

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Full Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2018

Members Present

Bob Kresmer
Dan Martinez
Ted Chittenden
Mike Gordon
Jim LaMay
Nathan Pullen
George Martinez
Rich Sorey
Allan Curry
Sharonda White
Nikki Jeffords
Ed Gervasoni
Bea Shapiro
Annette Reichman
Janet Fisher

Members Absent

Amy Porterfield
Donald Porterfield
Mike Kanitsch

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Kristen Mackey
Milly Martinez
Janet Fukuda
Scott Weber
David Steinmetz

Call to Order and Introductions

Bob Kresmer, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. in the RSA Video Conference Rooms located in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Introductions

were made, a quorum was present, and the procedural meeting rules were explained.

Approval of July 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ted Chittenden moved to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2018 GCBVI Full Council meeting as written. Dan Martinez seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority voice vote.

GCBVI Chairperson's Report

This item was tabled.

RSA Administrator's Report

Kristen Mackey stated the Federal Fiscal Grant year was ending and RSA had been awarded approximately eight million in re-allotment funds. Bob Kresmer inquired whether those funds were funds that had not been used by other states. Kristen Mackey confirmed and noted that RSA was able to expend all funds towards Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the re-allotment funds were subject to earmarks such as the Pre-ETS funds. Kristen Mackey stated the re-allotment amount would be added to the final grant award notice for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 18 and the 15% would be based on the year prior. Kristen Mackey stated RSA continued to reduce the Order of Selection (OOS) Wait List numbers, which was currently 1,436 individuals. Kristen Mackey stated there were more individuals receiving services than in the past six years. She noted there were 13,710 individuals receiving VR services. Ms. Mackey stated as of August 31, 2018, RSA placed 1,539 individuals in employment.

Kristen Mackey stated the state auditors performed an eighteen-month Sunset Audit review, in which there was one finding. She noted the finding was that RSA spent too much on client case costs and client cases were kept open too long compared to other VR entities nationally. Kristen Mackey stated one finding had 22 recommendations, in which seven recommendations had been implemented, one had been implemented in a different manner, two had been reported as partially implemented, seven were in the process of implementation, four were not yet applicable and one had not yet been implemented. Kristen Mackey stated the report was now available, although RSA had not been informed whether the agency would be required to testify in front of the Legislative Committee. Kristen Mackey stated the auditors would perform a thirty-month review, which would begin in August of 2019. Kristen Mackey stated RSA continued to respond to the Single Audit in 2018 and the 2019 audit had started.

Kristen Mackey stated a major focus of the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) was customized employment. Ms. Mackey stated Dr. Laura Owens, President of TransCen, provided training to VR, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Arizona Department of Education (ADE) staff and providers. Kristen Mackey stated RSA would continue to work with Dr. Owens to boost placement numbers. Ms. Mackey stated RSA would need to engage the employment community and RSA would potentially reach out to the council regarding disseminating information regarding customized employment. Ted Chittenden inquired whether customized employment referred to the creation of job for a client. Kristen Mackey stated the Office of Disability Employment Policy developed a formal definition that indicates that customized employment would meet the needs of the employment seeker as well as the employer. Ms. Mackey stated that customized employment did not refer to the creation of a job, although some job duties could be shifted to allow another individual. Nikki Jeffords inquired regarding the entity that was providing guidance on customized employment. Kristen Mackey stated TransCen was associated with WINTAC, although they were their own entity.

Kristen Mackey stated RSA was reviewing the services provided to Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) individuals 54 years and under. Ms. Mackey stated there was no funding for that program, and RSA was gathering input from stakeholders on how to best move forward in providing services to individuals in that program.

Kristen Mackey stated that she was provided direction to rescind the request for arbitration on Luke Air Force Base. Bob Kresmer requested some clarification regarding the Luke Air Force Base arbitration. Kristen Mackey stated Luke Air Force Base had a potential opportunity for dining and food service, which would likely go to an Ability One contractor. Kristen Mackey stated RSA had originally requested arbitration to have the federal government review the scope and determine the applicability of the Randolph Sheppard Act. Ms. Mackey stated that had been retracted and RSA would continue to seek guidance from the Department of Education at the Federal level. Allan Curry inquired regarding why the decision was made to rescind the request for arbitration. Kristen Mackey stated she was not part of the process or discussions regarding that decision. Allan Curry inquired regarding who made the decision to rescind the request for arbitration. Kristen Mackey stated the conversations she had were at the DERS management level. Allan Curry inquired how the decision would affect the three requests for arbitration. Kristen Mackey stated RSA had responded to the appeals initially, and the agency could appeal the decision again. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the state was deferring to the

Department of Education. Kristen Mackey stated that the state was requesting guidance from the Department of Education.

