

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2017

Members Present

Amy Porterfield*, Chair
Bob Kresmer*
Ted Chittenden*
Dan Martinez*
Nikki Jeffords*

Members Absent

Tom Hicks
Donald Porterfield
Ed Gervasoni

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin Asst.
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Ed House

Call to Order and Introductions

Amy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:045 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of June 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2017 Executive Committee meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Policy and Legislative Update

Amy Porterfield stated Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) requested feedback from the GCBVI regarding Pre-Employment Transition Services policies. Ms. Porterfield stated the Legislation and Public Policy Committee reviewed the policies and provided feedback to Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator. Amy Porterfield noted that RSA incorporated all of the GCBVI's suggestions and modified the policies to include broad language in order to accommodate clients. Amy Porterfield stated the Legislative and Public Policy Committee workgroups had all of the required documents in order to develop recommendations, although she was waiting for the Policy and the Administrative Rules Workgroups to submit their recommendations. Dan Martinez inquired whether RSA was currently working on implementing LEAN processes within the Procurement Office. Amy Porterfield stated the Procurement Office was working on implementing the LEAN process to

identify all of the current steps in order to implement unnecessary processes.

Strategic Plan Meeting Discussion

Amy Porterfield stated she and Ed House discussed the different methods for developing a Strategic Plan would serve as a useful tool to guide the council's activities and be flexible to change with the council's needs. Ed House inquired whether the Committee's submitted input that they wanted included in the Strategic Plan. Amy Porterfield stated the AT Committee was concerned with web accessibility that included education and employment software. She added the AT Committee was also concerned with individuals obtaining access to cloud based software, accessible testing, and accessible educational materials. Amy Porterfield stated the Committee on Deaf-Blind Issues suggested the council advocate for Support Service Provider (SSP) training and long-term SSP programs. Nikki Jeffords suggested each Committee identify measurable objectives that they would accomplish. Amy Porterfield inquired whether the GCBVI wanted to develop the Strategic Plan around the Committees or develop broad categories or areas of concern. Amy Porterfield suggested the Executive Committee identify some broad categories to help guide the council members to identify the areas to focus on in the Strategic Plan.

Ed House stated the current Strategic Plan used the term "impact", which related to areas such as Education and Employment. Mr. House suggested the Executive Committee identify several categories to help the council to develop a Strategic Plan in the time allotted for the meeting. Ed House stated that council members could submit their concerns prior to the Strategic Planning meeting, which could be compiled and placed under the appropriate category. Ed House stated the council could then spend more time discussing how to address the issues or encourage advocacy on certain issues. Amy Porterfield inquired whether the Executive Committee should develop broad categories or narrow the categories. Ted Chittenden suggested the Executive Committee develop broad categories and create an outline of goals under each category. Dan Martinez stated the council could look at the broad picture, identify the barriers, and set reasonable expectations regarding what the council could accomplish.

Amy Porterfield stated the Strategic Plan could the category of Education, which would include education for infants-toddlers, Kindergarten-12th grade, and post-secondary education. Ms. Porterfield stated if the Strategic Plan included broad categories, the council would be able to include items that arise. Ed House stated the council should include who or which individuals should be accountable for the Strategic Plan activities, and suggested each

Committee submit their issues prior to the meeting to be grouped under the appropriate categories.

