

**Draft**  
**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 15, 2024

**Attendance**

**Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Bob Kresmer  
Karla Rivas-Parker  
Nathan Pullen  
Jeff Bishop

**Members Absent**

Sue LeHew

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the October 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

**AT Committee Updates**

Bea Shapiro stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) was scheduled for November at Ability 360. Ms. Shapiro suggested the committee provide a presentation regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and noted that Jeff Bishop would have experience presenting on this topic. Jeff Bishop stated the committee could focus on the current state of technology and AI from an individual and government perspective. He noted the committee could discuss the pros and cons, what is its intent, and whether it could be used as an accommodation in employment and education. Bea Shapiro agreed and stated that AI was a new technology and

there were many different areas to consider. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that more technologies were using AI as part of their services. Bob Kresmer inquired whether AI used with JAWS provided better accessibility with graphics. Karla Rivas-Parker stated AI did help with graphics accessibility. Jeff Bishop noted that AI was a tool, but it was not always 100% accurate. Bob Kresmer noted the audience at VRATE was mostly older individuals or teachers and could appreciate an introduction to AI. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would likely have 1 hour to present, although she could request to have 2 hours. She noted that VRATE would be partnering with AER, which would likely bring in more educators. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the individual in charge of presenters at VRATE. Bea Shapiro stated that it was a committee, and she would contact them with questions. Jeff Bishop agreed that it would be beneficial for the committee to be able to present for 2 hours. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee would prefer to offer 2 presentations concurrently or split them up. Karla Rivas-Parker stated it might be beneficial to split up the presentations with lunch to allow individuals time to think about the information. Bob Kresmer noted that in previous years, some attendees would leave the conference at lunchtime. Bea Shapiro stated that she would inquire whether the committee could be allotted 2 hours for presentations.

Bea Shapiro stated that she would like to continue with offering the AT Committee's podcast and she would schedule a time with Jeff Bishop to discuss the next podcast. Ms. Shapiro stated that she sent the link to Sun Sounds with the committee's podcasts to Mr. Bishop to review.

### **AT Trends**

Nathan Pullen stated that he attended the CSUN Conference, which was very well attended. He noted there were several large tech companies with new devices such as a vest, a camera eyeglass, a ping AI device, and a robot guide dog.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) client could contact AzTAP for technology or equipment. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that AzTAP could provide technology to VR clients as well as basic training. Nathan Pullen stated that if individuals were having difficulties procuring AT through VR, they could contact him directly as well, and he would try to expedite the process.

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

The next meetings of the Assistive Technology Committee were scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Committee Activities Discussion

- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

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

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.