

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2017

Members Present

Bob Kresmer*, Chair
Lisa Yencarelli*
Jared Kittelson*
Ed House*
Doris Woltman*

Members Absent

Julie Urban

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin Asst.
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Lisa Jackson*

Call to Order and Introductions

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm in the DERS Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of November 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Lisa Yencarelli motioned to approve the November 13, 2017 meeting minutes. Ed House seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Education Committee Activities

Bob Kresmer stated he spoke to Sunggye Hong, University of Arizona (UA), regarding the need for more Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI)s. Mr. Kresmer noted that Governor Ducey supports an additional 1.6 million for Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) to hire twenty-one TVIs. Bob Kresmer stated that he was informed that the state funding that provided tuition waivers for (UA) students interested in the TVI program would be discontinued and that the federal program grant would run out for Fall of 2018. Bob Kresmer stated he and Sunggye Hong discussed how the GCBVI could approach the Governor's office to support funding for the TVI program and noted that Dr. Hong would develop a package indicating the funds required to continue the TVI program. Bob Kresmer stated that Sunggye Hong indicated that UA would require approximately \$200,000 to recruit approximately seven or nine students to become part of the TVI

program. Lisa Jackson inquired whether Bob Kresmer and Sunggye Hong discussed a potential Bachelor's program for students interested in becoming TVIs. Bob Kresmer confirmed and stated that the current Arizona state law required that TVIs have a Master's degree to teach blind and visually impaired students. Bob Kresmer stated that Sunggye Hong was on the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) local board and would encourage support for the potential development of a TVI Bachelor's program. Mr. Kremer noted that currently, undergraduate students could take Masters levels classes, and would be required to take two semesters of graduate level classes instead of three semesters of classes.

Lisa Jackson stated she spoke to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Audra Ahumada, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessments, regarding the Education Committee's interest in comparing blind and visually impaired test scores. Bob Kresmer inquired whether efforts had been made to educate the TVIs regarding testing accessibility. Lisa Jackson stated she had previously agreed to develop a Power Point presentation that could be distributed to TVIs after the information was approved by the ADE. Lisa Jackson noted that she agreed to present the information at the next AER conference.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether ASDB had developed instructional aids that could be used to assist the ASDB co-operatives. Doris Woltman stated she was working with Lisa Yencarelli regarding short-term aids that could be used to assist the co-operatives, although they were interested in developing instructional aids that could be used long term. Ms. Woltman stated that once Annette Reichman, ASDB Superintendent, returned, she and Ms. Yencarelli could discuss funding for short term instructional aids. Lisa Yencarelli stated she and Doris Woltman were interested in developing short term plans to cover the schools temporarily, although they would continue moving forward with developing instructional aids.

Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the Education Committee's recommendations to the GCBVI regarding support for UA's TVI program funding to attract seven or nine teachers to enter the Masters program. Lisa Yencarelli stated she was in support of the short-term solution, which was to support the UA package being submitted to the Governor's office. Ed House stated the Governor's office would be interested in learning what the university would provide going forward. Jared Kittelson stated that UA could offer the hybrid TVI program, which allowed undergrad students to take Masters level courses. Bob Kresmer stated if AER could support a Bachelor's level TVI and a change to the state accreditation law, the council could support that program, although that would be a long-term goal. Bob

Kresmer stated he was unsure whether Sunggye Hong and the university could continue to support the TVI program with only state or federal funding.

Bob Kresmer stated that Susan Greer had agreed to inform the Education Committee regarding effective passive vision tests for young children that the committee could advocate for. Mr. Kresmer noted that current state law required mandatory hearing testing for infants, and the committee was interested in identifying vision tests that could potentially be made mandatory as well. Bob Kresmer inquired when ASDB would begin preparing teachers or the testing administrators to administer the high stakes testing. Lisa Jackson stated she provided in service instructions to all testing administrators. She noted that all regional teachers were required to attend local district in service training. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Lisa Jackson's Power Point presentation would be distributed to the teachers. Lisa Jackson stated she would likely provide in service training in February, to be close to the AZ Merit test dates.

Ed House stated during the GCBVI Strategic Planning meeting, the council discussed the importance of the Youth Transition program and inquired whether the committee would be interested in discussing that during the next committee meeting. Bob Kresmer stated the committee was interested in the Youth Transition program and inquired regarding the committee's activities on the item. Ed House stated the council expressed interest in supporting the program and potentially offering recommendations for improvements. Mr. House stated the committee could distribute a survey to blindness consumer groups, providers, and ASDB and review the information. Bob Kresmer noted the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) placed additional requirements for the Youth Transition program, which could be incorporated into the recommendations to schools. Lisa Jackson inquired whether the committee would be interested in reviewing the results of ASDB's surveys administered to students post one year after graduation. Bob Kresmer stated the committee would be interested in reviewing that information. Lisa Jackson stated she would distribute the survey questions and responses to Lindsey Powers, who would distribute to committee members.

Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be on January 22, 2018, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the DERS Conference Room, at 1789 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows: Agenda items are as follows:

- Early Childhood Activities Discussion

- Youth Transition Youth Program Discussion
- ASDB Post Outcomes Data Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.