

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Employment Committee Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2017

Members Present

Nikki Jeffords*
Tanner Gers*
Terell Welch*
Jim Strohacker*
Kevin Foster*

Members Absent

Jordan Moon

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assist.
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Larry Wanger*, SILC

Call to Order and Introductions

Nikki Jeffords called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm in the DERS Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

Approval of August 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Tanner Gers motioned to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2017 meeting. Kevin Foster seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Nikki Jeffords stated she and Terell Welch worked on the development of the Power Point presentation for the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement. Ms. Jeffords stated she and Terell Welch also nominated Tom Hicks to receive the Golden Prospector Award in recognition of Tom Hicks' dedication to the E75 Diversity Builder Award Event and in bringing awareness to the employment of blind and visually impaired individuals.

Strategies for Inviting Employers

Nikki Jeffords stated the Employment Committee hoped that 100 individuals would attend the E75 Diversity Builder Award Event in January at the Ability 360 Conference Room. Nikki Jeffords stated she would inquire regarding the number of individuals that could be in the Ability 360 Conference Room and about the Audio/Visual requirements. Larry Wanger noted that Ability 360

offered Audio/Visual support with the reservation of the space. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee was originally prepared to pay to reserve the space, but was offered to use of the space for free. Larry Wanger inquired whether the committee intended to distribute electronic invitations and whether the committee would use a registration process to know who would be attending the event. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee used Event Brite for registration and would distribute Save the Date invitations as well. Jim Strohacker inquired whether the committee had confirmed the date of the E75 event with Ability 360. Nikki Jeffords stated she would contact Ability 360 to confirm that the committee could use the space on that date.

E75 Website Discussion

Jim Strohacker stated the Employment Committee could consider developing an E75 website, which would be \$10.00 a month for the domain name and about \$40.00 for hosting the website through GoDaddy.com. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee could allocate about \$200.00 a year to go towards the E75 website. Lindsey Powers stated she would follow up with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Finance regarding the allocation of funds towards the development and maintenance of an E75 website.

Kevin Foster motioned that the committee allocate funds to the development and maintenance of an E75 website. Jim Strohacker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Kevin Foster inquired regarding the individual that would design the E75 website. Jim Strohacker stated an individual that went through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program had agreed to develop the website. Mr. Strohacker noted the Employment Committee would have the opportunity to review and approve the website prior to the website being posted. Tanner Gers inquired whether the website would use Word Press as the content management site. Tanner Gers noted that Word Press sites allowed for more accessibility for the users. Larry Wanger stated the individual developing the E75 website could include Word Press into the website.

Nikki Jeffords inquired regarding the best domain name for the E75 website. Jim Strohacker stated the committee could purchase the domain name E75 US, E75 AZ, and use .com, .net, or .org. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee hoped that E75 would become a national award recognition event and suggested the committee use E75 AZ over E75 US. Larry Wanger noted that some domain names would be more expensive than others. Terell Welch suggested the domain name be simple and easy for individuals to locate it. Larry Wanger stated the domain name, E75.work was available. Jim Strohacker stated the individual developing the website would need the

appropriate items and forms in order to create the website. Larry Wanger suggested the committee include pictures from previous award events on the website. Nikki Jeffords stated she would contact Department of Economic Security (DES) Public Information Officer, Jillian Seamans, who took pictures at the previous E75 event.

E75 Marketing Discussion

Terell Welch suggested the committee begin distributing the E75 Award Nomination Form. Nikki Jeffords stated the GCBVI would have a table at the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) and would distribute the Award Nomination Form and the E75 Sponsorship Form as well as postcards with the Survey Monkey links. Nikki Jeffords stated any Employment Committee members were welcome to help staff the council table at the event. Ms. Jeffords stated committee members could assist individuals with developing their resumes, and collect emails to be included on email lists for the council and Employment Committee. Terell Welch and Larry Wanger agreed to help staff the council table.

Nikki Jeffords stated the Employment Committee would also partner with the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and Kirk Adams for a Business Leadership Network luncheon. Ms. Jeffords stated the AFB still needed to secure a location for the luncheon and she had inquired whether the RSA Training Rooms were available for the luncheon. Lindsey Powers stated she would inquire whether the RSA Training Rooms were available for the luncheon. Nikki Jeffords stated the luncheon could be held at the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) gym if necessary. Terell Welch stated the AFB should try to secure a hotel for the event, which would be professional. Nikki Jeffords stated she was unsure whether the AFB intended to reserve a space for the event.

E75 Program Development Discussion

Tanner Gers stated he contacted Tucson Electric Power and noted the company had not confirmed attendance at the event. Mr. Gers stated he contacted the company to request a meeting to discuss the E75 event, and noted that the company Executives would not likely attend the event. Terell Welch inquired whether Marc Ashton, FBC, had connections to Medtronics. Mr. Welch suggested that Medtronic or Charles Schwab be invited to attend the event as the keynote speakers. Jim Strohacker suggested the committee ask Marc Ashton to be the keynote speaker, as Mr. Ashton was recently recognized as one of the best CEOs in Arizona. Nikki Jeffords stated Marc Ashton had attended the previous E75 events and had offered feedback regarding both events.

Tanner Gers motioned that Marc Ashton be invited to attend the event as the keynote speaker at the E75 award event. Jim Strohacker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee would be on September 5, 2017 from 1:00-2:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ.

Agenda items are as follows:

- Strategies to Invite Employers
- E75 Website Discussion
- E75 Marketing Discussion
- E75 Program Development Discussion

Announcements

Tanner Gers stated he would speak at a TEDX talk at Fountain Hills on How To Be Your Own Superhero, and stated individuals interested in attending could attend at a discount rate.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Terell Welch moved to adjourn the meeting; Jim Strohacker seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 2:58 p.m.