Managed Services Provider Discussion

Kristen Mackey stated the Managed Services Provider contract (MSP) had been awarded and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) was in the process of ruling in the first two contracts. Kristen Mackey stated the first two contracts were under Work Adjustment Training (WAT) and the Trial Work Experience (TWE). Ms. Mackey stated the contracts would be used for the contracts that provide services to clients. Bob Kresmer requested clarification regarding the full scope of the MSP. Kristen Mackey stated the Arizona Procurement law stated that if a service was needed, RSA developed a Scope of Work (SOW), request and evaluate the proposals, and award a contract to the vendor. She noted that typically contracts were awarded for a five-year time frame and in that time frame, there was no opportunity to change rates or to add or remove vendors. Kristen Mackey stated with the implementation of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), RSA struggled to serve the populations specifically individuals with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities. She noted that WIOA required that individuals receive services through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and placed an emphasis on competitive integrated employment. Kristen Mackey stated the MSP reduced the number of contracts the state would have to manage. Ms. Mackey stated for example, under the WAJ contract, there were 21 vendors although there were 80 different contracts. Kristen Mackey stated the legal name was Guide Soft, although the company provided business as Knowledge Services, which now had the contract and would work with the vendors to provide services to clients. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Knowledge Services would manage the 80 contracts. Kristen Mackey stated the 80 contracts were no longer part of the state contracting system. She stated that RSA had a contract with Knowledge Services, and Knowledge Services would work with those 21 vendors.

Ted Chittenden inquired whether there were any concerns that Knowledge Services could favor some vendors over others. Kristen Mackey stated that counseling staff would send a request for services to Knowledge Services, which would then contact all vendors that could potentially provide that service. She noted the vendors would reply whether they could provide the services and Knowledge Services would notify RSA, who would then allow the client to decide on the vendor. Dan Martinez inquired whether Knowledge Services would perform quality audits on the vendors. Kristen Mackey stated Knowledge Services would perform the administrative audits, although RSA staff would still ensure that the vendors were providing the quality of services to clients. Dan Martinez inquired how the payments for

services would flow through the system. Ms. Mackey stated the vendors would contact Knowledge Services, who would submit the invoice to RSA. RSA staff would pay Knowledge Services, which would pay the vendors. Jim LaMay inquired regarding the second phase, which would include assessments of the contracts. Kristen Mackey stated the VR assessments were not part of the comprehensive services contract. Jim LaMay inquired whether MSP would be compatible with the new Arizona Procurement system. Kristen Mackey stated Knowledge Services would be the primary contract and the vendors under Knowledge Services would not be required to interact with the new procurement system. Kristen Mackey stated Knowledge Services was committed to maintaining the same vendor pool and to ensure that client services were interrupted during the process. George Martinez inquired regarding where the vendors under Knowledge Services were listed. Kristen Mackey stated she would inquire where the list of vendors will be located.

SBVID Program Manager Report

Rich Sorey stated the Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) had training for counselors to understand the components of rehabilitation counseling. Mr. Sorey stated SBVID offered an internal training to staff regarding documentation, such as eligibility, Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), case documentation and case notes. Rich Sorey stated SBVID would continue to follow up with counselors to ensure they understand the information and the processes. Rich Sorey stated the goal for the upcoming FFY was to place 267 individuals in employment and 232 cases should be closed successfully. Rich Sorey stated SBVID staff would continue to monitor client cases and to effectively move cases forward. Rich Sorey stated the year prior, SBVID placed 70 clients into employment, which was an increase by 46%. He noted the average wage for blind and visually impaired clients was \$20.53, which was a 16% increase, and the average hours placed was 34 hours per week.

