Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2017

Members Present
Sharonda White, Chair*
Terri Hedgpeth*
Nathan Pullen*
Jaime Trausch*
Julie Jones*
Ed Gervasoni*
Bea Shapiro*

Members Absent
Adam Cruz
Sue Lehew

Staff Present
Lindsey Powers, Admin Assistant
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present
Amy Porterfield*
Dan Martinez*

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Call to Order and Introductions

Sharonda White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of September 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to approve the September 6, 2017 meeting minutes. Ed Gervasoni seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Review Previous Committee Activities

Amy Porterfield stated the AT Committee could discuss any activities that the committee was currently working on. Bea Shapiro spoke to representatives from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) regarding accessibility issues within schools and spoke to representatives from Microsoft regarding the most accessible versions of programs. Amy Porterfield stated the committee could identify any specific items the committee would like to discuss, and include those as agenda items for meetings. Sharonda White stated the committee would include the agenda item, AT Trends on future agendas.

Review Current Committee Activities

This item was tabled.

Discuss Strengths and Weaknesses of Committee

This item was tabled.

2017 VRATE Presentation Discussion

Sharonda White stated her recollection that the AT Committee would present from 1:00-2:00 at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Terri Hedgpeth stated the previous year, the committee presented on the latest technologies that committee members had experience using. Ms. Hedgpeth noted the committee's presentation was well attended despite being scheduled the same time as other popular presentations. Sharonda White inquired regarding the areas that committee members covered during the VRATE presentation. Bea Shapiro stated the committee members discussed new technologies such as TVs with voice guides and accessible channels. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee could discuss Alexa and Echo at the upcoming VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth stated at the previous presentation, the committee members presented on their experiences using different cable providers, the Insta-Pot, and home modifications. Terri Hedgpeth stated she recently purchased a 6-dot Braille label maker and could bring that to present. She stated the committee typically discussed technologies that consumers were using or had questions about.

Amy Porterfield stated the GCBVI met recently to develop the council's new Strategic Plan and stated many items on the plan surrounded assistive technology. Ms. Porterfield inquired whether the committee would be interested in discussing some of the activities that the AT Committee would be responsible for. Terri Hedgpeth stated that the audience would not likely be interested in hearing about the committee's activities. Ed Gervasoni stated he attended the committee's presentation the previous year and noted the audience was mostly consumers and teachers and were interested in hearing about new technologies. Mr. Gervasoni stated the audience would likely be interested in hearing about the accessibility issues that consumers and schools were experiencing as well. Julie Jones suggested the committee include information regarding current committee activities at a booth or table at VRATE. Sharonda White suggested the committee discuss current technologies for 45 minutes, and discuss one or two topics included in the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Bea Shapiro stated that the committee had been given two hours to present at a previous VRATE conference, and the

committee had discussed current technologies in one hour, and current issues during the second hour presentation. Terri Hedgpeth stated more individuals attended the hour presentation on current technologies compared to the hour presentation on current accessibility issues. Sharonda White stated she was interested in hearing what the committee members were interested in presenting during the VRATE presentation and was open to suggestions. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee could discuss current technologies for the first 45 minutes of the presentation and discuss the committee's activities during the last 15 minutes of the presentation. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee should be transparent with the community and inform the audience regarding issues that consumers and schools were facing. Amy Porterfield stated she agreed that the committee should discuss topics that captured the audience's interest, although many individuals would be interested in discussing accessibility issues in schools or daily life.

Dan Martinez stated the AT Committee was scheduled to present from 1:00-2:00 in the Ruby Room, and would present at the same time as an accessible home presentation. Mr. Martinez noted the committee could decide whether or not to discuss similar topics as other presentations. Dan Martinez reviewed the GCBVI Strategic Plan items that surrounded AT and technology:

- Collaborative data collection mechanism tracks test scores K-12 for all school districts in Arizona

- Accessibilities standards are in place for instruction and testing for Infants and Toddlers through Post-Secondary Education

- Guidelines for accessible educational and testing platforms is available for all school districts

