

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
April 15, 2020

**Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Sue LeHew  
Terri Hedgpeth  
Bob Kresmer  
Ed Gervasoni  
Nathan Pullen

**Members Absent**

Mark Nelson

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of March 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the March 25, 2020 meeting minutes. Terri Hedgpeth seconded the motion. Bea Shapiro requested that AIRA be capitalized in the corrected minutes. Terri Hedgpeth requested that Rehabilitation be corrected in the minutes as well. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**AT Trends**

Terri Hedgpeth stated that Amazon was selling a lanyard that could be worn around the neck for a cell phone. Dr. Hedgpeth stated the Bone Cell lanyard holder was \$15.00 and allowed the individual to still use the camera on the phone. Terri Hedgpeth stated the lanyard holder was silicone and could be used for iPhones and Android phones.

Terri Hedgpeth stated the iPhone SE was announced and would be available for order on Friday. She noted the iPhone was \$400 for 64 gigs, \$450 for 128 gigs and \$550 for 250 gigs. Terri Hedgpeth stated the phone would have dual stem capacity, finger print sensor, and the processor that was in the iPhone 11 and 11 Pro. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that the new iPhone would not be as sophisticated as the iPhone 11. Terri Hedgpeth stated the new iPhone would be as sophisticated as the iPhone 11, although the screen size was smaller. Terri Hedgpeth stated the new phone would have the retina display, but would not have the LED refresh that was included in the iPhone 11. Bea Shapiro stated the HumanWare app would include videos and training for their products. Terri Hedgpeth stated the videos were geared towards teachers and parents of blind and visually impaired students. Ms. Shapiro stated Zoom was offering a free book to teach individuals to use Zoom for virtual meetings. Terri Hedgpeth stated the Zoom book offered more information than was necessary to access a Zoom meeting. Ed Gervasoni stated that more professionals and teachers were using Zoom and Google Meets to contact their clients and students, which posed challenges in using those platforms. Terri Hedgpeth stated Dot Inc. was offering a new Braille display with 16 cells. Terri Hedgpeth stated the National Braille Press was offering three books for download, in which one included information on how to get food delivered.

### **TVI Training Discussion**

Bea Shapiro inquired whether Sue LeHew received an update regarding the Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) survey. Sue LeHew stated her understanding that the survey would be sent to Brandi Coffland, who would forward to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Data Unit to be created via Survey Monkey. Bea Shapiro stated the Data Unit would create the Survey Monkey link and the committee members could then distribute the survey to their contacts. Sue LeHew reviewed the Introduction information that indicated the intent of the TVI training. Terri Hedgpeth suggested including the Introduction information in the email of the survey as well as on the actual survey. Sue LeHew stated the email would include the link to the survey, which would include the Introduction information. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Brandi Coffland was aware of how the survey would be distributed. Sue LeHew stated the Data Unit would create the survey, and the committee members would distribute to their contact lists. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee would receive the survey link in time to distribute to the TVIs prior to the end of the school year. Sue LeHew inquired whether the committee would like to request a deadline for individuals completing the survey. Bea Shapiro stated that individuals could be asked to complete the survey by the end of the school year, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committee request the

survey be completed prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee intended to send the surveys to the Special Education Directors as well. Bea Shapiro stated the committee discussed sending the survey to the Transition School to Work (TSW) staff also. Sue LeHew stated the committee could send the survey to Abel Young, TSW Statewide Coordinator, to be distributed to TSW staff. Bea Shapiro stated the survey could be sent to Sue Kay Kneifel to be distributed to Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) staff.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether committee members participated in a webinar through the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) regarding engaging BVI students through distance learning. Ed Gervasoni stated he attended the webinar. Bob Kresmer stated FBC provided the Part 1 webinar, in which 984 individuals participated nationwide including individuals from other countries. Mr. Kresmer stated committee members could go to FBC's website and register for the Part 2 webinar and listen to the recording of the first webinar. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the webinar was offered through Zoom, which allowed the webinar to be distributed to a wider list. Terri Hedgpeth stated the individual organizing the webinar would create the distribution list, and could allow individuals to forward the webinar invitation to their contacts also.

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

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for May 20, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- TBVI Survey Discussion
- AT Trends
- VRATE Presentation Discussion

### **Announcements**

Bob Kresmer announced that Penny Rosenblum had retired from the University of Arizona and was now the Director of Research for the American Foundation for the Blind. Mr. Kresmer announced that Brian Miller, Federal RSA, had passed away from COVID 19.

Sue LeHew announced that the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) Conference scheduled for June had been cancelled, and the organization might offer webinars in lieu of a conference.

Terri Hedgpeth stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Board added language to the contract to indicate that if social

distancing was still required in November, the VRATE Board would be refunded for the cost of the deposit. She noted the VRATE Board would begin planning the speaker's sessions at VRATE.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

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