Rich Sorey stated the Independent Living Blind (ILB) program staff continued to work hard to serve clients. He noted that he was seeking salary increases for the ILB teaching staff, which required reclassifications of those positions. Dan Martinez inquired whether VR clients in the ILB program received services. Rich Sorey stated if a client received VR services, they could receive Independent Living (IL) training. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the funding for the IL program was the same as previous years, and the number of clients had decreased. Mr. Kresmer inquired how the council could assist SBVID in providing timely services to those individuals. Rich Sorey stated in reviewing previous client numbers, he noticed that some referrals were counted twice. Nikki Jeffords inquired

whether any of the funds allocated to the State Independent Living Council (SILC) went towards the ILB program. Rich Sorey stated that SBVID received funds under the Social Security Block Grant funds for the ILB program. Kristen Mackey stated that RSA did not receive the Part C funds, and WIOA required that all Part B funds go to SILC, which distributed the funds. Kristen Mackey stated the GCBVI could engage with SILC regarding how those funds could be used to serve that population. Nikki Jeffords suggested that a representative from the council should have that conversation with SILC. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) had any responsibility or role in coordinating the services between ILB and SILC. Dan Martinez stated the SRC had the responsibility to communicate between ILB and SILC, although the council did not have a responsibility regarding services. Kristen Mackey stated she could help coordinate a conversation with SILC and the GCBVI. Dan Martinez inquired how the ILB funds were tracked. Kristen Mackey stated SILC developed a resource sharing planning document, which was submitted to the Federal Government. Kristen Mackey stated SILC then invoiced RSA based on that plan monthly. Dan Martinez inquired whether SILC intended to spend all their budgeted funds. Kristen Mackey stated SILC did intend to spend all their funds.

Mike Gordon stated the comprehensive services contract had been extended for six months and inquired regarding the six-month extension and whether the providers could do anything to assist in that process. Kristen Mackey stated the Office of Procurement was responsible for extending the contracts for six months. Ms. Mackey stated she would encourage the comprehensive services providers to review the contract and identify what was working and whether processes could be improved. Rich Sorey stated the six-month extension was difficult for staff also, and staff often did not have enough time to implement the changes in the short time frame. Mike Gordon inquired whether providers could develop workgroups to discuss the processes that were working. Kristen Mackey stated that providers would be wise to convene to discuss any challenges to the contract process. Mike Gordon inquired whether providers could meet with VR counselors and Rich Sorey to discuss those processes. Kristen Mackey agreed that a meeting with providers, counselors and Rich Sorey would be beneficial to understanding the process and to make any suggestions. Rich Sorey expressed his appreciation to the providers for assisting RSA in contacting clients that were working and had not provided those details to the agency. Bob Kresmer inquired whether RSA had identified an accessible case management system comparable to Libera. Kristen Mackey stated the arbitration between the two major entities was on-going, although RSA had started developing the business requirements for a new system. Ms. Mackey noted that RSA could use Libera through December 2020.

BEP Program Update

Nathan Pullen stated the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) had licensed one of the BEP trainees, who had been selected for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) cafeteria. Mr. Pullen stated the current vendor for that facility would be retiring after thirty years. Nathan Pullen stated the screening for the next BEP class would take place on October 1, 2018 and BEP expected approximately three or four applicants for the program. Nathan Pullen stated BEP had changed the training process and would continue to use the Hadley modules as well as one the job training. Nathan Pullen stated BEP was considering pursuit of a new cafeteria in a Federal building in Tucson. Nathan Pullen stated BEP would also open a Starbucks café in the Scottsdale Civic Center Library. He noted that BEP had a bid for a new facility in northern Arizona, which would be added to a current vending route for that area. Nathan Pullen stated the BEP Repair Technician position had been filled and noted the individual had started preventative maintenance, which had allowed for cost savings. Bob Kresmer inquired whether BEP continued to pursue the prison commissary contract. Nathan Pullen stated he sent some follow up letters to the Sheriff in Yavapai, although he had not received any updates to that process.

ASDB Report

Annette Reichman, Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) Superintendent provided a story that she had been sharing with the community. Ms. Reichman stated a poor Chinese farmer was looking for a way to bring in more income and invested in a Chinese bamboo seed. She stated the farmer planted the bamboo seed and developed a schedule to water the seed everyday and ensures the land received enough sun. Annette Reichman stated the farmer does this everyday for one year, and nothing happens. After the second and third year, nothing happens, and the other farmers begin to laugh at the farmer for continuing to tend to the bamboo seed. Annette Reichman stated that after four years, the farmer developed the habit of tending to the bamboo seed. After the fifth year, the farmer sees a bamboo shoot, which grows to 80 feet in the next six weeks. Annette Reichman stated in those five years, the seed grew roots strong enough to support the growth of the 80-foot tree. Annette Reichman stated that analogy described the progress at ASDB.

