

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Sue LeHew
Mark Nelson
Karla Rivas-Parker

Members Absent

Dr. Carlos Grandela
Nathan Pullen

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the December 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Presentation Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee had two opportunities to provide the presentation originally created for the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Ms. Shapiro stated the committee could provide the presentation as part of the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) and AT AZ training program and with the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP). Bea Shapiro stated the committee wanted to offer CRC credits for individuals attending the presentation with ACBVI, in which the committee would need to submit the agenda 30 days before the presentation on February 28th. Bea Shapiro stated she received

an email from Clayton Guffey, AzTAP, who indicated that the committee could provide a presentation with AzTAP on February 3rd or 10th. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would need to seek approval from the Department of Economic Security (DES) Office of Communications before sharing the videos at various events. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the audience of the AzTAP presentations. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that ophthalmologists, special education staff and AER members would be invited to attend the AzTAP presentation. Ms. Rivas-Parker stated that many professionals would benefit from the information about low vision, and she could provide the information as a live presentation if the committee was unable to share the videos. Bea Shapiro agreed that many professionals in the field would benefit from the information, and the committee just needed to receive any necessary approvals before sharing the information. Sue LeHew stated the ACBVI presentation would be through the AT AZ Project, which was owned by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and would be a DES function. Ms. LeHew inquired whether Karla Rivas-Parker and Dr. Carlos Grandela would be able to provide the presentation twice. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she would be able to provide the presentation when Dr. Carlos Grandela was available. Bea Shapiro stated the DES Office of Communications department did request the committee inform them whether the video was successful and the number of individuals that attended. Karla Rivas-Parker stated there would be a way to distribute surveys to individuals that attended the presentations. Sue LeHew inquired whether there would be different audiences for the February 3rd and 10th presentations. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the presentation on February 3rd would be Part 1 and Part 2 would be on February 10th.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee met the requirements for Karla Rivas-Parker and Dr. Carlos Grandela to present on February 3rd and 10th. Sue LeHew stated the committee would request approval from the DES Office of Communications to share the videos. Bea Shapiro agreed and noted the committee would need to ensure that Dr. Carlos Grandela was available to present on the proposed dates. Sue LeHew inquired regarding the length of the videos. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the videos were 60 minutes long, and VRATE had originally intended to allow for 15 minutes of questions and answers. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would not have enough time to request CRC credits for the February 3rd and 10th presentations, and she would request approval from Val Boyd, Office of Communications. Sue LeHew stated the videos could also be included on the website potentially. Bea Shapiro stated the committee members agreed to provide the presentations through AzTAP and ACBVI and she would ensure the committee had approval to share the videos. Bob Kresmer inquired whether any committee members heard whether VRATE still intended to postpone the event for Spring. Bea Shapiro stated she had not heard an update about

VRATE, although she knew the VRATE Board was still seeking additional Board members to plan the event.

AT Outreach Update

Bea Shapiro stated that she spoke to Andrea Pasquale, Sun Sounds, who indicated the committees' podcasts would be played on a Saturday morning and the committee should also come up with 4 additional podcasts. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee could record a podcast about Newslines, and potentially AzTAP. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she would participate in a podcast about AzTAP.

AT Trends

Karla Rivas-Parker stated she would be attending the ATIA Conference virtually, which would be held the next 2 days. Ms. Rivas-Parker stated Stella Lighting had developed a rechargeable light, which could be different colors and brightness. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the light could charge a phone and was portable. Bob Kresmer inquired whether AzTAP received new products for AzTAP staff to try out. Karla Rivas-Parker stated AzTAP purchased all devices, and professionals or consumers were welcome to borrow the devices to try out. Bea Shapiro stated that Peloton would now connect to an Apple watch, which made the equipment accessible.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for February 17th. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Committee Presentation Update
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mark Nelson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.