

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Employment Committee Meeting Minutes**  
November 7, 2018

**Members Present**

Nathan Pullen  
Nikki Jeffords  
Jordan Moon  
Bea Shapiro

**Members Absent**

Terrell Welch  
Kevin Foster

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

**Approval of the October 3, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Nikki Jeffords motioned to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**E75 Event Discussion**

Nikki Jeffords stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) had a new website, <https://www.vrateaz.com/>, which would direct individuals to the old website to register for the event, but also included the current list of speakers. Ms. Jeffords stated that Susan Webb, Ability 360, indicated that she was uncomfortable speaking about blindness at the event, although other individuals had agreed to participate on an employment panel. Nikki Jeffords stated that Terrell Welch agreed to participate on the panel and inquired whether Nathan Pullen would be able to participate on the panel as well. Nathan Pullen stated that he was participating in a presentation for the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee and inquired

regarding the time of the employment panel. Nikki Jeffords stated she was unsure regarding the time of the employment panel. Nathan Pullen stated he could potentially participate for a portion of each presentation. Mr. Pullen inquired whether Allan Curry or one of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) operators should participate on the panel also. Nikki Jeffords stated she would contact additional individuals to participate on the employment panel. Nikki Jeffords stated the VRATE Board was inviting VRATE exhibitors and speakers to attend a networking event the night before VRATE at the Vig. Nikki Jeffords stated that VRATE would include a scavenger hunt using beacon technology to elevate the event to another level.

Jordan Moon inquired whether the GCBVI had requested a table at VRATE. Lindsey Powers stated she requested a table for the council, and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) had requested two tables. Ms. Powers stated that one of RSA's tables was intended to be for the GCBVI. Nikki Jeffords stated the GCBVI would hold a Town Hall meeting and any council members were welcome to attend. Jordan Moon stated the current VRATE Board was not receptive to the idea of holding a Job Fair at VRATE, although some board members would not be on the board for the next year's event. Mr. Moon stated that he would broach the subject again for the following year for a potential Employment Committee Job Fair. Bea Shapiro suggested the VRATE Board name the Job Fair so that individuals would know it was associated with VRATE. Nikki Jeffords stated that she hoped that VRATE would offer different tracks such as an employment track at the next VRATE.

Nathan Pullen stated the E75 Save the Dates had been sent out to committee members and could be shared with employers and community partners. He added that he was able to secure the Ability 360 Conference Room for the upcoming E75 event on February 1, 2019. Nikki Jeffords stated that Sean Callagy, a successful blind attorney, would be the keynote speaker at VRATE, and could potentially be asked to speak at the E75 event. Bea Shapiro stated the committee should include the names of the keynote speakers on the E75 invites. Jordan Moon stated the committee could attend Mr. Callagy's presentation at VRATE and determine whether he would be an appropriate speaker at the E75 event. Jordan Moon inquired whether the committee would continue to use the Phoenix Rescue Mission at the caterer for the E75 event. Nikki Jeffords stated the Phoenix Rescue Mission would be a great option as the caterer.

Nikki Jeffords stated she attended a conference about Disability In, which was taking over for the Business Leadership Network (BLN). Ms. Jeffords stated the committee could research the organization and potentially invite a representative to attend the E75 event. Nikki Jeffords noted the Disability In

created the Disability Equality Index (DEI), which promoted diversity and inclusiveness in the workplace. Nathan Pullen stated the DEI assigned a score on how accessible the business was. Nathan Pullen inquired whether anyone had reached out to Disability In regarding any local partners. Nikki Jeffords stated that some businesses such as Chase, Marriot and Merck had indicated their commitment to promoting inclusion in the workplace. Nathan Pullen stated that Terell Welch had contacted Peckham and had invited representatives to attend the E75 event.

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

The next meeting of the Employment Committee will be on November 28, 2018 from 3:00 am to 4:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows: Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion
- E75 Quarterly Events Discussion

### **Announcements**

Nathan Pullen announced that Terell Welch secured an intern to work with BEP on special projects. He noted the intern was interested in learning about accessibility and disability rights and the Employment Committee could discuss some potential projects.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nikki Jeffords seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.