

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)  
Public Information Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 5, 2018

**Members Present**

Ted Chittenden\*  
Dan Martinez  
Janet Fisher  
Carlos Paraskevas

**Members Absent**

David Steinmetz

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

Sharonda White\*, AT  
Committee Chair

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Ted Chittenden called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm in the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) Conference Room, 515 N. 51st Avenue, Suite 130, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of April 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Carlos Paraskevas moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2018 Public Information Committee meeting. Janet Fisher seconded the motion. Carlos Paraskevas requested that some minor corrections be made to the minutes. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**GCBVI Annual Report Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated Lindsey Powers sent out a reminder to all GCBVI Committee Chairs requesting that they forward their committee reports to Ted Chittenden. Ted Chittenden stated he had not contacted Foundation for Blind Children (FBC), Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) or SAAVI Services for the Blind regarding client success stories although he intended to do so. Ted Chittenden inquired whether Janet Fisher would like to include any success stories from the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library. Janet Fisher stated she would let Ted Chittenden know whether she had any success stories to submit. Carlos Paraskevas stated he contacted SAAVI Services for the Blind and ACBVI and was told the organizations would respond to his inquiry. Dan Martinez stated he also wanted to include brief biographies of all GCBVI council members for

inclusion in the Annual Report. Mr. Martinez noted that individuals liked to be recognized for their contributions and the biographies allowed members to be recognized. Dan Martinez stated the biographies should be brief and just include a couple of sentences.

### **GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee forwarded their recommendations regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database to the Public Information Committee. Sharonda White stated at the GCBVI Full Council meeting, the Public Information Committee indicated that the EyeKnow.AZ database included the resources in Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)'s print Resource Directory, and that the database was regularly updated. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee also wanted to know whether an individual could print a list of their search results without printing the extra information on the page. Sharonda White also inquired whether the resources could be printed in a category, such as all of Transportation. Ms. White inquired whether the resources could be printed in an e-pub or PDF document. Janet Fisher stated that the resources could be printed in lists. Ms. Fisher noted the information was not printed as structured as a PDF, although the information was easy to access. Sharonda White inquired whether the printed information included extra information on the page. Ms. White also inquired whether an individual could search all categories according to a letter, such as all resources under "A". Janet Fisher stated the entire database could be printed and inquired whether Sharonda White was referring to the ability to print specific chapters of the database. Sharonda White stated she was interested in being able to print the entire database and inquired regarding the format of the printed database, such as e-pub or PDF. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee could request that Sara Muth, the Secretary of State I.T. staff, develop a way to print only the resources searched, and exclude any extraneous information. Janet Fisher inquired whether Sharonda White preferred that the printed resources include the URLs of the resources. Sharonda White stated she would like the URLs to be included. Janet Fisher stated when she searched for Games, for example, she received 3 resources listed with brief descriptions of those resources. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that a standard search did not yield too much extra information. Janet Fisher stated the search results did include a disclaimer and contact information regarding the database. Sharonda White stated her search results included extra information such as contact information and Administrator login. Janet Fisher stated she was unsure whether the disclaimer, contact information and copyright information could be changed if the information was included as part of a template.

Dan Martinez stated he was able to search all categories, which would print all resources included in the database in alphabetical order. Mr. Martinez stated his understanding that the resources would be printed in the format that the individual had set up, such as e-pub or PDF. Sharonda White inquired whether an individual could save the resources in a document format. Ted Chittenden stated the information could be saved into a Word document. Sharonda White stated that not all resources included information regarding the resource. Janet Fisher stated the committee entered the information that was received from each resource. Dan Martinez stated the individual could choose their preferred printed format. Sharonda White agreed although newly blind or visually impaired individuals might have difficulties printing the database. Dan Martinez stated the database could be updated to include some tips on how to print the resources. Janet Fisher stated the home page of EyeKnow.AZ database included a box to the side with Helpful Search Tips and suggested that it could also include printing tips. Dan Martinez stated committee members could explore different ways of printing and share that information on the database. Ted Chittenden stated the database could include a printer friendly page for each category's results. Janet Fisher inquired whether the URLs should be included on a printed version. Sharonda White stated the URLs could be included so the individual could enter the URL to search further. Sharonda White inquired whether the EyeKnow.AZ database included any additional resources other than the resources included in the Resource Directory. Dan Martinez stated that all resources were included except for some resources for businesses that had closed. Janet Fisher stated the committee also included additional resources such as theaters and recreational activities. Dan Martinez stated the AT Committee could forward any suggested resources to be included in the database. Mr. Martinez noted the Public Information Committee was very thankful and pleased to have worked with Sara Muth in the development of the EyeKnow.AZ database. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee would forward any suggestions to the Public Information Committee.

