

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 25, 2020

**Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Sue LeHew  
Terri Hedgpeth  
Mark Nelson  
Bob Kresmer

**Members Absent**

Ed Gervasoni  
Nathan Pullen

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of February 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to approve the February 26, 2020 meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**AT Trends**

Bea Shapiro stated she attended the CSUN Conference, and noted that not many vendors attended the conference. Bea Shapiro stated she reviewed the new Braille display, that had the Qwerty keyboard and would be launched by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Bea Shapiro stated she also looked at the Orbit, which she found to be a little heavy. Bea Shapiro stated a new company would develop glasses similar to Or Cam. Bea Shapiro stated the new Braille Note Touch Plus was also heavy, but allowed the user to scan a document through an app. Terri Hedgpeth stated that the Horizon glasses with the camera would be deactivated and that

anyone with those devices were told to keep them. She noted that AIRA would deactivate those by the end of March, users could attend a one-hour seminar, acquainting them with their Samsung phones. Terri Hedgpeth stated AIRA would also offer a hands free option in April, and noted that most individuals hoped it would include glasses, a camera and wireless capabilities. Bea Shapiro stated AIRA was providing five free minutes for individuals that did not require a long usage time. She noted that if an individual used the free five minutes, they would have to call back using the subscription. Terri Hedgpeth stated that individuals that had AIRA subscriptions, would receive the first five minutes free also, and would have to call back. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that Walgreen's and Target also offered AIRA usage in their stores.

### **TVI Training Discussion**

Lindsey Powers reviewed the survey developed by Terri Hedgpeth to be sent to Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) to identify the types of information the TVIs would be interested in learning regarding Assistive Technology (AT). Sue LeHew inquired whether TVI should be capitalized. Terri Hedgpeth stated she did not include the full acronym of Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TBVI), although that could be added. Ms. LeHew inquired whether blind and visually impaired could also be written as blind/visually impaired. Bea Shapiro stated the survey could indicate blind/visually impaired. Sue LeHew suggested the survey could capitalize Blind/Visually Impaired. Bea Shapiro agreed and noted that Terri Hedgpeth created a great survey. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee planned to distribute the survey in the beginning of April, and inquired whether Sue LeHew received a response regarding whether Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff could create the survey in Survey Monkey. Sue LeHew stated Brandi Coffland indicated that she would pose the question to Kristen Mackey. Bea Shapiro inquired whether committee members had the distribution lists from the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) and other list serves. Bob Kresmer stated the AER list serve was not available, although he could send the survey to an AER contact, who could distribute to the list. Bea Shapiro stated that some of her co-workers were members of AER and could distribute the survey. Mr. Kresmer stated he would also share the survey with staff from the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) to be circulated among the schools and co-operatives. Sue LeHew stated she could also share the survey with AT professionals in the Special Education Department. Terri Hedgpeth inquired whether teachers at Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) should receive the survey as well. Mark Nelson stated there was staff at FBC that supervised or supported TBVIs, and he could send the survey to those

individuals. Bob Kresmer stated he would also send the survey to the AITBVI list serve.

Bea Shapiro inquired how the committee would be able to monitor the data received from the survey. Sue LeHew stated that in the past, RSA staff would create the survey through Survey Monkey, receive and compile the data and send to her. Sue LeHew noted the committee should also share the survey with the Transition Counselors to share with the teachers they work with. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could share the survey with the Statewide Transition Coordinator, to share with his staff. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the RSA staff member that created the survey would also send the survey to the distribution list. Sue LeHew stated that in the past, RSA staff would send her the Survey Monkey link, and she would distribute the link to her contacts. Sue LeHew suggested the committee develop an email message that would indicate who was offering the survey and how the training would be offered. Bea Shapiro stated she would develop an email with that information. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee had intended to offer the training in the Fall, and she hoped that the current health concerns regarding the pandemic would be better by then. Sue LeHew stated that if the committee distributed the surveys early while the teachers were still working from home, the committee might receive a better response rate. Sue LeHew noted the email message could include language that indicated the committee would follow guidance from the different entities regarding meetings. Terri Hedgpeth stated she would send information that she received regarding the language used. Sue LeHew stated the email could indicate that the committee would follow the Federal and State guidelines and practices for gatherings. Sue LeHew inquired whether there was a standard introduction from the AT Committee. Bea Shapiro stated the email could indicate the GCBVI was sponsoring the AT Committee's training to support TBVI training. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could consider offering the training through online platforms such as Zoom, which would allow more teachers to attend remotely.

Sue LeHew inquired whether the survey email subject line should read, Important: AZ TVI Survey- Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the subject line include a catchy message such as, Just For You: Interest Survey for AZ TVI. Mark Nelson suggested the subject line include AT before Interest. Sue LeHew stated the subject line could be Just For You: AT Interest Survey for AZ TBVI. Bea Shapiro stated that if the survey was ready, it could be distributed the first week of April. Sue LeHew stated that if Data Unit staff was creating the Survey Monkey, she would likely be busy with other reports and Libera testing. Bea Shapiro stated the survey could be distributed mid-April. Ms. Shapiro inquired whether the committee could use Survey Monkey to create a free survey. Terri Hedgpeth

stated the committee would likely be able to develop a survey if necessary and that individual would receive the survey data.

### **Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for April 15, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- TBVI Training Discussion
- AT Trends

### **Announcements**

Sue LeHew announced that she had not heard whether the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) Conference would continue to be held in June, or whether it would be postponed.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

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