

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
June 27, 2019

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Amy Porterfield  
Ted Chittenden  
Jim LaMay  
Allan Curry

**Members Absent**

Ed Gervasoni  
Nathan Pullen  
Bea Shapiro

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm in the Council Liaison Office, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of May 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Amy Porterfield moved to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**GCBVI Policy and Legislative Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated that the Policy and Legislative Committee had developed several workgroups, such as the workgroup to discuss the training of Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) staff and a workgroup to discuss the issues with the Independent Living Blind (ILB) program. Mr. Kresmer stated that workgroups would also address the Orientation to Blindness Workshops and discuss methods to streamline the Youth Transition Program. Bob Kresmer suggested the Youth Transition workgroup should meet in August, after the youth summer programs. Bob

Kresmer inquired whether any committee members would be interested in participating on the Orientation to Blindness workgroup. Jim LaMay stated that a meeting had been scheduled to discuss the ILB program and inquired whether members of the Independent Living (IL) Committee could be invited to attend that meeting. Amy Porterfield clarified that there was an IL Committee that Jim LaMay Chaired, and a separate workgroup was developed to discuss the IL program. Bob Kresmer stated that Jim LaMay could invite members from the IL Committee to participate in the IL workgroup discussion. Bob Kresmer inquired when the Youth Summer Transition program ended. Amy Porterfield stated that SAAVI Services for the Blind summer program ended on July 20, 2019, although she was unsure when the other programs ended. Bob Kresmer stated that most summer programs would end by August and suggested the Youth Summer Transition Program workgroup meet in August. Bob Kresmer stated that he, Amy Porterfield and Jim LaMay had agreed to participate on the Orientation to Blindness workgroup and inquired whether other committee members would be interested in participating. Ted Chittenden and Allan Curry agreed to participate on the workgroup as well. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the workgroup should meet in August or September. Amy Porterfield suggested the workgroup meet in August. Bob Kresmer requested that RSA and SBVID leadership be included in that discussion as well.

### **GCBVI Membership Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated that Nathan Pullen and Ed Gervasoni interviewed David Steinmetz as a potential GCBVI member and inquired whether the Executive Committee members had reviewed the interview notes. Lindsey Powers summarized the notes from the interview with Mr. Steinmetz: When asked why he wanted to be a member of the GCBVI, David Steinmetz replied that he would be able to support, guide, and contribute to the well-being of blind individuals in Arizona. He added that he would be able to educate and support information and referral as a support to the community and help impact the employment, financial and well-being of the community. When asked about his understanding of the purpose and function of the GCBVI, he replied that the council provides guidance, and acts as an advocate and a source of information between the community and Governor. He added that the GCBVI is the eyes and ears of the community and provides information to the Governor, State and community on blindness related issues. When asked what skills he would bring to the GCBVI, he indicated that his education, a BA in Business and Economics, as well as his 14 years of experience working with the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB), which included many duties and responsibilities. He stated that he was a good communicator, was able to understand information, process and disseminate. David Steinmetz stated that as a member of the Public

Information Committee, he was able to share his knowledge of website development and was instrumental in the development of the categories for the EyeKnow.AZ database. When asked what he planned to accomplish as a member of the GCBVI, he stated that had been attending the Full Council meetings for the past 6 months and had been a member of the Public Information Committee. He stated that when attending the Full Council meetings as a member of the public, he was unable to participate fully and as a member, he would be able to interact with other members and constituents of Arizona and have a bigger impact on the community. He added that blind and visually impaired individuals came from all different backgrounds and experiences and it would be good to hear from many individuals to foster a better communication, which would be better for the council and the community.

Bob Kresmer stated that he and Bea Shapiro interviewed Mike Bailey as a potential representative of the Blinded Veteran's Association (BVA). When asked why Mr. Bailey was interested in becoming a member of the GCBVI, he replied that he had experience as the President of the Verde Valley Support Group and working with individuals that were legally blind or completely blind. When asked regarding his understanding of the purpose and function of the GCBVI was, he indicated that the council made recommendations to the Governor or Legislature on issues that directly involved blinded veterans. He stated that he would pass on any information to the BVA and would become more involved in the community. When asked what skills he would bring to the GCBVI, he stated that his background included working with the military as a flight engineer and he had met a lot of people through his travels. He stated that he could communicate and solve problems and would let the veterans know about the programs and resources available. When asked what he planned to accomplish as a member of the GCBVI, he replied that he would like for viable action items to be reviewed and for action to be taken. He stated that for instance, the AZ Driver's Manual only includes 4-5 sentences on the white cane and could be expanded to improve safety. I would like to start by educating the driving programs.

Jim LaMay motioned that David Steinmetz and Mike Bailey's applications move forward to the Full Council for consideration. Amy Porterfield seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Strategic Plan Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated that he would be back in town in July and inquired whether committee members would be interested in having an informal phone meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan. Bob Kresmer stated that

Lindsey Powers would send out potential meeting dates to the Executive Committee members, which included the Committee Chairs.

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

The next meeting date of the Executive Committee would be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- Policy and Legislative Discussion
- GCBVI Membership Discussion

Bob Kresmer inquired whether committee members would like to add any agenda items for the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting. Amy Porterfield suggested the Full Council meeting agenda include discussion of the Regional Program Manager job announcement. Ms. Porterfield suggested the agenda also include discussion of the Comprehensive Services Contract. Bob Kresmer agreed and suggested that he and Ms. Porterfield discuss those issues with Ms. Mackey.

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Amy Porterfield moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim LaMay seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.