Annette Reichman stated ASDB was awarded an additional 1.6 million in funds for the Early Childhood Family Education Program and had hired fourteen teachers and would hire seven more teachers. Annette Reichman stated the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf (PDSD) and ASDB implemented a new English Language Arts program. She noted ASDB now offered four

days of academic instruction, emphasizing English and Math, and one day was a plus day, in which students could receive Braille instruction, IL, or Assistive Technology (AT) instruction. Annette Reichman stated the program where four schools in Prescott transported students to one elementary school had been successful and would begin again in the Fall. Annette Reichman stated the ASDB Tucson campus was considering closing the residential program. Ms. Reichman stated the number of students in the residential program had been declining over the years and the school currently had 40 students in the residential program. Annette Reichman stated that ASDB had to consider whether the school's legal requirements were addressed in legal statutes, the educational needs of the students as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as well as the fiscal implications of closing the residential program.

Ted Chittenden stated that historically, several students enrolled in the residential program were from the Native American tribes in northern Arizona and inquired whether ASDB still had students from those areas. Annette Reichman stated ASDB did have students from northern Arizona. Ted Chittenden inquired how students in those areas would receive services if the ASDB residential program closed. Annette Reichman stated her hope that the regional co-operatives could collaborate on how to offer services to students in the northeast quadrant. George Martinez inquired regarding the decrease in the student enrollment in the residential program. Ms. Reichman stated that schools for the deaf and schools for the blind were experiencing a decline in student enrollment nationally. She noted that more parents were reluctant to send their children to a residential program and preferred for the local schools to educate their children. Bob Kresmer stated there were approximately 1400 blind and visually impaired students in Arizona, and the majority received education in their own districts. Mr. Kresmer stated his understanding that to serve those students, ASDB had to build relationships with the regional co-operatives. Ed Gervasoni stated the difficulty in expanding the core curriculum during a regular school day. Mr. Gervasoni stated the residential school was not taken advantage of and the program could potentially be modified. Annette Reichman stated that ASDB was considering modifying the residential program to better meet the needs of students statewide. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether ASDB had considered implementing a hybrid program where students were considered residential students but could take classes at other schools. Annette Reichman stated that ASDB was offering hybrid classes through the Joint Technical Education District (JTED) programs, where students could attend classes for Culinary Arts, Car Mechanics and other fields.

GCBVI Annual Report Discussion

Dan Martinez stated the Public Information Committee had developed a draft GCBVI Annual Report, which had been distributed to council members. Mr. Martinez stated the committee had not received a Legislative and Public Policy Committee report, a GCBVI Chair report, client success stories from SAAVI Services for the Blind, and several member profiles. Dan Martinez stated the Public Information Committee was accepting feedback from the council and whether the report met the needs of the council. Dan Martinez stated the Annual Report needed to be complete and submitted by the end of September. Bob Kresmer stated the draft Annual Report was great and met the needs of the council.

Dan Martinez motioned that the draft GCBVI Annual Report be approved by the council and publicized once the report had been completed. Nikki Jeffords seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

GCBVI Full Council Meeting Date Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) was scheduled the same day as the next GCBVI Full Council meeting. Mr. Kresmer stated that the Full Council meeting could be rescheduled for November 30, 2018.

Dan Martinez motioned that the next GCBVI Full Council meeting be rescheduled for November 30, 2018. Sharonda White seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the council would be interested in holding a Town Hall during VRATE. Ted Chittenden stated the council experienced difficulties holding Full Council meetings during VRATE in the past, although the council could request feedback from the community during VRATE. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the council would prefer the morning, lunch, or afternoon. Dan Martinez stated that representatives from the council could request feedback from the community although lunch would not be the ideal time for the public forum. Bea Shapiro stated that many individuals attended VRATE from out of town and would likely leave in the afternoon. Dan Martinez suggested the public forum not compete with other presentations from council members. Bob Kresmer inquired whether any council members would volunteer to participate in a public forum. Ted Chittenden, Nikki Jeffords, George Martinez, Rich Sorey, and Bea Shapiro agreed to participate in a public forum.

