

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Public Information Committee Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2018

Members Present

Ted Chittenden
Dan Martinez
David Steinmetz

Members Absent

Janet Fisher

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Ted Chittenden called the meeting to order at 2:30 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 October 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Dan Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2018 Public Information Committee meeting. David Steinmetz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

GCBVI Annual Report Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that the GCBVI Annual Report was ready for publication and inquired whether any committee members had any additional comments or concerns regarding the report. Dan Martinez suggested the Annual Report include page numbers and page breaks as necessary to ensure the overall appearance of the report. Mr. Martinez also suggested that the report be converted to a PDF, so the report could not be modified. David Steinmetz inquired whether the report included a footer that referenced additional material. Dan Martinez stated the report did not include references to additional material and noted the report included the GCBVI Strategic Plan and the list of council members. Dan Martinez stated the report could include a footer, such as 2018 Annual Report. Ted Chittenden stated once the report had been published, it could be included

on the GCBVI webpage as well. Lindsey Powers stated she would make the suggested changes for publication and forward the report to the Department of Economic Security (DES) webmaster for inclusion on the council webpage.

GCBVI Outreach Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated that he had experienced issues with his cable and Internet in October and did not receive notification regarding Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA's) Introduction to Blindness Workshop. Ted Chittenden stated he had not been notified regarding a November workshop and he was unsure whether a workshop had been scheduled in December, although he would be able to participate.

David Steinmetz inquired whether the committee had been asked to support the Employment Committee regarding promotion of the E75 Award Event. Ted Chittenden stated that he would contact Nathan Pullen and offer assistance to the Employment Committee.

GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee had completed the required tasks assigned to the committee. He added that the committee was responsible for assisting in additional tasks that would require guidance from the Legislative Committee.

Committee Membership Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee still needed to recruit additional members. Ted Chittenden stated he made an announcement at a meeting of the Arizona Council of the Blind of Arizona (AzCB) Phoenix chapter but had not heard from any members. Dan Martinez suggested the committee include an announcement on the GCBVI Facebook page. Ted Chittenden stated he would also contact Nikki Jeffords, who had suggested an individual to participate on the committee.

Database Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated he had not heard any additional feedback from the Assistive Technology (AT) Committee regarding suggested changes to the EyeKnow.AZ website.

VRATE Follow Up Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated the GCBVI Town Hall meeting at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) was not very successful due to a low attendance rate. Ted Chittenden stated the council received a question regarding whether the council supported professionals that worked with blind and visually impaired individuals. Lindsey Powers stated an audience member also mentioned his concern regarding the electric scooters that were often left lying down on the sidewalks which could pose accessibility issues or hazards for individuals with disabilities. Ms. Powers stated the council also received questions regarding the funds allocated to the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library for the Book Discussion Groups and devices. Dan Martinez stated the he would perform research regarding the electric scooters and present the information to the council, which would then decide whether to act. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the Legislative Committee would address the issue of encouraging more professionals to enter the blindness field. Dan Martinez stated the council developed a position statement in the year prior in support of the University of Arizona teacher program. He added the council could also make recommendations to RSA regarding outreach efforts as well as suggest an increase in funding for training and recruitment efforts. Ted Chittenden stated the University of Arizona had a master's program, and that Arizona State University was potentially developing a Bachelors program. Dan Martinez suggested the Education Committee perform additional research regarding the topic and present their suggestions to the council.

Ted Chittenden stated he was not pleased with the low attendance rate of audience members at the council's Town Hall meeting. Dan Martinez stated the low attendance rate could be an indication that VRATE offered too many presentations or did not offer the type of presentations that individuals were interested in attending. He added that there were several presentations with a low number of attendees. David Steinmetz inquired whether individuals stayed for the entire conference, or whether individuals only stayed for a couple of hours. Mr. Steinmetz suggested the VRATE Committee track the number of individuals attending each presentation as well. Ted Chittenden stated his understanding that Nikki Jeffords would be the VRATE Committee Chair again the following year and the council could make those suggestions to her. Dan Martinez stated the AT Committee should provide a presentation at the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting regarding the committee's presentation at VRATE.

Social Media Discussion

Dan Martinez stated the GCBVI Facebook page was slowly gaining more visits. He suggested the council page include a Facebook post requesting that individuals follow the council page. David Steinmetz stated that many

blindness organizations invited other organizations to visit their social media pages and to expand the group.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Information Committee will be on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 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 Annual Report Discussion
- Committee Membership Discussion
- GCBVI Outreach Discussion
- GCBVI Strategic Plan Discussion
- Database Discussion
- Social Media Discussion

Announcements

David Steinmetz announced that the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) hosted a visit from Congressman David Schweikert, who toured AIB, met with AIB employees and was presented with an Ability One Champion award.

Dan Martinez announced that AIB would have a new CEO on December 3, 2018. He noted the CEO had worked with the Ability One program, had experience in business development and sales and met the qualifications for the direction of AIB.

Ted Chittenden announced that Dan Martinez received the Detective Walter Olson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Dan Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting; David Steinmetz seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 3:15 pm.