

**Draft**  
**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**VRATE Workgroup Meeting Minutes**  
November 15, 2021

**Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Bob Kresmer  
Karla Rivas-Parker  
Sue LeHew  
Nathan Pullen

**Members Absent**

Bob Kresmer  
Dr. Carlos Grandela

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

Mark Nelson

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of August 6, 2021 VRATE Workgroup Meeting Minutes**

Nathan Pullen motioned to table the agenda item and approve the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**VRATE Presentation Discussion**

Bea Shapiro stated the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee had planned to provide a presentation at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) that was originally scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> but had been cancelled. Bea Shapiro stated the conference would potentially be rescheduled for April. Ms. Shapiro stated that she had reached out to members of the VRATE Board several times during the planning process and had not received responses to her questions, which was frustrating. Bea

Shapiro noted that Dan Martinez had indicated the VRATE Board only had 3 members that were performing the planning for the conference. Bea Shapiro stated that the vendors did not receive an official cancellation notice, but the announcement was made on the VRATE Facebook page. Bea Shapiro stated that Dr. Carlos Grandela had put a lot of work into preparing the presentation for VRATE, and it would provide great information to attendees. Sue LeHew stated her understanding that Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) staff usually helped the VRATE Board with their website.

Bea Shapiro stated that she would still like to find an opportunity to offer the presentation if Dr. Grandela would still be interested. Ms. Shapiro stated the VRATE Board was seeking additional members to help plan for the next conference and inquired whether any committee members would be interested in assisting. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired regarding the current VRATE Board members. Sue LeHew stated the VRATE Board members were not listed on the website. Bea Shapiro stated the presentation would offer great information for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors and other professionals in the field.

Sue LeHew stated the ACBVI offered awareness training on blindness and inquired whether the committee could partner with those trainings. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could ask Dr. Grandela and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) if that would be appropriate. Sue LeHew stated that contracted vendors would provide the training, and Dr. Grandela would partner with them. Ms. LeHew noted the training could be open to VRCs as well as doctors in the field. Bea Shapiro noted that was the benefit of offering CEUs to ophthalmologists attending the VRATE presentation. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the recorded VRATE presentation could be played for training and committee members, or other individuals could be available for questions after. Nathan Pullen stated the video could potentially be used during onboarding of VR staff as well. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would need approval from Dr. Grandela and Karla Rivas-Parker in order to be shared. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she approved of the video being shared in different training sessions. Bea Shapiro stated that if VRATE was rescheduled for April, the presentation could be played there as well. Sue LeHew noted the committee could still seek CRC credits for individuals attending the presentation. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could potentially plan to provide a training in January if Dr. Grandela was interested in participating. Ms. Shapiro noted the committee could also hold trainings on different topics related to AT. Bea Shapiro stated she would contact Dr. Grandela regarding his interest in providing a presentation in partnership with ACBVI. Sue LeHew stated she would contact ACBVI regarding their interest in a joint training also.

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

The next meeting of the AT Committee will be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Nathan Pullen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.