

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2017

Members Present

Ed Gervasoni, Chair*
Terri Hedgpeth*
Nathan Pullen*
Sharonda White*
Adam Cruz*
Jaime Trausch*
Julie Jones*

Members Absent

Sue Lehew
Bea Shapiro

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin Assistant
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

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

Approval of June 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to approve the June 21, 2017 meeting minutes. Sharonda White seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

AT Trends

Terri Hedgpeth stated she purchased the Amazon Element TV, which offered voice control and text to speech output and was a great TV. Jaime Trausch stated SAAVI Services for the Blind was trying the new Non-Visual Desktop Application (NVDA) add on which offered dictation bridge and Dragon.

AT in Schools Discussion

Julie Jones stated the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) were using more Braille Note Touches with students, and noted that

students liked that they could access the same information as the other students using Google Chromebooks. Ed Gervasoni stated he had a student that received a document in print, and his Braille Note Touch was able to take a picture of the document, which was read to him by his document reader. Julie Jones stated the younger students did experience difficulties when entering graphics in the documents. Terri Hedgpeth inquired whether any AT Committee members had used the Hims Notetaker, Polaris. Julie Jones stated she saw the Hims Polaris at the CSUN conference but had not used the device. Ms. Jones noted the Braille Note Touch allowed the user to turn the accessibility mode off and use the device as a touch screen device.

Terri Hedgpeth stated she recently purchased a Six-Dot Label Maker, and noted the label maker was costly, but very useful. Sharonda White stated her understanding that the Six-Dot Label Maker used smaller tape, which could be purchased at most stores. Nathan Pullen stated the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Conference had a demo of the Aira technology, which could be purchased through Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) for a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) client.

Terri Hedgpeth inquired whether any committee members had used any of the accessible thermostats. Nathan Pullen stated Nest was the most user friendly, although that version was more costly than the Nest E version. Adam Cruz stated the Honeywell Lyric thermostat was accessible, which was compatible with iOS.

2017 VRATE Presentation Discussion

Ed Gervasoni stated each year, the AT Committee typically presented at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE), although he was unsure whether the committee had been invited to present. Terri Hedgpeth noted she attempted to register for VRATE online, but the registration form was not accessible. Ms. Hedgpeth stated the VRATE website did not have a list of the speakers or presenters yet either. Ed Gervasoni stated Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the AT Committee would be presenting at VRATE. Lindsey Powers stated Nikki Jeffords and Dan Martinez were on the VRATE Presenters Committee and could answer inquiries regarding the VRATE presentations. Sharonda White stated she would contact Nikki Jeffords or Dan Martinez regarding whether the AT Committee was scheduled to present at VRATE. Ed Gervasoni inquired whether the committee would continue to present on the current AT trends at VRATE, if the committee was asked to present. Terri Hedgpeth stated the AT Committee's presentations on current AT were well attended at previous VRATE conferences. Sharonda White stated at the NFBA Conference, the AT

presentation offered information regarding Google drive, docs, and calendar and broke out into separate groups to demonstrate the applications.

Ed Gervasoni inquired regarding which AT Committee members would be attending VRATE. Adam Cruz, Terri Hedgpeth, Nathan Pullen, Sharonda White and Julie Jones stated that they would be attending VRATE. Ed Gervasoni inquired whether any committee members would be willing to take a leadership role in developing the VRATE presentation topics. Terri Hedgpeth stated she would be willing to coordinate the panel of presenters and topics for VRATE. Ms. Hedgpeth noted she would be presenting in the morning, and inquired whether the committee could request a later presentation time. Sharonda White stated she would inquire regarding the AT Committee presentation time.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for October 4, 2017 from 3:00-4:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Trends
- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Committee Chair Election

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Julie Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Adam Cruz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.