

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
August 1, 2017

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer\*, Chair  
Shannon Kemlo\*  
Ed House\*  
Lisa Yencarelli\*  
Jared Kittelson\*

**Members Absent**

Julie Urban

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin Asst.  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

Doris Woltman\*

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of March 28, 2017 and May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The March 28, 2017 and May 2, 2017 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Prioritize Committee Goals Discussion**

Doris Woltman, Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative moved towards ensuring that all blind students receive accessible materials, such as Braille documents. Ms. Woltman stated the Co-Operative had nine transcribers in several schools in the southeast region. She stated the school was able to produce the majority of materials that students required, as well as technology support to students. Doris Woltman stated the school set up printers that were compatible with the students' technologies and utilized different technologies such as Google, iPads, or Go to Meeting to meet the needs of the students. Doris Woltman stated the teachers of the visually impaired met and discussed the expansion of the production centers so that every teacher

statewide could have access. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Southeast Regional Co-Operative created a model that would be followed by all co-operatives. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative wanted to expand the program to all schools statewide so that all teachers could create materials in Braille. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the number of school districts in the southeast region. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative served 69 schools and charter schools. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Co-Operative faced difficulties obtaining funds to purchase Braille embossers and other equipment. Doris Woltman stated the Co-Operative had sufficient funds to purchase equipment and develop ten production centers. Mr. Kresmer inquired whether the Co-Operative requested funds from local school districts to assist in the purchase of equipment. Doris Woltman stated ASDB purchased all of the equipment with funds that paid for all school costs with the exception of the Director and the Secretary. Ed House inquired regarding the schools that did not collaborate with ASDB. Doris Woltman stated Tuscon Unified School District, Marana School District, and Tanque Verde either hired their own teachers or received contracted teachers. Shannon Kemlo stated she noticed that students that worked under Doris Woltman's team were keen to learn advanced Braille literacy, Orientation and Mobility (O&M), and technology. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB had adopted the changes recently. Doris Woltman stated ASDB began providing technology and Braille assistance about five years prior. Ms. Woltman noted that ASDB had a full-time employer providing technology assistance as well as an IT staff member that worked with all school districts.

Bob Kresmer inquired how ASDB accommodated students coming from schools that used technology such as Google Chromebooks. Doris Woltman stated students with low vision that came from schools that used Chromebooks were often given laptops. Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB was concerned regarding accessibility of the high stake testing. Doris Woltman stated the Southeast Regional Co-Operative teachers went to the school districts to act as trainers and the proctors were able to administer the tests. Ms. Woltman stated that teachers of blind students would transfer the answers to the test to be submitted. Doris Woltman stated some students with low vision were able to use JAWS, although some students were unable to use a monitor, and noted all tests needed to be administered the same in order to be equitable.

Jared Kittelson inquired whether Doris Woltman was aware of any accessibility improvements with Google products, which were becoming prevalently used in schools. Doris Woltman stated she was unaware of any accessibility improvements with Google. Lisa Yencarelli stated ASDB was looking at implementing an agency approach to different practices and to

hopefully develop a standard. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Doris Woltman dealt with the budgets for the agency. Doris Woltman stated she did not handle the budgets.

### **Committee Member Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI would meet to develop a Strategic Plan and was interested in obtaining feedback from the Committee's regarding items to include. Mr. Kresmer stated the Education Committee was interested in discussing accessibility of high stakes testing, such as AZ Merit. Bob Kresmer stated ASDB requested additional funding from the Governor to expand the infant and toddler program. He added the GCBVI would begin advocating for the additional funding for ASDB in the upcoming Legislative session. Shannon Kemlo stated she noticed that several students in the Summer Youth Transition Program experienced challenges obtaining technology while in the program. Bob Kresmer stated each student would undergo an assessment and receive the appropriate technology. Shannon Kemlo noted that some students were not trained on the technology. Ed House suggested the council create a Youth Transition Category in the Strategic Plan and advocate for the Youth Transition Program and encourage RSA to analyze the data obtained from the program. Bob Kresmer stated the Youth Transition Program reduced drop-out rates of students and students' readiness, although no one had formally analyzed the data.

Mr. Kresmer stated students receiving Pre-Employment Transition services received assessments and inquired whether the teachers received the reports regarding the students' progress. Doris Woltman stated she did not receive any reports from the Transition Program, and noted that RSA was unable to release information without parent permission. Ed House stated the purpose of the Summer Transition Program was to support Individualized Education Plan (IEP) activities and to provide information to parents and students. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the summer programs at SAAVI Services for the Blind and Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) were at capacity. Shannon Kemlo stated she noticed a lack in communication between counselors and the families, which could have reduced the number of students in the program. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the reports from the summer programs went back to the schools or RSA. Shannon Kemlo stated the reports were sent to the student's counselor.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Committee had any recommendations regarding post-secondary education. Jared Kittelson stated students faced the issue discussed previously regarding accessible technology. Bob Kresmer stated the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee continued to advocate for accessible technology for blind and visually impaired

individuals. Shannon Kemlo stated some clients were placed in the Supported Education Program and were told they could not receive additional education typically received during the Youth Transition Program. Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI would advocate for accessibility standards, which could be adopted statewide. Mr. Kresmer noted the council was made aware that clients were unable to received additional services and noted the council would look into the issue.

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

The date of the next Education Committee meeting would be scheduled for September 19, 2017 from 1:00-2:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room. Agenda items are as follows:

- Education Committee Activities
- Workgroup Activity Discussion

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ed House seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.