GCBVI Committee Reports

Committee on Deaf-Blind Issues

Ed Gervasoni stated the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) received additional funds for the development of a pilot Support Service Provider (SSP) program. Ed Gervasoni stated the ACDHH had originally planned to contract the SSP services, although the agency had recently decided to provide those services. Ed Gervasoni stated that one of the changes to the SSP services, was that transportation would not be provided to the consumers. Ed Gervasoni stated the Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD) was able to continue to provide services to some individuals under the Elderly Care program. Mr. Gervasoni stated COPD was once awarded funds to provide SSP services to deaf-blind individuals, although the organization ran out of those funds. He noted that the COPD could potentially be able to offer SSP services again in the future. Ed Gervasoni stated that deaf-blind individuals that qualified for Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCS) could receive services, although just being deaf-blind did not qualify an individual for those services. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee continued to seek another council member to participate on the committee. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the committee members would consider participating in a panel discussion at VRATE. Ed Gervasoni stated he would not be attending VRATE.

Assistive Technology (AT)

Sharonda White stated the AT Committee made suggestions to the Public Information Committee on suggested changes to the EyeKnow.AZ website. Ms. White stated the committee had suggested the website include the ability to download and print the resources in epub or PDF. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee suggested that the website offer an individual to include both options because epub tended to be more versatile with other programs, and PDF would keep the original format of the page. Sharonda White stated the committee was in the process of planning their two-hour presentation at VRATE. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the committee's presentation at VRATE. Sharonda White stated the committee had discussed providing demonstrations of email, the Internet, and Word. Sharonda White stated the committee was also interested in demonstrating how to navigate EyeKnow.AZ and show how the resources could be downloaded if those changes had been made in time for VRATE. Ted Chittenden stated the Secretary of State staff that was maintaining the website was able to work on the website during her spare time. Mr. Chittenden stated the committee would share the AT Committee's suggestions with her, although he could not promise that the changes would be made in time for VRATE. George

Martinez stated his understanding that the Flying Blind VFO was now offering all their webinars for free. Sharonda White stated if the AT Committee had to choose epub or PDF, the committee would choose PDF. Ted Chittenden stated the committee would request that the website can be printed in both formats. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether Sharonda White could provide a brief description of the AT Committee's VRATE presentation. Sharonda White stated she would send a brief description to Nikki Jeffords.

Public Information

Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee was working with the Employment Committee on the development of rack cards that could be distributed at events and conferences.

Janet Fisher stated the EyeKnow.AZ website statistics for July and August were close for the number of sessions and the number individuals accessing the website. Ms. Fisher stated the number of individuals accessing the website were between 166 and 189 in those two months. Janet Fisher stated the number of sessions was approximately 200. Janet Fisher stated in July, the individuals visiting the website viewed more pages. She stated that June and August were the top months for the percentage of new visitors, which was 91%.

Independent Living Committee

Jim LaMay stated the IL Committee was not the lead committee responsible for several of the tasks in the GCBVI Strategic Plan and had not received a response from the lead committees regarding those tasks. Jim LaMay stated the committee had received data regarding IL statistics, although the committee was unsure how to proceed next, and was requesting guidance. Nikki Jeffords stated that the dialogue between the council and the SILC might help move the IL Committee forward. Rich Sorey stated he was happy to assist the IL Committee with completing their tasks. Jim LaMay stated the committee had collected data, which could be potentially shared with the Legislature. Ted Chittenden suggested the IL Committee share information with the Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB) and the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) regarding any of the policies.

Employment

Nathan Pullen stated Employment Committee participated in a Job Symposium and mock interviews at the NFBA Conference. Mr. Pullen stated the committee was planning on a panel presentation at VRATE regarding the employment of blind and visually impaired individuals. Nathan Pullen stated

the committee was also beginning to plan the next E75 Diversity Event scheduled for February 1, 2019 at Ability 360.

Education

Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee was attempting to gather data regarding student test scores without violating laws that protected the privacy of students. Mr. Kresmer stated the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) provided services to blind and visually impaired students statewide. Bob Kresmer stated the committee knew there were approximately 1400 blind and visually impaired students, although the committee did not know the grade breakdown of those students. He noted that the committee was working with APH to get a report that included the number of students in each grade level without offering identifiable information. Bob Kresmer stated the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) was working with Arizona State University to develop a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) Bachelor program, which would begin in the Fall of 2019. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether FBC had investigated the need for a TVI program. Bob Kresmer stated that FBC provided ASU with statewide needs for TVI programs and noted that ASDB schools experienced a shortage in TVIs.

