Members Present
Nathan Pullen
Bea Shapiro
Jonathan Pringle
Reggie Laister
Terell Welch

Members Absent
David Steinmetz

Staff Present
Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions
Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of the September 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Jonathan Pringle motioned to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2021 meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Member Updates
Jonathan Pringle stated the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) would be holding an Employment Open House for the residence program on September 27th and he would share that information with the committee.

E75 Event Discussion
Nathan Pullen stated the committee was interested in reviving the E75 event for January or February and had agreed to hold a virtual event. Nathan Pullen stated the committee would develop an agenda for the event and identify some companies that could be featured. Reggie Laister stated that
SAAVI Services for the Blind planned to participate in the event. Nathan Pullen inquired how the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) Employer event went. Jonathan Pringle stated HKNC did not receive as many attendees as expected, although the organization was able to fill the critical staff positions. Mr. Pringle noted that HKNC would then be able to open for residential training on December 8th. Terell Welch inquired whether the event lacked employers or job seekers. Jonathan Pringle stated HKNC held an all-day virtual job fair and set up a hiring portal, which received more traffic than the job fair. He noted the possibility that the virtual event was not publicized early enough for individuals to attend. Terell Welch inquired whether HKNC worked with ARIZONA@WORK as a partner in the job fair. Jonathan Pringle stated the agency did not, although that could be explored for future events.

Terell Welch stated that a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) client had been placed with a company in Tucson and had recently contacted VR for additional assistance. Mr. Welch noted the client was doing well in his employment and could be a potential success story at the event. Terell Welch stated he also reached out to Wells Fargo regarding their interest in attending the E75 event but had not received a response. Terell Welch inquired whether any of the individuals that obtained employment through HKNC would be interested in attending the event. Jonathan Pringle stated he would reach out to those individuals and inquire whether they would be interested in attending. Terell Welch stated the E75 events typically highlighted about 3 client success stories, which would be great for the upcoming event as well. Nathan Pullen agreed and noted that individuals could pre-record videos also if they were unable to attend the event in person. Bea Shapiro stated she knew of an individual that owned his own business and could potentially be a keynote speaker at the event.

Nathan Pullen inquired whether the committee members had reached to any other employers. Mr. Pullen noted the committee typically invited employers such as Peckham, SRP and ASU, although the committee could target other employers as well. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could invite a representative from State Farm, as they had hired a VR client. Terell Welch stated he had a contact with State Farm, although the individual did not always respond to correspondence. Bea Shapiro stated she could contact the client that was hired through State Farm. Mr. Welch inquired whether the committee would be interested in inviting employers that had hired individuals with other disabilities. Nathan Pullen stated he was not opposed to that, although the committee did represent the GCBVI. Jonathan Pringle inquired whether the committee had invited Sodexo to attend events. Nathan Pullen stated that Sodexo competed with some of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) contracts, although he did have a contact with the
company. Jonathan Pringle stated Sodexo had hired 3-4 deaf-blind individuals as food servers, cooks, and dishwashers. Nathan Pullen inquired regarding the accommodations for those individuals and whether they were able to access the technology required for employment. Jonathan Pringle stated he was unsure regarding the accommodations, although they could potentially be success stories. Nathan Pullen agreed, and stated the committee had discussed contacting Sodexo, Wells Fargo, and State Farm regarding their interest in attending the E75 event. Nathan Pullen stated that Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) could be a potential backup and could provide an update regarding how employees were able to work remotely. Reggie Laister inquired regarding the timeframe that employers would be given to speak. Nathan Pullen stated the event was usually 1.5-2 hours and would begin with an introduction of the E75 events. He stated the committee would then invite employers to speak, present any awards, and allow any clients to speak about their employment experiences. Nathan Pullen stated the preference for individuals to attend in person to be able to answer questions, although individuals could pre-record videos as well. Terell Welch stated the committee could also circulate a flyer made for a previous event that offered general information about the event.

**Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for December 2, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion
- Committee Member Updates

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

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

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Terell Welch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.