

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Employment Committee Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2017

Members Present

Nikki Jeffords*
Terell Welch*
Jordan Moon*
Tanner Gers*
Bea Shapiro*

Members Absent

Larry Wanger
Kevin Foster
Jim Strohacker

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assist.
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Nikki Jeffords called the meeting to order at 10:13 am in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

Approval of October 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Tanner Gers motioned to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2017 meeting. Jordan Moon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Strategies for Inviting Employers

This item was tabled.

E75 Marketing Discussion

Nikki Jeffords stated that Terell Welch and Tom Hicks would present at the Governor's Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement. Ms. Jeffords stated that the Department of Economic Security (DES) developed a video of successfully employed blind and visually impaired individuals to be played at the presentation. Terell Welch played the video for the committee to hear the audio. Jordan Moon stated the video was very well done and noted that the individual that provided the narration explained the information well. Nikki Jeffords agreed and stated that E75 was mentioned in the video, which would increase awareness regarding the event. Jordan Moon inquired

whether the video included images of the individuals working. Terell Welch stated the individuals were asked questions during the video, which also showed the individuals working in their jobs.

Nikki Jeffords stated the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) would sponsor the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) breakfast on November 16, 2017 from 9:00-10:30 am at the Flinn Foundation. Ms. Jeffords stated the event would have limited space, although she would like to invite any committee members that wanted to attend. Jordan Moon and Tanner Gers stated they would like to attend the breakfast. Nikki Jeffords stated that Kirk Adams, AFB, would also attend a Happy Hour during the evening of November 16, 2017 from 4:00-6:00 pm and anyone was invited to attend. Nikki Jeffords stated she did not have the location of the Happy Hour yet, but she would inform the committee. Jordan Moon inquired whether Kirk Adams would visit some of the organizations that offered services to blind and visually impaired individuals. Nikki Jeffords stated she would inquire whether Mr. Adams would have time to visit the blindness organizations. Terell Welch inquired how many individuals would be attending the Happy Hour. Nikki Jeffords stated she would send out invites to the blindness organizations and that anyone was invited to attend. Terell Welch stated he would inquire about reserving space at for the Happy Hour at The Vig, a downtown Phoenix restaurant. Nikki Jeffords encouraged committee members to forward their hiring manager contacts to her or Dan Martinez, to be invited to the AFB breakfast. Bea Shapiro suggested the committee contact Walter Donovan, who received a job with Wells Fargo. Nikki Jeffords stated she would reach out to Walter Donovan.

Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the video included contact information at the end of the video. Terell Welch stated the video did not include contact information, although he could request that contact information be added. Nikki Jeffords suggested that Terell Welch's contact information be added to the video. Terell Welch agreed to request that his and Nikki Jefford's contact information be included in the video.

E75 Program Development Discussion

Terell Welch noted that Jim Strohacker had agreed to research potential catering options for the E75 event. Mr. Welch noted the advantage to using the Phoenix Rescue Mission, was that the organization provided the food, served and cleaned up as well. Nikki Jeffords stated she was pleased with the Phoenix Rescue Mission's food at the previous events and liked that the food was placed on the tables prior to attendees arriving at the event. Nikki Jeffords stated the committee could focus on inviting employers to attend the event with the understanding that the majority of individuals would not RSVP until closer to the event date. Terell Welch stated at recent Job Fair,

he received confirmation from about 12 employers and about 40 employers showed up at the event. Jordan Moon inquired whether committee members had contacted the outreach staff at Ability 360. Nikki Jeffords stated she did not know who provided outreach at Ability 360, although she could inquire with Martha Sorey, who worked at Ability 360 in information and referral.

Nikki Jeffords stated the program would include presentations by a blind or visually impaired individual, Marc Ashton, Foundation for Blind Children (FBC), and Tucson Electric Power. Ms. Jeffords stated the committee would also decide on the awards to be presented at the E75 event. Terrell Welch inquired whether the video with the successfully employed blind and visually impaired individuals could be played at the event. Nikki Jeffords stated the video could be played during the lunch portion of the event, as the conference room acoustics should allow attendees to hear the video.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee would be on November 20, 2017 from 10:00-11:00 am in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ.

Agenda items are as follows:

- Strategies to Invite Employers
- E75 Marketing Discussion
- E75 Program Development Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Tanner Gers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jordan Moon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.