

Draft

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)

Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026

Attendance

Members Present

Amy Porterfield, Chair

Bob Kresmer

Jonathan Pringle

Donald Porterfield

Members Absent

Ed House

Guests Present

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Amy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Call to the Public

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

Approval of April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the May 7, 2025 minutes. Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Updates

Amy Porterfield stated the council had expressed concerns regarding the Independent Living Blind (ILB) program and received a response. Bob Kresmer stated that Kristen Mackey had agreed that ILB clients should not have time limits on the number of hours they receive services. He added that before a client's case was closed, they would receive an assessment to determine whether they required additional hours of services. Mr. Kresmer noted that Kristen Mackey was reworking the training for the rehabilitation teachers providing ILB services. Amy Porterfield suggested the council develop a committee to develop ILB Best Practices and that she would be willing to serve on the committee if Jonathan Pringle were the Chair. Jonathan Pringle agreed to serve on the committee also and to be the Chair. Bob Kresmer stated that he would contact Mr. Pringle regarding an ILB Committee.

ASDB Changes Discussion

Amy Porterfield stated the committee members received the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) response to the GCBLV's concerns regarding the recent changes to ASDB. Ms. Porterfield stated that she was requesting input from the committee members regarding ASDB's responses and whether the GCBLV had any follow-up questions. Amy Porterfield stated that one of her questions was regarding the time limit for students in the resource rooms within a cluster site. Bob Kresmer inquired whether a student would be required to travel to another site for specialized services

and then travel back to their school. Amy Porterfield stated that students would be attending school at a cluster site throughout the state and that itinerant services would also be available. Bob Kresmer inquired whether students would be receiving the same level of instruction from itinerant teachers. Amy Porterfield stated the Tucson Unified School District was partnering with ASDB to develop cluster sites for students that were attending ASDB in Tucson. She noted that ASDB would also develop a cluster site in Show Low and would continue to monitor whether additional sites were needed. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Jonathan Pringle had heard anything regarding students with combined vision and hearing loss (CVHL). Jonathan Pringle stated his understanding that it had not been addressed yet although most students would stay within their school district. Amy Porterfield stated the council also inquired regarding the life skills classroom instruction. Ms. Porterfield stated ASDB indicated that students would receive life skills instruction in a cluster site but did not specify whether students would receive support from a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) all day. She noted that ASDB also indicated that current teachers would be receiving specialized training on how to provide support to blind and low vision students. Jonathan Pringle noted that if there were any staff shortages, it would be difficult to keep full-time TVIs in the classroom as well as to hire new positions. Amy Porterfield stated ASDB had not indicated whether they would be retaining current teacher positions. Ms. Porterfield stated the council also inquired regarding the 4% in funding for the statewide blind program and whether that level of funding would be maintained. Bob Kresmer stated there were no guarantees as ASDB was still developing their policies, which should be in place by May. Jonathan Pringle added that the budget did not break down technology according to disability population and noted that a Braille display was higher in cost compared to other assistive technology.

Bob Kremer inquired whether students would remain at Copper Creek. Amy Porterfield stated that Copper Creek would remain open and ASDB would provide specialized services to those students. Amy Porterfield stated the 4% would go towards payroll, student support, instructional support, instruction, assistive technology and administration/operations but there was no guarantee the level of funding would remain. Amy Porterfield stated she would also like clarification regarding whether students would receive full-time TVI support in the classroom or a separate room, whether ASDB would

maintain the same level of funding to support blind and low-vision students, and whether there would be a decrease in services to students with multiple disabilities. Bob Kresmer inquired whether students would still have access to Braille materials through the schools. Amy Porterfield stated there would be Braillists at each cluster site. Amy Porterfield stated the ASDB Board would be meeting the next day, and she would like to submit the council's response to ASDB before then. She noted the ASDB Board had a general "Contact Us" page and the comments/questions were filtered to the board. Bob Kresmer agreed and noted that interested individuals could also attend the board meeting in person if they wanted to guarantee they would be heard. Amy Porterfield stated that she would like to develop a response in writing also and would work on drafting that response.

Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee TBD.
Agenda items are as follows:

- Legislative Updates
- Policy Discussion

Bob Kresmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.