

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

**Members Present**

Ted Chittenden\*  
Dan Martinez  
Janet Fisher  
Carlos Paraskevas

**Members Absent**

Barbara McDonald  
David Steinmetz

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assistant  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Ted Chittenden called the meeting to order at 2:07 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 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Carlos Paraskevas moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2017 Public Information Committee meeting. Dan Martinez seconded the motion. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous voice vote.

**2017 VRATE Discussion**

Carlos Paraskevas stated he forwarded the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) program announcement to the Arizona Council of the Blind (AZCB) list serve and to all of the Arizona organizations included in the EyeKnow.AZ database. Mr. Paraskevas stated he was trying to send out the program announcement to more organizations and groups in order to increase awareness of the conference. Carlos Paraskevas stated that, for example, he forwarded the information to each individual staff member at SAAVI Services for the Blind instead of a group email address.

Dan Martinez stated that Annette Reichman, Superintendent for the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) would be unable to present at VRATE. Carlos Paraskevas stated that someone from the Helen Keller National Center, and Virginia Thompson from the Arizona Center for the

Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) would present in Ms. Reichman's place. Carlos Paraskevas stated that Jill Pleasant would present for the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) in place of Clayton Guffrey. Ted Chittenden inquired whether any GCBVI council members had agreed to staff the council table at VRATE. Lindsey Powers stated Amy Porterfield volunteered to staff the table, although she was unsure regarding the time she would be available. Dan Martinez stated that he and Carlos Paraskevas would be able to help staff the table as well. Ted Chittenden stated that he also would be able to staff the table during VRATE.

### **Outreach for Council Events**

Ted Chittenden stated he attended the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) White Cane Day event at the Arizona Capitol. Ted Chittenden stated that Amy Porterfield spoke on behalf of the GCBVI. Ted Chittenden stated that he also attended the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) White Cane Safety Day and noted that he spoke to two individuals interested in applying for council membership and filling the two open positions for the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) representation. Lindsey Powers stated she sent the council membership applications to those individuals although she had not received the completed applications from the individuals. Carlos Paraskevas stated that the VA White Cane Day event was not as heavily attended as in previous years, although the veterans gave great speeches at the event. Ted Chittenden stated that veterans were invited to march around the VA Hospital prior to the event, and that many of the veterans participated in the march.

Carlos Paraskevas stated that he and Dan Martinez attended the Mayors Commission on Disability Issues DARE Awards, which recognized organizations and individuals nominated for disability related accomplishments. Carlos Paraskevas stated that city council member Kate Gallego attended the event and that Mayor Stanton was unable to attend but recorded a video played at the event. Mr. Paraskevas noted that Dan Martinez was mentioned in Mayor Stanton, Kate Gallego, and during Officer Olson's speeches at the event. He stated that the names of all the nominees, including Sara Muth from the Arizona Secretary of State's office, were announced. Carlos Paraskevas stated he would recommend that the GCBVI take a greater role by nominating individuals and organizations that made an impact in the lives of blind and visually impaired individuals for future events. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the event included exhibitors or whether individuals were invited to listen to the speeches. Dan Martinez stated the event offered theater style seating to individuals attending the event.

Dan Martinez stated that Kirk Adams, American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) director, would hold a breakfast sponsored by the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) at the Flinn Foundation. Dan Martinez stated the conference room could accommodate about 70 individuals and he was working with Tim Stump and Terell Welch, Employment Coordinators, on inviting individuals to attend the event. Dan Martinez stated that Lindsey Powers sent invitations to the Governor, the Arizona Commerce Authority, and the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. Dan Martinez stated that any potential employers could be sent to Carlos Paraskevas.

### **Public Involvement with GCBVI**

Ted Chittenden stated he attended Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)'s Introduction to Blindness Workshop via telephone and noted that he received several questions regarding the council. Mr. Chittenden noted that he would also participate in the workshop in November as well.