Amy Porterfield inquired whether the Strategic Plan should include Employment as a category. Dan Martinez suggested the category be Services or Adult Services. Ted Chittenden suggested the category be Employment, which was the desired outcome of VR. Amy Porterfield stated the council could identify activities regarding how the VR services lead to employment. Amy Porterfield suggested the council review employment outcome, which was a goal of SBVID and VR. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the council should include a category, IL. Ted Chittenden stated the category could be called Adult Services. Amy Porterfield stated IL referred to all ages and deaf-blind individuals. Nikki Jeffords suggested the category be called Independent Living Rehabilitation Services (ILRS). Ed House stated Independent Living could refer to services to individuals of all ages or needs. Nikki Jeffords suggested the Strategic Plan include the category, Public Awareness, which referred to increasing awareness of services available to blind and visually impaired individuals. Dan Martinez stated the council needed to examine the delivery system for blind and visually impaired individuals, ophthalmologists and their staff, and families. Amy Porterfield inquired whether the issue was related to blindness referral services, or whether the issue included all delivery systems, or access to those systems. Ed House stated the category could be Public Education or Early Access to Information. Nikki Jeffords stated the category could be Public Information. Bob Kresmer suggested the category be Resource Awareness. Amy Porterfield stated the issue was broader and should include access to all information. Ed House suggested the category be combined to Equal and Accessible Access. Amy Porterfield suggested the category include information for individuals to receive equal access to state services as well as ensuring individuals received AT access. Bob Kresmer suggested the category be Public Awareness and include items and goals under that category. Dan Martinez stated that Information and Referral referred to distributing information to individuals and referral referred to offering information for specific needs. Amy Porterfield stated that Information and Referral was the closest to the council's objective currently.

Amy Porterfield inquired whether the council should include the category Access or include Access under each category. Dan Martinez stated that Access could be integrated into all categories. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the council should include a Category that explored the GCBVI Mission. Amy Porterfield stated the GCBVI had to ensure that the council was included when RSA requested feedback for public comment and when RSA created their State Plan. Bob Kresmer suggested the category be Council Integrity and Relevance. Amy Porterfield inquired whether the

council should include Access as a separate category. Dan Martinez stated the council could create separate categories, although several committees should be responsible for certain outcomes. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether AT should be a separate category or whether AT would fall under several categories. Amy Porterfield stated if AT was not a separate category, each category should include AT as an item or activity. Dan Martinez suggested AT be a separate category and encourage all Committees to offer advisement or support to other Committees as needed. Amy Porterfield suggested the category be cross-referenced to other or all categories. Ted Chittenden suggested that Access or Accessible Technology would affect all other categories and could be included under all categories. Amy Porterfield stated the category could be separate, although the council should incorporate AT under each category as well. Amy Porterfield inquired regarding the items to be included under the categories. Nikki Jeffords stated the council could include outcomes, activities, and resources. Dan Martinez suggested the Strategic Plan include outcomes under the broad categories and request that the Committee accomplish the activities. Amy Porterfield stated the broad categories could include outcomes and accountability and allow the Committees to identify the activities. Ms. Porterfield stated the broad categories would be distributed to all council members, who would include their items to be included under each category prior to the Strategic Plan meeting.

GCBVI Town Hall Meeting Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated his impression that the majority of public comments surrounded issues from college students. Amy Porterfield stated one student inquired regarding clarification on the policy that only allowed an individual to apply to one graduate school program. Ms. Porterfield noted individual requested information from the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee regarding accessible technology standards. Ted Chittenden stated the groups of individuals attending the GCBVI Town Hall meeting were younger, which might have accounted for more questions regarding education. Nikki Jeffords stated an individual also raised concerns regarding medical issues that were interrupting her Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. Amy Porterfield stated Amy Porterfield stated her understanding that several clients were concerned regarding the target completion dates that clients were expected to follow. Ms. Porterfield stated the GCBVI inquired whether the council should advocate for additional funds for the Independent Living (IL) program, although Rich Sorey, Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) Program Manager indicated that SBVID intended to reallocate funds in order to provide more resources to the IL program. Bob Kresmer stated the council could advocate for more outreach to rural areas. Amy Porterfield stated some individuals also expressed

concerns regarding barriers to employment. Nikki Jeffords stated the policy that indicated that clients should attend the college or university closest to them did not benefit clients. Ms. Jeffords stated she was also concerned regarding the long wait time that clients endured prior to being placed into services. Dan Martinez stated he noticed several VR clients expressed concerns regarding their VR services, but were unaware of the process in which to request a resolution. Nikki Jeffords stated an individual expressed concern regarding the requirement to indicate the possession of a driver's license, which could potentially exclude blind or visually impaired applicants. Amy Porterfield stated some Human Resources (HR) staff were not properly trained when hiring individuals for employment.

Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee TBD:

- Policy and Legislative Update

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.