Ex-Oficio Member and Blindness Community Organization Updates

Arizona and Braille Talking Book Library

Janet Fisher stated the Friends of the Talking Book Library would hold their Whine and Cheese auction fundraiser on September 28, 2018, in which all council members were invited to attend for free. Janet Fisher stated the library's book discussion group would begin in November and would continue every second Thursday. She noted the library would hold a morning and evening session to accommodate individual's schedules. Janet Fisher stated that information had been distributed regarding the Marrakesh Treaty. She noted that she heard that the Judiciary Committee had previously indicated that the bill would not be released, and that Congress would need to be retrained, although the current information was more favorable.

Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI)

Jim LaMay stated that ACBVI was providing AT services to individuals with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss (CVHL) and deaf-blindness. Mr. LaMay stated ACBVI hired an individual proficient in Orientation and Mobility and dual sensory impairment and was certified as an interpreter, intervener and SSP. Jim LaMay stated the agency had selected a facilitator for the Strategic

Planning, which would begin on September 28. Jim LaMay stated that ACBVI would kick off the Annual Campaign on October 17, 2018 with the Board of Directors. He added that ACBVI would undergo an audit of the agency's previous fiscal year.

SAAVI Services for the Blind

Mike Gordon stated that SAAVI was performing significant internal work, such as proceeding with the comprehensive program contract. Mr. Gordon stated that SAAVI was also undergoing internal auditing processes and efficiency gathering to identify how to move forward. Mike Gordon stated there had been significant construction in the downtown Tucson area and the SAAVI campus in Tucson was seeking support from the city to ensure that the area was safe for individuals. Mike Gordon stated that SAAVI was considering whether the agency should move to another location.

Arizona Industries for the Blind

Dan Martinez stated the AIB Board chose to repost the CEO position and was using a national recruiting search to replace that position. Dan Martinez stated the Public Relations Department had experienced some changes, and Carlos Paraskevas had been moved to the Distribution Department.

Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB)

George Martinez stated the AzCB was accepting Continuing Education Units (CEU)s for professionals. Mr. Martinez stated the council set twenty resolutions, which included website accessibility, transportation and blindness civil rights. George Martinez stated that a Verde Valley Chapter had formed. He noted the council continued to reach out to the newly blind, specifically elderly blind individuals.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

Bob Kresmer stated the NFBA State Conference was held in early September at the Hyatt Regency. Bob Kresmer stated that several individuals spoke to the members regarding national and state level issues. Bob Kresmer stated that RSA management and the Department of Economic Security (DES) Director spoke at the event. He noted that the NFBA set five resolutions, which would define the activities at the state, national, and local levels.

Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the GCBVI Full Council will be on November 30, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. in the Video Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ.

Announcements

Nikki Jeffords announced that VRATE was scheduled for November 16, 2018. Ms. Jeffords expressed her gratitude to Akira St. Jermaine, Jordan Moon, and Vicki Ryder, who had been instrumental in the planning of VRATE.

Dan Martinez announced that the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities would present their DARE event on October 30, 2018. Mr. Martinez noted that he would be receiving the Lifetime Achievement award.

Ted Chittenden stated the VA White Cane Day was scheduled for October 19, 2018 at the VA Hospital.

Bob Kresmer announced that the NFBA would hold a White Cane Day event at the State Capitol in October and he would send information regarding the date for that event.

Call to the Public

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Nikki Jeffords moved to adjourn the meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p

As of June 30, 2018:

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 1,074
The total number of Veterans in VR Program was 40
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 90
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 66
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 24
The number of VR applications was 197
The average number of days from application to eligibility was 47.3
The median number of days application to eligibility was 41
The eligibility determination compliance within 60 days was 88.8%
The number of new plans written was 234
The average number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 75.4
The median number of days from eligibility to IPE implementation was 65
The IPE implementation compliance within 90 days was 84.7%
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$62.50
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$10.00
The number of clients placed was 61
The number of clients closed successfully was 41

As of June 30, 2018, the Deaf Blind Population statistics:

The total number of individuals in the VR program was 41
The total number of Veterans in VR program was 1
The total number of individuals in the OOS was 0
The total number of individuals in Priority Two was 0
The total number of individuals in Priority Three was 0
The number of VR applications was 33
The number of new plans written was 39
The IPE Implementation Compliance within 90 days was 100%
The highest hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$26.44
The average hourly wage of successful employment outcomes was \$26.44
The number of clients placed was 4
The number of clients closed successfully was 1