

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Public Information Committee Meeting Minutes**  
July 17, 2018

**Members Present**

Ted Chittenden\*  
Dan Martinez  
Janet Fisher\*  
Carlos Paraskevas  
David Steinmetz

**Members Absent**

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

Janet Fukuda\*

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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 June 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Carlos Paraskevas moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018 Public Information Committee meeting. Dan Martinez seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**GCBVI Annual Report Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated Dan Martinez developed a draft of the GCBVI Annual Report for the committees' review. Ted Chittenden noted that George Martinez had not been officially appointed as a member of the council through the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions although the council had accepted Mr. Martinez as a member. Ted Chittenden inquired whether George Martinez should be included as a council member in the Annual Report. Dan Martinez stated the Annual Report could indicate that George Martinez was a member of the council pending appointment from Boards and Commissions. Ted Chittenden stated he would edit the GCBVI Annual Report as needed. Mr. Chittenden stated he had not received a GCBVI Chair report, an RSA Administrator report or reports from the Legislative and Independent Living Committee. Ted Chittenden stated he

did not receive client success stories from the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC). Carlos Paraskevas stated he contacted Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) and SAAVI Services for the Blind regarding client success stories although he had not received any stories yet. Ted Chittenden stated the Annual Report would benefit from client success stories. Janet Fisher stated the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library received thank you letters, although the library did not have success stories to submit. Ted Chittenden stated he would encourage the remaining Committee Chairs to submit their reports by mid-August for inclusion in the GCBVI Annual Report. Dan Martinez suggested that Ted Chittenden request council members to submit brief biographies and pictures for inclusion in the Annual Report as well. Mr. Martinez noted that he was able to find information about some of the council members, although some members did not have information readily available online.

### **GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated Amy Porterfield indicated that the Public Information Committee could provide a committee report at the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting. Mr. Chittenden stated he would provide an update regarding the committee's progress regarding the Strategic Plan activities. Ted Chittenden stated he had not received further recommendations from the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database. Ted Chittenden stated he attended a previous Employment Committee meeting and the committee had recommended the Employer rack cards include Terell Welch's contact information only or in addition to Tim Stump's contact information. Ted Chittenden stated that Terell Welch was an Employment Coordinator for blind and visually impaired individuals, whereas Tim Stump represented employment for all Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients. Ted Chittenden stated that Nikki Jeffords had resigned as the Employment Committee Chair and that Nathan Pullen would be the Chair of the committee.

### **Committee Membership Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated that he would like the Public Information Committee to recruit one or two new members to perform the require tasks of the committee. Dan Martinez stated that Ted Chittenden could request that other GCBVI council members consider participating on the committee or suggest additional committee members. David Steinmetz inquired whether all the council members participated on committees. Dan Martinez stated that not all council members participated on committees. Ted Chittenden noted that Amy Porterfield had indicated that two individuals from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) would potentially join the council.

Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee had three council members on the committee and he would welcome individuals to join that were non-council members. Janet Fisher inquired whether the committee had reached out to Sun Sounds to recruit an individual to participate on the committee. Dan Martinez stated that individuals from Sun Sounds had served on the GCBVI in the past. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee would benefit from representation from Sun Sounds, due to the organization's public outreach efforts. Janet Fisher inquired whether it would be appropriate for her to contact an individual from Sun Sounds. Dan Martinez stated that Janet Fisher was welcome to invite an individual from Sun Sounds to participate on the committee or attend an upcoming committee meeting.

### **GCBVI Outreach Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated he attended the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) Conference on July 9 and 10 at We-Ko-Pa Conference Center. Ted Chittenden stated that most attendees were professionals that worked in the blindness field. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that individuals were interested in the information regarding Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE), EyeKnow.AZ, and the GCBVI. Ted Chittenden stated the keynote speaker, Arielle Silverman, provided a great opening presentation. Ted Chittenden stated the only downside to the conference was the location, which was outside of city limits, therefore attendees could not take public transit to attend the event.

Ted Chittenden stated the Orientation to Blindness Workshop had been canceled in May and June due to a low number of participants, although he did present during the July workshop. Ted Chittenden stated he received interest regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database from the clients as well as the new counselor. Carlos Paraskevas stated he contacted Karla Rivas-Parker, Independent Living Blind (ILB) Program Manager, regarding the distribution of the print Resource Directory. Mr. Paraskevas stated that Ms. Rivas-Parker indicated that ILB did not distribute the Resource Directory to clients, although clients were given instructions for accessing the directory online. Ted Chittenden encouraged Carlos Paraskevas to follow up with Karla Rivas-Parker regarding the online Resource Directory instructions.

Ted Chittenden stated he had not received notice regarding the VA White Cane Safety Day event. Carlos Paraskevas stated he received an email regarding the VA White Cane Safety Day on October 19, 2018 and would forward the information to Lindsey Powers for distribution to the committee members.

### **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. Ted Chittenden stated he could request that GCBVI council members visit the council Facebook page.

### **VRATE Discussion**

Carlos Paraskevas stated the VRATE Committee was still in the process of obtaining interest from vendors and identifying individuals that would present. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee was interested in presenting for two one-hour time slots. Dan Martinez stated the AT Committee would provide two one-hour presentations, although the schedule had not been finalized.

### **Database Discussion**

Janet Fisher stated the AT Committee had inquired whether the EyeKnow.AZ database could be printed in epub or PDF. Janet Fisher stated she forwarded the question to Sara Muth, I.T. Secretary of State, who indicated that the database could be printed in both formats, although she was experiencing more difficulties with epub. Janet Fisher inquired whether the AT Committee preferred one format over the other and whether PDF would be sufficient. Janet Fukuda stated that it might be easier for the individual creating the database to use PDF formatting for printing. Janet Fukuda stated that PDF interfaced well with accessible technology and she would have to conduct further research regarding epub documents.

Janet Fisher stated she inquired whether Sun Sounds continued to run commercials for EyeKnow.AZ and noted that Sun Sounds ran commercials when the committee sent the initial text regarding the database. Janet Fisher suggested that Sun Sounds use a method similar to the National Library Service, which would typically run commercials for three months on and three months off. Dan Martinez stated that Carlos Paraskevas could develop new text regarding the EyeKnow.AZ database that could run on Sun Sounds. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee would welcome any feedback from the AT Committee regarding the preferred format of the database.

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

The next meeting of the Public Information Committee will be on Tuesday, August 21, 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
- Committee Membership Discussion
- Database Discussion
- VRATE Discussion
- GCBVI Outreach Discussion
- Social Media Discussion
- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Janet Fisher 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 3:15 pm.