Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2017

Members Present	**Members Absent**
Sharonda White, Chair*	Adam Cruz
Terri Hedgpeth*	
Nathan Pullen*	
Jaime Trausch*	
Julie Jones*	
Ed Gervasoni*	
Bea Shapiro*	
Sue Lehew*	

Staff Present	**Guests Present**
Lindsey Powers, Admin Assistant	
*Teleconferenced	

_____

Call to Order and Introductions

Sharonda White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of October 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ed Gervasoni motioned to approve the October 4, 2017 meeting minutes. Jaime Trausch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2017 VRATE Presentation Discussion

Sharonda White stated she reviewed the document Terri Hedgpeth forwarded the committee, which outlined a previous Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) presentation. Ms. White stated she liked that the presentation outline included the three E's: Entertainment, Employment, and Education and inquired whether the committee would like to present similar information at the upcoming VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth stated at previous VRATE events, the AT Committee spent 45 minutes discussing current AT trends and allowed 15 minutes for the audience to ask questions. Ms. Hedgpeth stated if the committee included 15 minutes to

discuss AT Committee activities, the committee might not have sufficient time to answer questions from the audience. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the GCBVI offer information about the council at the council table or through social media. Sue Lehew stated the previous year, the majority of audience members were new to AT and had several questions about the technologies presented. Ms. Lehew noted that the presentation was a learning opportunity for the audience members as well as the committee members presenting. Terri Hedgpeth agreed that many individuals attending the presentations did not have access to different technologies and were interested to learn more about the AT available. Terri Hedgpeth stated she also distributed a list of resources for attendees to learn more about the technologies discussed. Ed Gervasoni stated the AT Committee was a committee of the GCBVI, and should discuss some of the issues in technology and activities of the committee. Mr. Gervasoni stated the committee would have ample time to discuss current AT during the presentation, which was also important to discuss.

Sharonda White stated the AT Committee would discuss current AT trends for 45 minutes and some of the committee's activities for 15 minutes. Ms. White stated the committee could not go into great detail about the committee's activities in those 15 minutes, although it was important to let the community know the committee existed, and how to reach the committee with questions or concerns. Terri Hedgpeth inquired how long each committee member on the presentation panel should speak. Bea Shapiro suggested that each member on the presentation panel be given about five minutes to speak. Sharonda White inquired regarding which committee members would be willing to present at VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth stated she would speak about the six-dot labeler, Windows updates, and screen readers. Bea Shapiro stated that she and Sue Lehew would speak about AT distributed by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Independent Living Blind (ILB) program. Sharonda White inquired whether any committee members would like to discuss the software subscription services issue. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the software subscription services issue be discussed during the 15 minutes. Sharonda White stated that JAWS 18 required the user to have an Internet connection in order to install the software, which she was not aware of. Sue Lehew noted that the discussion would also depend on the audience knowledge level and some individuals might not offer feedback regarding current technology issues. Jaime Trausch stated the OCR package of JAWS 18 required the Internet to install, although that would change in a future version of the software.

Ed Gervasoni stated that he and Sharonda White could discuss accessibility issues in schools. Terri Hedgpeth stated she could discuss the new Amazon TV 4K, which was completely accessible. Ms. Hedgpeth stated she also had

the AIRA glasses and could provide a brief demonstration of the glasses. Sharonda White stated the committee could also discuss Be My Eyes as another option. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could discuss Or Cam as a less expensive option than AIRA as well. Jaime Trausch stated he could also discuss the new spoken commands that several AT products included if time permitted. Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the time that each committee member could speak. Terri Hedgpeth stated each committee could speak for five minutes, and noted if audience members had additional questions after the presentation, some committee members could stay to answer those questions.

AT Trends

This item was tabled.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for December 13, 2017 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- VRATE Presentation Follow-Up
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue Lehew seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.