

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Jonathan Pringle
Bea Shapiro
David Steinmetz
Terrell Welch

Members Absent

Josh Sauter

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Abdallah
Nancy Lucas

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of the September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Bea Shapiro motioned to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting. David Steinmetz seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Event Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated that he had created a draft timeline for the upcoming E75 event which would include: an introduction of the GCBVI and E75, a short video about E75, and time for a client success story. Nathan Pullen stated that Jonathan Pringle had a video about a client that could be played. Mr. Pullen stated that Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) would have time for a presentation, as well as a presentation from Nancy Lucas about her job seeking experience. He added that Arizona Disability Law and SAAVI Services for the Blind would also be presenting. Abdallah inquired whether the committee would like him to talk about the SAAVI comprehensive program as a whole or more about employment. Nathan Pullen stated the goal of E75 was to recognize employers that hired blind or visually impaired individuals, although Mayo Clinic had backed out from presenting at the event. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could change the focus of the event to be more of an educational event rather than an employment event. Nathan Pullen stated that he had planned for the event to be structured so that it told the story of a blind or visually impaired job seeker, and how they would receive blindness services and training to become employed. Bea Shapiro inquired whether a representative from Amazon could be invited to attend the event. Nathan Pullen stated his understanding that Reggie Laister had contacted someone from an Amazon distribution center but had not heard back. Abdallah stated that Amazon and AIB had hired blind or visually impaired individuals as well as Peckham. Nathan Pullen stated the committee had recognized Peckham during previous E75 events, and noted the committee would like to recognize corporate organizations if possible.

David Steinmetz stated that he was surprised Mayo Clinic had backed out as the keynote speaker for the event. Terell Welch stated that Mayo Clinic had not hired a blind or visually impaired individual yet, although they would still like to be involved in the event. David Steinmetz noted the goal of the event was to recognize businesses that had hired several blind or visually impaired individuals if possible, and to champion their efforts. Nathan Pullen inquired whether it would be beneficial to hear from Mayo Clinic and their hiring initiatives. David Steinmetz agreed that would be beneficial. Nathan Pullen stated they could talk about their hiring initiatives and hopefully it would give them incentive to hire blind or visually impaired employees. Terell Welch stated that he would follow up with Mayo Clinic regarding their presentation. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee had considered inviting AzTAP to attend the event. Nathan Pullen noted that AzTAP had hired 1 blind employee, although they did not have a formal initiative to hire blind or visually impaired individuals. He stated that he could see if the agenda would allow time for AzTAP to speak as well. Nathan Pullen inquired whether David Steinmetz would be the representative from AIB to present. David Steinmetz stated that he would be presenting a presentation for AIB, and he could

include some additional information to be more inline with the E75 mission. Nathan Pullen inquired whether Jonathan Pringle had the client success video. Jonathan Pringle stated that he thought he sent the video, but he could resend it to Nathan Pullen. David Steinmetz inquired whether Nathan Pullen would be able to send out the draft agenda for the event so he would know roughly when he would be presenting. Nathan Pullen stated he would be able to do that. He added that if any of the committee members that would be presenting had any questions, they could contact him.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for October 12, 2023. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Jonathan Pringle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Terrell Welch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.