

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

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Jordan Moon
Jim Strohacker

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assist.
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Nikki Jeffords called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

Approval of September 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Kevin Foster motioned to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2017 meeting. Tanner Gers seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Strategies for Inviting Employers

Nikki Jeffords stated she would reach out to Marc Ashton, Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) and Jim LaMay, Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) regarding their employer contacts. Ms. Jeffords stated the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) was still in the process of planning the Business Leadership Network (BLN) luncheon. She added that the Arizona BLN was in the process of revamping the organization and she suggested Terell Welch and Tim Stump, Employment Coordinator, assist in collaborating with re-establishing the BLN. Terell Welch stated Tim Stump was interested in re-establishing the Arizona BLN and noted that the Employment First Initiative Committee was currently working on that. Nikki Jeffords stated the Employment Committee could contact the national BLN and offer to partner with the BLN to begin building networks in Arizona. Kevin Foster stated the Employment Committee would benefit from identifying three or five employers that would be willing to participate in an

Arizona BLN. Terell Welch stated that Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Tucson Electric Power, and Charles Schwab would likely agree to be part of an Arizona BLN. Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the companies needed to be national companies in order to participate on a BLN chapter. Kevin Foster stated any company that employed employees could participate in the BLN. Terell Welch inquired regarding the timeline for establishing the BLN. Nikki Jeffords stated that re-establishing a BLN could be instrumental in encouraging employers to attend the E75 Diversity Builder Award Event.

Nikki Jeffords stated her concern that the committee would not have enough employers attend the E75 event and inquired whether the committee should consider not holding the event. Kevin Foster suggested the committee members reach out to the core employers previously discussed and encourage those employers bring additional employers to attend the event. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee had about one month to recruit employers to attend the event, before reconsidering whether the committee should hold the event. Terell Welch stated he would attend an event on October 24, 2017 and intended to network with the employers at that event. Terell Welch stated he felt confident that the committee would be able to get more employers to attend the event and noted that many employers would not commit to attending until right before the event. Nikki Jeffords stated she was concerned that the committee had not made enough progress in order to continue discussing the event. Ms. Jeffords suggested tabling the rest of the meeting agenda items until the committee learned more about the employers that would be attending the event. Kevin Foster stated the committee would learn more after talking to the core employers and the FBC and ACBVI Board members. Terell Welch stated he would contact his employer contacts and request more information about the BLN reinvigoration efforts.

E75 Marketing Discussion

This item was tabled.

Committee Presentation Discussion

This item was tabled.

E75 Program Development Discussion

This item was tabled.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee would be on October 6, 2017 from 2:00-3:00 pm in the Council Staff Office, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Kevin Foster moved to adjourn the meeting; Terell Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 3:08 p.m.