## **Social Media Discussion**

Ted Chittenden inquired regarding the progress of the GCBVI Facebook page. Lindsey Powers stated the council Facebook page continued to grow and gain Likes. Janet Fisher inquired whether Barbara McDonald had been responsible for providing content for the council Facebook page. Lindsey Powers stated that Barbara McDonald had provided information and intended to provide a post regarding accessible theaters to attend to avoid the summer heat. Ms. Powers agreed to write a post regarding accessible theaters for the council Facebook page. Carlos Paraskevas stated the Emvia webpage offered information regarding theaters. Janet Fisher stated the

Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library had information regarding Summer Reading Programs. Dan Martinez stated that he and Carlos Paraskevas would also develop some information to be posted on the Facebook page. Dan Martinez suggested the post name should be changed to Ted's Tidbits.

### **GCBVI Outreach Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated he attended the Lion's Club State Conference on May 19, 2018. Ted Chittenden stated he arrived at the event and Lion's Club members did not know where the Exhibit Hall was located. Mr. Chittenden stated if the committee attended the conference in the future, he would like to request that the committee be given the opportunity to speak about the GCBVI. Carlos Paraskevas stated he received interest from attendees at the conference and agreed that the committee should request to be part of the program. Janet Fisher stated the benefit of handing out material regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database and inquired whether the information could be included in the packet or program distributed to all conference attendees. Ted Chittenden stated if the committee had known about the Lion's Club Conference in advance, he could have requested that information regarding EyeKnow.AZ be included in the packets. Lindsey Powers stated she could inquire whether the database information could be included in the packets distributed at the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) Conference. Ted Chittenden stated the information could potentially be included in the packets distributed at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) as well.

Ted Chittenden inquired whether any GCBVI council members had signed up to help staff the table at AzTAP. Lindsey Powers stated that Nathan Pullen had volunteered to staff the table after his presentation at AzTAP, although he had not been informed regarding the time of his presentation. Ted Chittenden stated he would forward his availability to Lindsey Powers. Dan Martinez stated that transportation to AzTAP would be difficult for some individuals.

Ted Chittenden stated the Orientation to Blindness Workshop had been canceled in May and June due to a low number of participants. He noted that the workshop would likely occur in July and that he anticipated he would be able to provide that presentation.

### **VRATE Discussion**

Dan Martinez inquired regarding the AT Committee's presentation at the previous Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Sharonda White stated the AT Committee's presentation was called AT Face

Off, and the committee members discussed and compared products in the same category such as Be My Eyes or AIRA. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee was allotted one hour to present the previous year and the committee had requested two hours to present. Dan Martinez stated that Sharonda White could contact Carlos Paraskevas with any questions regarding the AT Committee's presentation and noted the AT Committee would be given two hours to present. Mr. Martinez requested the AT Committee develop descriptions for two one-hour presentations, such as hour 1: communication devices; hour 2: computer access. Sharonda White inquired whether the committee could be given a time slot that did not compete with another AT presentation. Dan Martinez inquired whether the AT Committee preferred a morning or afternoon presentation time. Sharonda White stated she would inquire regarding the AT Committee members' preferred presentation time. Dan Martinez also inquired whether the AT Committee would prefer to see additional technology vendors at the conference.

### **Database Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated the May EyeKnow.AZ database statistics had shown an increase in traffic to the site. Dan Martinez stated this increase was likely due to an increase in outreach efforts. Carlos Paraskevas inquired whether Sun Sounds aired information regarding the database. Janet Fisher stated her understanding the information did air. Ted Chittenden inquired whether there had been any requests for updates or additions to the database. Carlos Paraskevas stated he forwarded some updates to Lindsey Powers, who updated the information in the database.

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

The next meeting of the Public Information Committee will be on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. in the AIB Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- GCBVI Annual Report Discussion
- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- Social Media Discussion
- GCBVI Outreach Discussion
- VRATE Discussion
- Database Discussion
- Committee Membership Discussion

### **Announcements**

Ted Chittenden announced that Public Information Committee member Barbara McDonald passed away on June 26, 2018. Ted Chittenden stated that Barbara McDonald was a great and active member of the blindness community and would be missed. Carlos Paraskevas noted that Barbara McDonald's family started a scholarship award in her name.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Dan Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting; Carlos Paraskevas seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 3:20 pm.