

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2021

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Sue LeHew
Nathan Pullen
Mark Nelson
Karla Rivas-Parker

Members Absent

Dr. Carlos Grandela
Terri Hedgpeth

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Dan Martinez

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of August 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the August 18, 2021, meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated that she had submitted all paperwork to the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Board for the committee's presentation at the conference. Ms. Shapiro stated the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) logo needed to be added to the VRATE website in order for individuals to receive CEUs for attending the presentation. Dan Martinez stated the VRATE Board was seeking assistance with the VRATE website so that it could be updated. Bea Shapiro stated she

had not received any updates from Christine Tuttle and inquired how the logo could be added to the website. Dan Martinez stated that Ms. Tuttle would be submitting the paperwork requesting CEUs for attendees. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that the VRATE Board would request the RSA logo from RSA, which would then be added to the VRATE website. She noted that Dr. Carlos Grandela indicated that he had received approval from an accreditation body for optometrists to receive credits for attending the presentation. Dan Martinez stated the VRATE Board was small this year, and they needed more members to complete tasks. Bea Shapiro suggested the VRATE Board request assistance from Virginia Thompson, Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI), regarding updates to the website. Dan Martinez stated the VRATE Board was looking for a professional webmaster to update the VRATE website and add the conference agenda. Sue LeHew inquired whether the VRATE Board had developed the conference agenda, which could be distributed for accreditation purposes. Mr. Martinez stated the presentation agenda was complete and he could share that with the committee. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had been working to ensure that individuals could obtain CEUs for attending the conference and inquired whether the committee could assist in expediting the process. Dan Martinez stated the VRATE Board would be meeting soon, and he could provide an update after that date.

Bea Shapiro stated that Karla Rivas-Parker and Dr. Carlos Grandela worked with the Department of Economic Security (DES) Video Production to record the videos that would be presented at VRATE. Ms. Shapiro stated the first video focused on low vision evaluations and the second video provided instructions for reading an eye report. Karla Rivas-Parker stated she tried to convey the information that was on the slides, and the production team was helpful in recording the video. Sue LeHew stated Bea Shapiro had recorded the introduction via Zoom and introduced the presenters. Ms. LeHew stated that Karla Rivas-Parker and Dr. Carlos Grandela created great videos. Bob Kresmer inquired how VRATE would be accommodating deaf-blind individuals attending the conference. Dan Martinez stated that Virginia Thompson would be handling all interpreter and accommodation requests.

AT Outreach Update

Bea Shapiro stated that AT Committee members had completed two podcast recordings with the Arizona Talking Book Library to be played on Sun Sounds. Bea Shapiro stated the first podcast was an introduction to the Talking Book Library and the second podcast provided information on how to download materials onto different devices. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Sun Sounds had indicated when the podcasts would be played. Bea Shapiro stated Sun Sounds had not given a date for when the podcasts would be

played.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated Freedom Scientific would offer a way for individuals to hear a presenter in one ear and JAWS in the other ear through a headset. Bob Kresmer stated he heard that McDonalds would be ensuring that their food ordering kiosks would be more accessible. Bea Shapiro stated that more businesses would be incorporating JAWS into their kiosks so individuals could order their food. Sue LeHew inquired whether the apps for ordering food or the kiosks were more accessible. Bea Shapiro stated that it likely depended on the location. Nathan Pullen inquired whether the committee needed any assistance from him. Bea Shapiro stated that Mr. Pullen could help by monitoring the chat box after the VRATE presentation.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was TBD. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.