

Draft

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

Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair

Jeff Bishop

Sue LeHew

Nathan Pullen

Bob Kresmer

Karla Rivas-Parker

Members Absent

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the September 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Jeff Bishop seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the Committee's presentation at Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would be from 10:30-12:30 and she was unsure regarding the sessions that would be running concurrently. Jeff Bishop inquired whether a committee member would be able to run the Power Point presentation. Bea Shapiro nominated Sue LeHew to assist with running Power Point. Jeff Bishop noted that he would also have 4-5 videos to be played during the presentation. Bea Shapiro stated that presenters were asked to submit their presentations to be added to a Google drive, and she would verify if that was still accurate. Sue LeHew stated that Jeff Bishop could send the video links, and the videos could be downloaded into the presentation.

Jeff Bishop stated the presentation would include an introduction and definition of Artificial Intelligence (AI), how individuals could level the playing field and real-world examples of AI such as Be My Eyes. Mr. Bishop stated he would pose the question of how much AI was leveling the playing field and discuss privacy, security, biases, and the call to action from consumers. He added that he would discuss how AI was used in the classroom and employment settings, ethical considerations and how consumers could hold technology companies accountable for ensuring AI was accessible. Jeff Bishop stated he would share core scenarios and provide demonstrations of AI as well as a comparison of products. He noted the presentation would close with a Q and A session as well as an encouragement for a call to action from consumers. Bob Kresmer inquired whether there would be any vendors representing AI products. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that a representative from Meta Ray Bans would be attending. Bea Shapiro stated that Jeff Bishop had created recommendations regarding the new Department of Justice regulations surrounding public facing website and mobile applications and inquired

whether committee members had any feedback. The committee members agreed with the proposed recommendations. Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee would share their recommendations at the next GCBVI Full Council meeting.

AT Committee Outreach

Jeff Bishop stated that ASU would be holding an Accessibility Conference on November 7th virtually and in-person and he would be presenting on evaluating the conversation for students in data and computer science. He noted the discussion would be for students K-12 as well as university students on how to inject accessibility to blind and visually impaired students. He added the presentation would discuss how blind and visually impaired students could have full access to graphs and charts and how students could be aware of and elevate the conversation. Jeff Bishop stated that technology was used frequently in classrooms, and students needed to be aware of the accessibility tools available.

Jeff Bishop stated he would send the outline for the committees' podcast and would like to record the podcast prior to Thanksgiving to provide time to edit before posting. The committee agreed to meet to record the podcast during the usual committee meeting date and time.

Jeff Bishop stated that approximately 450 individuals were attending an American Council of the Blind of Arizona (AzCB) training on Microsoft 365, which included training on Word, Excel, and Power Point. He noted there would be another training on Google Docs in the Spring as well. Jeff Bishop stated the trainings were free, although individuals were encouraged to become AzCB members. Sue LeHew inquired regarding materials and resources used for training. Jeff Bishop recommended using the comprehensive book produced by the Carroll Center for the Blind, which was available on their website for free with the option to provide a donation. Jeff Bishop stated the trainings had been going well and he hoped to be able to give another update shortly.

AT Trends

Jeff Bishop stated the new iPhone was out, and he would be able to test the new iOS system using Chat GPT once released. He added that JAWS 2025 was out in beta testing and there would be changes to AI when using JAWS. He added that Ray Bans would have new firmware with accessibility improvements as well as voice messaging. Mr. Bishop noted that Be My Eyes and AIRA would also release updates.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee TBD.

Announcements

Bea Shapiro announced that VRATE would be held on November 1st at Ability 360, and everyone was welcome to attend. Bea Shapiro added that Alexa would soon be a subscription service. Jeff Bishop noted that it would be an enhanced version, and there would still be a free version available.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.