

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Independent Living Committee Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021

Members Present

Ted Chittenden
Steve Tepper
Brian Dulude
John McCann
Eve Sanchez

Members Absent

Frank Vance
Katie Gomez

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Ed House

Call to Order and Introductions

Ted Chittenden called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of August 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Brian Dulude motioned to approve the August 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Steve Tepper seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Legislative Update

Ted Chittenden stated at the GCBVI Legislative and Public Policy Committee met in September and discussed the potential increase in funding for the Independent Living Blind (ILB) program and how individuals under 54 years of age could receive IL services that were not seeking employment. Ted Chittenden stated he attended a conference in which the representative from Virginia had indicated that he was able to provide ILB services to individuals under 54 and he could find that individual's name for the committee. Brian Dulude thanked Ted Chittenden and stated he would contact that individual. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that any budget requests should be

submitted to the Governor's office soon and he would appraise the committee of any updates.

Annual Report Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated that he had made some edits to the IL Committee report for the GCBVI Annual Report, and he was also assisting the Public Information Committee with the development of the Annual Report. Mr. Chittenden stated that he would welcome any client success stories from Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI). Brian Dulude and Steve Tepper stated they would seek client success stories and forward them to Mr. Chittenden.

Ed House suggested the Annual Report include a brief statement regarding the impacts of COVID as well as the number of individuals that had been served compared to the number of individuals that could have been served. Ted Chittenden stated that he could include a statement regarding how COVID impacted services. Ted Chittenden stated that he should also have some data that could be included in the report.

Workgroup Updates

Brian Dulude stated the workgroup had not met yet, although he hoped to schedule a meeting soon. Dr. Dulude stated the workgroup was interested in focusing on the provision of virtual services to clients and to discuss what was working and what was not working. Brian Dulude stated the workgroup would then develop some Best Practices that could be used going forward. Eve Sanchez stated the workgroup would also share the Best Practices with other professionals.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the IL Committee was scheduled for November 29, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- Legislative Update
- Annual Report Discussion
- Workgroup Updates

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

John McCann motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brian Dulude seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.