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

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The motion to approve of the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

TVI Training Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had been discussing whether to hold a training for Teachers of Visually Impaired (TVI) students on how to use technology for virtual instruction. Bea Shapiro stated that many teachers had moved to a hybrid model of in person and online teaching and could still benefit from technology training. Bea Shapiro stated that once the committee had identified the topics of training, Mark Nelson indicated that he would reach out to someone to provide instruction during that training. Bob Kresmer stated he contacted Tressi Smith at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), who indicated that ASDB teachers would not be interested in Assistive Technology (AT) training. Bea Shapiro inquired
whether the committee would still like to consider offering an AT training. Bob Kresmer stated ASDB offered an informal call-in training for teachers to assist with different AT, and less teachers were calling into those trainings. Bob Kresmer noted that ASDB teachers’ top priority was to get students to participate in virtual learning and were not focused on the AT. Bob Kresmer stated the committee could consider offering a training during the summer when teachers might be more likely to attend. Bea Shapiro stated that teachers might be ready for a break during the summer and might not want to attend a training. Ms. Shapiro noted that Bob Kresmer had previously indicated that Janet Fisher, Arizona Talking Book Library, had mentioned offering a training for library staff trying to teach library patrons to use BARD. Bob Kresmer stated Janet Fisher had stated that she would like to work with the committee on a BARD training. Mr. Kresmer stated the committee could also consider offering a training to TVIs in early fall before students came back to school.

Sue LeHew inquired whether students were back at ASDB. Bob Kresmer stated that some students were in the ASDB dorms and were attending classes virtually from their dorm rooms. Sue LeHew stated that the parents might be interested in a training to assist with their online learning. Bea Shapiro noted that it might be more difficult to reach parents to inform them of a training. Bob Kresmer stated that many students had stopped logging into their online learning statewide. Sue LeHew noted that some had moved to online schools also. Ms. LeHew stated the committee could offer a BARD training or offer a training to TVIs in early fall. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could focus on a training TVIs to use AT with their students. Bob Kresmer stated the committee could gauge the interest level of teachers in that type of training. Bob Kresmer stated Janet Fisher had expressed interest in a BARD training to library staff, although she wanted to discuss how that training would be structured. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee should invite Ms. Fisher to the next committee meeting. Bob Kresmer suggested that Bea Shapiro contact Janet Fisher to inquire regarding her preference on the BARD training. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would consider offering a TVI training in August if teachers expressed an interest and she would follow up with Janet Fisher regarding a BARD training.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated HIMS had upgraded the Braille note taker. Ms. Shapiro stated the iPhone had many new apps that helped an individual to navigate their environment without bumping into objects. Bea Shapiro stated MIT had developed a new scanning app, which would scan documents and pictures. Bob Kresmer inquired whether committee members were familiar
with the Mantis Braille display. Bea Shapiro stated the Mantis Braille display was an integrated refreshable Braille display that had a Qwerty keyboard. Sue LeHew stated the Braille display was a 40-cell refreshable Braille and was compatible with Windows 8 and above. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Braille display was lightweight and plastic. Bea Shapiro stated her recollection that the Braille display was lightweight and likely a durable plastic. Bob Kresmer inquired who distributed the Mantis Braille display. Bea Shapiro stated the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) distributed the Braille display.

**Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for April 21, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- BARD Training Discussion
- AT Trends
- VRATE Presentation Discussion

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

Nancy Grayson stated she had been encouraged to participate on a GCBVI committee and was attending meetings to get an idea of their activities. Ms. Grayson stated she was in the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program and had enrolled in the iCanConnect program, which had been slow, and she inquired whether the committee had any tips for expediting the process. Bea Shapiro stated the iCanConnect was previously administered by the Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD) and had been taken over by the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) within the past couple of years. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Nancy Grayson had requested new AT. Nancy Grayson stated she had just received her 3rd MacPro, although she was waiting on other technologies to arrive. Nancy Grayson stated she had been a VR client for quite a while before her VR counselor had suggested Ms. Grayson enroll in the iCanConnect program. Kerry Bernard stated Monique Perry was the ADA Coordinator for the Department of Economic Security (DES) and would be able to follow up on Ms. Grayson’s concerns. Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI was in the process of developing a checklist of training that new counselors should receive and how to share their knowledge with clients and thanked Nancy Grayson for reiterating the need to for that training.
Nancy Grayson stated that she had been involved in social media and suggested the committee offer TVI trainings on YouTube so teachers could access the training at any time convenient to them. Kerry Bernard agreed and suggested the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) be involved in those trainings also. Mr. Bernard noted the committee could gauge the level of interest with parents as well because all parents were struggling to assist their children in accessing online learning. Bob Kresmer agreed and noted the difficulties in marketing YouTube trainings to parents and teachers. Bea Shapiro stated the APH also had great YouTube webinars covering a variety of topics. Sue LeHew stated the committee might identify top 5 YouTube trainings to assist parents and teachers. Kerry Bernard stated the committee might be interested in following recent Legislation regarding the establishment of a Statewide ADA Coordinator position that has passed out of the House.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.