- Public service agencies receive regular feedback regarding accessibility

- DES revises procurement process to be commence rate with purchasing technology that is subscription and cloud based

- Eye know AZ includes an accessibility resource page

Amy Porterfield stated the AT Committee might not take the lead on all of the activities outlined in the Strategic Plan, but would partner with other committee's such as the Public Information Committee to complete activities. Dan Martinez stated that while the AT Committee might not be the lead on all of the activities, the committee would be responsible for

assisting in several activities, as technology was included throughout the Strategic Plan. Sharonda White stated the committee could choose one or two of the strategic plan topics to discuss during the 15 minutes of the presentation. Ms. Porterfield stated the committee could request suggestions for feedback from the audience regarding the development of an EyeKnow.AZ database resource page, or accept comments from the audience regarding individual's challenges in gaining access in daily life.

Sharonda White inquired whether the committee agreed to presenting for 45 minutes on current technologies and for 15 minutes on two topics included in the strategic plan. Bea Shapiro inquired whether 15 minutes would be sufficient time to discuss topics included in the strategic plan. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee could discuss two topics for 15-20 minutes and offer contact information to continue the conversation at another time if necessary. Jaime Trausch inquired whether the public could communicate with the council. Dan Martinez stated that committee members could speak to individuals after the presentation, invite individuals to join the committee at the GCBVI table at VRATE, or direct individuals to the council email, GCBVI@azdes.gov.

Sharonda White inquired regarding the topics that the committee would like to discuss during the 15 minutes of the presentation. Terri Hedgpeth stated she would prefer to review the Strategic Plan and suggest topics at another meeting. Ms. Hedgpeth inquired why the Strategic Plan was not distributed to the committee members. Dan Martinez stated the GCBVI Executive Committee was still in the process of finalizing the Strategic Plan, although some members of the council were part of that process and were aware of that progress. Amy Porterfield stated all committee members were welcome to attend GCBVI Full Council meetings and noted committee members had been invited to attend the initial planning meeting. Ed Gervasoni stated the AT Committee had recently experienced a transition in Chairs, after Jeff Bishop resigned from the council, which could have caused some communication issues as well.

Dan Martinez inquired whether the committee would prefer to have two hours to present at VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth stated the committee could discuss current technologies during the first hour and the committee's activities during the second hour. Ms. Hedgpeth inquired regarding the presentations that would occur at 2:00 at VRATE. Dan Martinez stated at 2:15, there would be presentations on Sleep-Wake Disorder, AT Options for Large Print and Braille Readers, Transition Services for Students, and an Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) presentation. Amy Porterfield inquired whether the committee would be prepared to provide a one-hour presentation on the committee's activities included in the Strategic Plan. Ed Gervasoni suggested the committee commit to providing a one-hour

presentation as the committee only had two months to prepare the presentation. Dan Martinez agreed that the committee could split the presentation into a 45 minute and 15 minute discussion and offer to stay after the presentation if necessary to talk to individuals further. Amy Porterfield stated the AT Committee could let the audience know that he committee was a resource to the community and to let the community know what the committee had to offer.

Sharonda White inquired regarding the current technology topics that the committee would like to discuss at VRATE. Bea Shapiro stated at the previous VRATE, the committee members each spoke about different technologies they had experience using. Ms. Shapiro stated she was not sure what she would discuss at the upcoming VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth stated the previous year, six individuals presented on the panel, and met separately to discuss the topics they would present at the conference. Jaime Trausch inquired whether the AT Committee would meet again to discuss the topics that committee members would like to present. Sharonda White stated the committee could meet again to discuss potential presentation topics. Dan Martinez stated he would forward the VRATE presenter schedule to Lindsey Powers to be distributed to the committee members for consideration when identifying presentation topics. Sharonda White requested committee members send potential topics to Lindsey Powers, who would compile and distribute to the committee members. Sharonda White agreed to develop an email for committee members describing that process. Lindsey Powers agreed to distribute the GCBVI Strategic Plan to committee members as well to identify the topics that would be discussed at VRATE.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for October 18, 2017 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Ed Gervasoni motioned to adjourn the meeting.   Julie Jones seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.