Dan Martinez stated the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Full Council meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2017 and Amy Porterfield would provide an update on the GCBVI's Strategic Plan. Dan Martinez noted that the GCBVI needed to continue to advocate for specialized services for blind and visually impaired individuals and to have greater involvement with other councils. Ted Chittenden stated that Dan Martinez had recently been elected as the Chair of the SRC, and could build a better relationship with the SRC.

### **GCBVI Outreach Materials Discussion**

This item was tabled.

### **Database Discussion**

Ted Chittenden stated that an individual at the VA White Cane Safety Day expressed interest in being included in the EyeKnow.AZ database. He noted the woman had developed a support group website for the spouses of veterans with vision impairments. Lindsey Powers stated she obtained the information about the support group website and had added the resource to the database.

Ted Chittenden stated Janet Fisher had forwarded the September EyeKnow.AZ database usage statistics and noted the usage remained about the same as the previous month. Ted Chittenden stated he recommended the database to his ophthalmologist and noted that both he and his secretary were pleased to learn about the database. Janet Fisher suggested the committee obtain magnets, stick on labels, decals, and/or bumper

stickers with the EyeKnow.AZ database. Carlos Paraskevas stated the committee had previously discussed distributing EyeKnow.AZ postcards to doctors and organizations. Janet Fisher stated that an item other than paper would be easily visible and not get lost among other papers. Ted Chittenden stated that one of the items in the GCBVI Strategic Plan was that the council would have a budget for council activities, which could assist with outreach. Janet Fisher stated she could distribute information regarding the database at next year's State Library Association Conference.

Carlos Paraskevas stated he noticed that the EyeKnow.AZ database was included on the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) website, although the logo graphic was not labeled as EyeKnow.AZ. He noted that he contacted FBC in order to correct the graphic label. Dan Martinez stated he sent information to the Public Information Committee regarding including additional resources in the database. Dan Martinez noted that Sara Muth indicated that the information could be added under a new heading, or under an existing heading. Ted Chittenden stated the GCBVI Strategic Plan had identified the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee as providing assistance to the Public Information Committee in including accessibility resources. Mr. Chittenden stated he was unsure whether AT Committee members should have access to the database. Dan Martinez stated that the AT Committee members should not have access to entering information into the database. Mr. Martinez stated the AT Committee was welcome to be involved and to offer suggestions for resources that could be added to the database. Janet Fisher stated the Public Information Committee was responsible for outreach and for providing the content used in outreach. Ms. Fisher noted that the Secretary of State's Office staff would be busy with the upcoming elections, and there could be a delay in any changes or updates to the database. Janet Fisher stated the EyeKnow.AZ database currently included a Best Practices heading and stated the additional resources could be included under that heading. Ted Chittenden stated he agreed that the additional resources could be included under the current Best Practices heading. Dan Martinez suggested that Ted Chittenden invite council members to visit the database and offer feedback at the next GCBVI Full Council meeting.

## **Social Media Discussion**

Lindsey Powers stated she continued to post to the GCBVI Facebook webpage weekly. Ms. Powers noted that some posts were viewed by more individuals, such as the posts regarding upcoming conferences. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the council Facebook page received more visits overall. Lindsey Powers stated the council Facebook page was viewed by more individuals overall. Ted Chittenden stated he encouraged council members to visit the council Facebook page and to Like or Follow the page

and that he would mention the Facebook page at the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting.

### **Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Public Information Committee will be on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 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 Strategic Plan Discussion
- 2017 VRATE Discussion
- Outreach for Council Events
- Public Involvement with GCBVI Discussion
- GCBVI Outreach Materials Discussion
- Database Discussion
- Social Media Discussion

### **Announcements**

Janet Fisher announced that the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library received funds for a Book Group by phone and that some individuals could use Victor Reader Streams, or iPads. Janet Fisher welcomed suggestions regarding how to advertise the program. Carlos Paraskevas stated he would send the information to the list serves. Ted Chittenden suggested the information be distributed to the AzCB, NFB, the Southern Arizona Council of the Blind, and BVA list serves.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Janet Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting; Carlos Paraskevas seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 3:30 pm.