

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes January 12, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Bea Shapiro
David Steinmetz
Terell Welch
Reggie Laister
Jonathan Pringle

Members Absent

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of the October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Terell Welch motioned to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2022 meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Activity Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated the committee was continuing to talk about planning for an E75 event and had discussed potentially holding it in October to align with Disability

Employment Awareness month. Nathan Pullen inquired whether committee members had any employers that they would like to invite, or any clients they would like to recognize. Terrell Welch suggested the committee recognize Mayo Clinic, and noted the hospital primarily hired administrative positions in an office setting. Jonathan Pringle inquired regarding Mayo Clinic's software and if it was accessible. Terrell Welch stated that he wanted to ensure the software was accessible so that employees could access the medical files. Nathan Pullen stated that most hospitals had web-based software that would work with screen readers, although he could refer Mr. Welch to some resources that could assist with accessibility testing. Jonathan Pringle stated the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) had a division that could review the software to ensure that it was accessible for individuals.

Nathan Pullen inquired whether the committee would like to highlight any other companies or clients. Terrell Welch stated the gentleman that attended a previous E75 event had expressed interest in participating on the committee and inquired whether that would be appropriate. Nathan Pullen stated that he could be invited to attend a meeting and the committee could vote whether he could be included as a member. Reggie Laister stated that Amazon had hired several blind or visually impaired clients also. Mr. Laister stated he also met with Epi-Hab, and noted their warehouse needed some improvements, although it could be a good opportunity for individuals seeking employment. Nathan Pullen stated his understanding that Epi-Hab had a warehouse and a print shop. Reggie Laister stated the print shop was not very accessible, although the employer was interested in helping the community and potentially being a training center for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients. Nathan Pullen agreed and noted that it would be nice to feature some smaller businesses also. David Steinmetz inquired whether Epi-Hab worked primarily with individuals with vision impairments. Reggie Laister stated Epi-Hab worked with individuals with all disabilities.

Nathan Pullen stated the committee members could contact Mayo Clinic, Epi-Hab, and previously recognized employers such as Peckham and Amazon. Reggie Laister inquired regarding the number of employers that would be recognized. Nathan Pullen stated the committee would typically recognize 3 major employers, in which one would be allowed to speak briefly and 1-2 would receive an award. Reggie Laister stated that other employers could just attend the event to get an idea of hiring visually impaired individuals. Nathan Pullen agreed and noted that other employers could be recognized on the program. Mr. Pullen stated the committee could also invite individuals such as SAAVI clients, or current VR clients interested in connecting with employers. Nathan Pullen inquired whether there were any job fairs scheduled for October. Terrell Welch stated the Dream Job Fair was scheduled in October, although he did not have the date yet. Nathan Pullen inquired whether that job fair was vision impairment focused. Mr. Welch stated the Dream Job Fair was for individuals with all disabilities. David

Steinmetz stated the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) was planning a job fair around that time also. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could also assist with inviting employers to attend other job fairs if that would be more appropriate. Nathan Pullen suggested the committee tentatively plan for holding the E75 event on October 13th, which could be changed if necessary. Nathan Pullen stated that if the committee had any previous Save the Date announcements, he would update the event for the year. Mr. Pullen stated that if all committee members could contact one employer, that would be a good start to planning the next event.

Committee Member Updates

This item was tabled.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for February 16, 2023. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Reggie Laister seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.