

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Sue LeHew

Members Absent

Nathan Pullen
Mark Nelson

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Nancy Grayson
Kerry Bernard

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of February 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mark Nelson motioned to approve the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to approve of the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

TVI Training Discussion

Bea Shapiro inquired whether Mark Nelson heard back from his contact regarding potentially presenting at the TVI training sessions. Mark Nelson stated he would contact the gentleman when the committee had identified some of the topics of training and an overall outline of the trainings. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had previously discussed offering basic, intermediate, and advanced trainings for 1.5-2-hour sessions about virtual learning. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that some teachers could still be struggling with providing virtual instruction to blind and visually impaired students. Ms. Shapiro stated that teachers could use Google

documents, which could be shared and were live documents, although teachers would benefit from more interaction with the students. Mark Nelson stated that Tandem worked better for interacting with others virtually, although teachers could use Google Meets or Zoom also. Bea Shapiro stated that Google Meets was typically more compatible, although Zoom was usually the most accessible for users. Mark Nelson stated that Bob Kresmer had agreed to contact Tressi Smith at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), who could provide an update on how the ASDB teachers were able to provide virtual instruction. Bea Shapiro

Bea Shapiro stated that teachers would likely continue to provide virtual instruction using a hybrid model in the future and inquired regarding the type of training that would benefit teachers. Mark Nelson suggested the committee wait to hear what Bob Kresmer learned from ASDB and whether they were still struggling with providing online instruction. Sue LeHew suggested the committee share successful ways to teach virtual Assistive Technology (AT)

Bea Shapiro stated that she was aware of an issue where counselors were unsure about issuing technology to clients. Ms. Shapiro noted that deaf-blind clients, for example, needed 2 devices for communication in their homes and in the community. Mark Nelson stated that deaf-blind clients should receive 2 devices if needed. Mr. Nelson stated that individuals received a CCTV and a magnifier, or a laptop and a tablet, which would serve different needs for the user. Sue LeHew stated the ICanConnect program could provide technology for deaf-blind clients that qualified, and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) could provide the employment related equipment. Bea Shapiro agreed, although not all individuals would qualify

AT Trends

Mark Nelson stated he just learned about a new conference, Sight Tech. Mr. Nelson stated the iPhone 12 Pro and Pro Max could use lidar to build a 3D model of a room and would assist the user in finding or avoiding objects. Bea Shapiro agreed that was a great feature, although it was only available on the Pro or Pro Max. Sue LeHew stated that version of the phone might offer greater processing capacity. Mark Nelson stated the iPhone was

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for March 17, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- TVI Training Discussion

- AT Trends

Announcements

Mark Nelson stated he attended the ATIA Conference and did not receive many visitors as an exhibitor. Bea Shapiro stated that most exhibitors at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) indicated that they did not receive many visitors either.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Mark Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.