two days of training. Lisa Yencarelli stated that local teachers came to the school for training, although individuals were welcome to stay in a hotel as well. She noted that the

ASDB dorms were being used for camp and were not available. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the number of teachers that attended the training. Lisa Yencarelli stated that approximately 30 teachers attended the training. Lisa Yencarelli stated that she hoped to develop more training sessions throughout the year for teachers, as well as a method for teachers to request assistance either from an individual inside or outside of the agency. Bob Kresmer stated the ASDB Board also mentioned a desire to standardize the efforts between the ASDB regional co-operatives and inquired whether that process had started. Lisa Yencarelli stated that ASDB would develop a study session in preparation for the upcoming Board meeting. Ms. Yencarelli stated that ASDB was interested in developing more standardized procedures for each agency co-operative.

### **High Stakes Test Score Collection Discussion**

This item was tabled.

### **Early Childhood Activities Discussion**

This item was tabled.

### **Youth Transition Program Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated that several years prior, Arizona became a model state in the development of a Youth Transition Program for blind and visually impaired students. Bob Kresmer stated that students worked with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors to learn about the different summer programs and participate in those programs each year until the student was 21 or graduated. He noted that the students would then be eligible to apply for VR services as an adult. Mr. Kresmer stated the Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) Program Manager resigned in November and the Tucson Supervisor position became vacant, which led to a lower number of student applications to the summer program. Bob Kresmer stated the acting SBVID Program Manager had authorized overtime for the counselors to get students through the intake process, obtain the necessary signatures from parents, and to move the students' applications forward. Bob Kresmer stated that he would develop a workgroup that would review the current process to streamline the process so that TVIs, parents, and students would be able to easily apply for the Youth Transition Program. Bob Kresmer stated that if any committee members were interested in participating on that workgroup, to contact him.

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

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for August 12, 2019 from 1:00-2:00 in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- Youth Transition Program Workgroup Discussion
- Newborn Vision Testing Discussion

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.