

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mark Nelson

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Dr. Kallie Harrier, View Finder

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of March 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

BARD Training Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had discussed whether members could provide training to Arizona Talking Book library patrons on accessing BARD. Ms. Shapiro stated she contacted Janet Fisher, who indicated that most library patrons used the provided digital machines to access audio books and library resources. Bob Kresmer stated the library offered the cassette players, although more patrons would likely access library resources such as BARD and Newline through smart phones or devices such as Alexa. Bob Kresmer stated that many individuals attempted to use BARD but had difficulty accessing it and continued to use their library issued cassette players. Bea Shapiro inquired whether individuals were accessing BARD

through Newsline. Bob Kresmer stated individuals accessed Newsline through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) through smart phones or devices such as Alexa. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that individuals would need the correct commands to access BARD and Newsline via their phones or Alexa.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether Janet Fisher had indicated that most individuals were satisfied with using their cartridges to access library resources. Bea Shapiro stated that Janet Fisher had indicated that most individuals were happy to use their cartridges. Ms. Shapiro noted that Ms. Fisher did express the continued challenge with reaching community members not familiar with the library's services, such as individuals residing in Independent Living (IL) centers. Sue LeHew inquired whether the Talking Book Library had any literature or information that could be distributed to the community. Bea Shapiro stated she was unsure, although she did mention that the EyeKnow.AZ database could be updated. Bea Shapiro noted the EyeKnow.AZ database information was based on the Resource Directory that was previously distributed by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Bob Kresmer stated that RSA used to distribute the Resource Directory to new Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients, although that information was now included in the database.

Bob Kresmer noted that many individuals accessed the Talking Book Library, such as students, and had difficulty accessing BARD. Sue LeHew stated that if the library had information that could be distributed, the library could disseminate that information to schools. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the committee would need to know what the Talking Book Library wanted to accomplish before committee members could help. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would invite Janet Fisher to attend the next committee meeting and discuss whether the committee could aid the library.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated Apple had released new devices that allowed individuals to locate items, such as their wallet or keys. Nathan Pullen stated the apps were accessible through the "Find My" app. Mr. Pullen stated Apple was also releasing new keyboards with fingerprint encryption for security. Bea Shapiro agreed and noted the Apple was also releasing iPhones in new colors.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee should begin thinking about the committee's presentation at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Ms. Shapiro stated the committee had previously

presented on virtual meeting and interview etiquette, which was a good presentation. Bob Kresmer stated that an ongoing problem was that eye care professionals did not offer resources to blind or visually impaired individuals such as information on AT or IL. Bob Kresmer inquired whether VRATE would be an appropriate venue to invite eye care professionals to attend to learn more about the available resources. Bea Shapiro stated VRATE focused on employment, rehabilitation, and AT. Bob Kresmer stated that in previous years, the council would distribute information to eye care professionals, although the information would often be left with someone working at the front desk and would not get distributed. Kallie Harrier stated that View Finder offered a comprehensive guide of about 60 pages to individuals although many offices did not have a lot of time to offer information to individuals. Bob Kresmer inquired whether View Finder received a lot of referrals from eye care professionals. Kallie Harrier stated View Finder did receive a lot of referrals from Dr's offices. Bob Kresmer inquired whether View Finder performed outreach to the community. Dr. Harrier stated she was responsible for marketing and would be reaching out to eye care professionals. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that eye care professionals would benefit from knowing about the resources available to blind and visually impaired individuals. Bob Kresmer inquired how View Finder would encourage individuals to attend VRATE. Kallie Harrier stated she had not attended VRATE before, although View Finder was updating their website, which could include information about the conference. Sue LeHew inquired whether doctors could receive CEUs for attending the conference. Kallie Harrier stated that she and Dr. Grandela were in the process of submitting requests to offer CEUs, and they could inquire about VRATE as well. Kallie Harrier inquired regarding the date of VRATE. Bea Shapiro stated VRATE was scheduled for November 19th. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired when the committee would decide on the presentation for VRATE and noted the committee would need to provide the format for the presentation in order to offer CEUs. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that Kallie Harrier would speak to Dr. Grandela regarding CEUs. Kallie Harrier stated she would speak to Dr. Grandela and let the committee know about the CEUs. Sue LeHew stated that Dr. Grandela and Dr. Harrier could provide their own presentation, or they could present with the AT Committee at VRATE. Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee could collaborate with View Finder to provide a presentation. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired whether general public members would still be attending VRATE. Bob Kresmer confirmed and noted the conference would be held virtually again, which would allow more individuals to attend. Karla Rivas-Parker agreed that CEUs would likely entice more professionals to attend the conference. Bea Shapiro stated that Kallie Harrier agreed to discuss whether CEUs could be offered and would let the committee know at the next meeting. She noted the committee could then begin discussing potential presentation topics.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for May 19, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- BARD Training Discussion
- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.