

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2018

Members Present

Sharonda White, Chair*
Ed Gervasoni*
Nathan Pullen*
Bea Shapiro*
Janet Fukuda*

Members Absent

Sue Lehew
Julie Jones
Jaime Trausch
Scott Mehosky

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Sharonda White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm in the DERS Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of June 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Nathan Pullen motioned to approve the June 20, 2018 meeting minutes. Ed Gervasoni seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Member Discussion

Sharonda White welcomed Janet Fukuda as the newest member of the AT Committee. Janet Fukuda stated she was the AT Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) with the Exceptional Student Services. Janet Fukuda stated she supported southern Arizona and she specialized in special education. Ms. Fukuda stated she began working in AT in a K-8 school district and ran the AT program in Pima Community College, where she tested software for accessibility. Janet Fukuda stated in her current position, she provided technical assistance to the public education agencies, provided regional, statewide, and one-on-one trainings. Sharonda White stated that Janet Fukuda brought a wealth of knowledge to the committee and she was excited to have Ms. Fukuda as a member of the committee.

GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion

Sharonda White stated she attended a previous Public Information Committee meeting and the committee members were in the process of making the suggested changes to the EyeKnow.AZ database. Sharonda White stated the GCBVI developed an Annual Report and she submitted an AT Committee report for inclusion in the Annual Report. Ed Gervasoni inquired whether the AT Committee members could review the AT Committee's report. Sharonda White stated she would share the AT Committee report with committee members. Janet Fukuda stated she attended the Public Information Committee meeting and noted that the committee members had some questions for the AT Committee. Ms. Fukuda stated the Public Information Committee inquired whether the AT Committee had any suggested changes or resources that should be added to the EyeKnow.AZ database. Janet Fukuda stated the Public Information Committee also inquired regarding the AT Committee's preferred format of a printed version of the EyeKnow.AZ database. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee had suggested that the EyeKnow.AZ database be formatted so an individual could print the whole database as a printed resource. Ms. White stated that screen readers could read both formats although a PDF would have to be tagged to be accessible. Bea Shapiro stated that a document should include headings as well.

Janet Fukuda stated she was not familiar with the structure of epub documents, although many larger publishing companies were using epub documents for accessibility. Ed Gervasoni inquired whether the different formats would change the ability to print a document in Braille. Sharonda White stated a Braille document would be translated through a software such as Duxbury. Bea Shapiro added that a Braille document would need to be formatted as well. Sharonda White agreed and stated the same process would apply to epub or PDF documents. Sharonda White inquired how an epub document could be read by a screen reader on a Windows computer. Bea Shapiro stated she typically used Voice Dream. Bea Shapiro stated that many individuals accessing such resources did not have access to computers and would require that the resources be available in different formats. Sharonda White inquired whether the resources should be available in Word and PDF or epub. Bea Shapiro stated the resource would be available in large print and a format that could be easily translated into Braille. Ed Gervasoni inquired whether an individual required the Internet to access an epub file. Sharonda White stated an epub document could be downloaded similar to a PDF and the individual would not require the Internet to read the document. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the print Resource Directory was available to individuals at the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library. Lindsey Powers stated she was not aware that the Resource Directory was

available at the library.

AT Trends

This item was tabled.

Conference Discussion

Sharonda White inquired whether any committee members attended Arizona Technology and Access Program (AzTAP). Janet Fukuda stated she presented on Documenting AT in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Making Science Accessible. Janet Fukuda stated both presentations were well attended, and she received good preliminary feedback. Nathan Pullen stated he presented on Home Modification Technology, which was well attended, and he received many great questions. Mr. Pullen stated the presentation times were longer, which allowed the attendees to ask more questions, which was more valuable for the attendees. Nathan Pullen stated he would recommend that the AT Committee consider allowing sufficient time at the end of the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) presentation so that attendees could ask more questions. Sharonda White stated the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) was putting together a home modification presentation for the upcoming NFBA Conference and she was interested in the information Mr. Pullen presented. Nathan Pullen stated he discussed the basics of smart home, which could be as simple as one item to controlling the thermostat and a security system. Nathan Pullen stated he also discussed the different technologies such as Alexa, Siri and Google Home products. Nathan Pullen stated the Power Point slides were general, although he would be pleased to share the information with Sharonda White.

Ed Gervasoni inquired whether Sharonda White was able to attend the conference in Florida. Sharonda White stated she was unable to attend the conference, although she planned to attend the upcoming conference in Las Vegas.

AT Committee Activity Discussion

This item was tabled.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for August 15, 2018 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the DERS Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Discussion
- AT Trends
- AT Committee Activity Discussion

Ed Gervasoni suggested the committee begin discussing the topics that would be presented at VRATE. Sharonda White agreed that the committee members should begin discussing the VRATE presentation topics.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.