

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

Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mark Nelson

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of January 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had been contemplating whether to present at the upcoming Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo

(VRATE). She noted that she attempted to submit the paperwork, but it was handled through AER, and was too late. Bob Kresmer stated that VRATE would have a full schedule of speakers through AER. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could plan for a presentation at the following event next year.

AT Outreach Update

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had recorded 2 podcasts to be played on Sun Sounds and would plan for the next podcast in April. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired whether Sun Sounds had links to their podcasts. Bea Shapiro stated that she could ask Andrea Pasquale. Ms. Shapiro stated she also wanted to know whether the podcasts had show notes, so the committee could include website links for individuals interested in more information. Sue LeHew stated the committee had also discussed whether Sun Sounds could provide a link to the committees' podcasts, so individuals could access them later. Bea Shapiro agreed and stated that she would ask Ms. Pasquale about that also. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the podcasts would be archived somewhere also. Sue LeHew stated the committee would likely need permission from Sun Sounds to archive the podcasts.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated Karla Rivas-Parker had previously shared the resource, Blind Kitchen, where a woman shared low tech kitchen products for blind and visually impaired individuals. She stated the woman also created training or webinars for individuals to learn how to use the products. Karla Rivas-Parker stated she attended a webinar, where the woman demonstrated how to use some of the products.

Bea Shapiro stated she did not know what products would be highlighted at CSUN. Ms. Shapiro stated that Human Ware had received criticism for the new Victor Reader, which did not include a removable battery, and it had to be returned to the manufacturer. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that Aira could be added to a phone. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that EnVision also had glasses, although they had to be set up on the phone and required Wi-Fi to function. Karla Rivas-Parker stated, Or Cam worked without Wi-Fi, and she would be presenting on the topic at VRATE. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Seeing AI would assist an individual in locating an empty seat. Karla Rivas-Parker stated Envision would tell an individual if a chair was in the room, but would not indicate whether it was empty. Ms. Rivas-Parker stated

the new magnification on the iPhone could also read signs and documents. Bea Shapiro noted it would also let an individual know there was a door and what kind of handle it had. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the Haptic Braille was a note-taker that allowed deafblind individuals to communicate through an iPhone or Android. She stated that it used speech to text and the individual could feel the braille dots on their fingers. Bob Kresmer inquired whether anyone was familiar with the new JAWS 23 voice over assistant. Karla Rivas-Parker stated it would only perform certain commands and individuals could use Cortana for other demands.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for May 17th. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Committee Activities Discussion
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

Announcements

Sue LeHew announced that the State would be updating to JAWS 2023 and anyone could send their experiences or feedback to her. Ms. LeHew stated that she also met with 2 Humana representatives regarding AT. She noted that Humana wanted to have a greater presence in Arizona and was researching how to reach patients through AT.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.