

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Public Information Committee Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2018

Members Present

Ted Chittenden
Dan Martinez
Janet Fisher

Members Absent

David Steinmetz

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Ted Chittenden called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm in the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) Conference Room, 515 N. 51st Avenue, Suite 130, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of September 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Dan Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 Public Information Committee meeting. Janet Fisher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

GCBVI Annual Report Discussion

Ted Chittenden inquired whether Kristen Mackey or Rich Sorey should be included in the GCBVI Annual Report as the individual in charge of the Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) program. Dan Martinez stated that there was no Director of SBVID, so Kristen Mackey could be listed as an Ex-Oficio member of the council. Janet Fisher inquired regarding the order of the council member biographies in the Annual Report. Dan Martinez stated the members were not listed according to any order. Ted Chittenden stated he had not received a GCBVI Chair report from Amy Porterfield. Dan Martinez stated he could develop a member biography for Amy Porterfield and request approval from her prior to including in the report. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the Annual Report should be

submitted without a Chair report and a Legislative Committee report. Janet Fisher suggested a committee member ask Amy Porterfield some questions and the answers could be developed into a brief Chair report. Ted Chittenden stated the Executive Committee would meet on November 1, 2018, although he was unsure whether he could obtain that information during that meeting. Janet Fisher stated when she read similar reports, she liked to see the inclusion of the rank of the council members. Dan Martinez stated he would develop a biography of Amy Porterfield and a draft Chair report and request that Ms. Porterfield review and approve the reports.

Mr. Martinez requested that Ted Chittenden contact a member, such as Donald Porterfield, of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee to request a report. Ted Chittenden stated his recollection that the Legislative and Public Policy Committee had not met during the year. Janet Fisher stated the Legislative and Public Policy Committee had a large part in the GCBVI Strategic Plan and should be included in the Annual Report. Dan Martinez stated the Annual Report could list the items that the committee had worked on during the previous Legislative session. Dan Martinez stated the Legislative and Public Policy Committee had been involved in the Legislature surrounding the protection for blind parents to raise their children as well as changes in the Procurement process that influenced the implementation of the Managed Services Provider (MSP) contract. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) was instrumental in the bill protecting blind parents. Mr. Chittenden stated that Jim LaMay had expressed his concerns that the Independent Living Committee had not received guidance from the Legislative and Public Policy Committee. Dan Martinez suggested the Annual Report include a list of the items that the Legislative and Public Policy Committee was focusing on, which were included in the Strategic Plan. Ted Chittenden agreed to develop the Legislative and Public Policy report for the Annual Report and suggested the committee members complete their assignments by November 1, 2018. Dan Martinez stated that he had a picture of Bob Kresmer that could be added to Mr. Kresmer's biography. He added that he had requested a picture of Allan Curry, but had not received one. Dan Martinez stated that he contacted Mike Kanitsch several times but had not heard from him. He suggested that Mr. Kanitsch not be included in the biography section of the Annual Report.

Database Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated that Janet Fisher had forwarded a potential resource for the EyeKnow.AZ website to the committee members. Ted Chittenden noted that the resource could be included as information for visually impaired individuals. Dan Martinez stated the information was viable,

although he was unsure where the information could be included in the database. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the resource included contact information for the individual responsible for the resource. Janet Fisher stated the resource included links to articles for accessibility such as accessible countertops and noted the EyeKnow.AZ website included similar information such as accessible theaters. Janet Fisher added that the resource could provide links to individuals, although the blog had not been updated in several years. She added that she received the information and wanted to share it with the Public Information Committee to potentially be included in the website. Ted Chittenden stated that the resource might not be the best fit for the EyeKnow.AZ.

Janet Fisher stated that a staff member from the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library attended an event at the Mexican Consulate. She noted that a staff member translated the EyeKnow.AZ information into Spanish and distributed the information at the event. Janet Fisher stated that some individuals inquired whether an individual had to be a U.S. citizen to receive the library's services.

Ted Chittenden stated he reviewed the PDF document of the EyeKnow.AZ website that Sara Muth, Secretary of State IT, developed. Dan Martinez stated that he contemplated printing copies of the EyeKnow.AZ database, although the entire directory was quite large. He stated that was able to save the directory onto discs and distributed them at the VA White Cane Event. Ted Chittenden stated the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee did not meet the previous week and had not provided feedback regarding the EyeKnow.AZ website. He noted that the AT Committee could provide instructions for how to print the database if they chose to. Janet Fisher stated that Sara Muth had been working on implementing the AT Committee's suggestions to allow a user to print the database in PDF and epub. Ms. Fisher stated the database could be printed in PDF and inquired whether Ms. Muth should continue to implement the additional changes. Dan Martinez stated the changes that Sara Muth had implemented were sufficient.

VRATE Discussion

Dan Martinez stated the GCBVI would be responsible for three presentations at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). He noted the council would hold a Town Hall in the morning, and the AT Committee would provide two one-hour presentations at the event. Janet Fisher expressed her concern regarding the sustainability of VRATE. Ms. Fisher inquired whether VRATE was supported by organizations and groups that were always represented in the planning process. Dan Martinez stated

that initially, the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and SAAVI Services for the Blind supported the planning of VRATE. Dan Martinez stated the VRATE Committee should consider identifying organizations that should be strongly engaged in the planning process. Janet Fisher stated that individuals assisting in the planning of the event would benefit from an outline of what was required as well as a timeline for when items were due. Dan Martinez stated the VRATE Committee used to offer more guidelines to individuals, although most organizations participating in VRATE were familiar with the planning process. Janet Fisher inquired whether the Public Information Committee could assist the VRATE Committee by suggesting changes to the planning process. Dan Martinez stated that an active VRATE Committee member could suggest those changes. Janet Fisher stated she would like to see VRATE continue each year. Ted Chittenden stated the GCBVI was partially responsible for the development of VRATE initially and could discuss the issue with the Full Council. Janet Fisher suggested that some organizations serve as anchors for the event and provide support for the event and other organizations could assist in planning but not serve on the VRATE Committee. Ted Chittenden agreed that the committee could provide more support to the VRATE Committee for the next year's event.

Committee Membership Discussion

Ted Chittenden inquired regarding the process for how an individual could be appointed as a member of the Public Information Committee. He noted that Andrea Pasquale had expressed interest in joining the committee. Dan Martinez stated that Ted Chittenden, as the Chair, could appoint members and should inform Amy Porterfield of the appointment. Janet Fisher stated that Andrea Pasquale had increased work obligations and suggested that Ted Chittenden inquire whether she had sufficient time to participate on the committee.

GCBVI Outreach Discussion

This item was tabled.

GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion

This item was tabled.

Social Media Discussion

This item was tabled.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Information Committee will be on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. in the AIB Conference Room, at 515 N. 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- GCBVI Annual Report Discussion
- GCBVI Outreach Discussion
- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- Committee Membership Discussion
- Database Discussion
- VRATE Discussion
- Social Media Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Janet Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Martinez seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 3:28 pm.