

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
May 20, 2020

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Ed Gervasoni

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

Marilyn Henry

---

**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 April 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Nathan Pullen motioned to approve the April 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Terri Hedgpeth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**TVBI Training/Survey Discussion**

Bea Shapiro inquired whether committee members were able to fill out the Teachers of Blind and Visually Impaired (TBVI) students. Bob Kresmer stated Terri Hedgpeth had mentioned that she was unable to access the survey and inquired whether that had been resolved. Terri Hedgpeth stated that Lindsey Powers was able to make that change to the survey so that everyone could access it. Terri Hedgpeth noted that a couple of committee members met and made some small edits to the survey. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the survey was ready for distribution. Bea Shapiro stated Lindsey Powers forwarded the survey spreadsheet information with the test

responses that had been received so far. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the spreadsheet added up the responses to the questions. Lindsey Powers stated the Google Survey form included a response page with the percentages of the each response. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the spreadsheet would identify the contact information of each individual. Bea Shapiro stated the survey requested the individual's email and the individual's name, phone number and organization were optional. Sue LeHew inquired whether the survey should include the individual's title. Sue LeHew suggested the survey request the individual's job title before the request for the phone number. Bob Kresmer stated he would be interested to know how many individuals were TBVIs, paraprofessionals, Braillists, or another profession. Sue LeHew stated the survey could be confusing if the survey title was for TBVIs, and inquired whether the scope of the survey should be broader. Bob Kresmer stated the school districts, superintendents, and co-operatives would be forwarded the survey to their contacts, and inquired how the committee would be able to discern the title of each respondent. Sue LeHew inquired whether the title should include "support staff". Bea Shapiro stated the survey could be sent to the wrong individuals if the title was too general. Sue LeHew suggested the title include "TBVI specialists", and the individual could enter their job title. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee wanted to distribute the survey to additional staff. Terri Hedgpeth noted the survey would be forwarded to many additional staff. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee wanted to include the additional field of job title. Sue LeHew suggested the survey title include TBVI specialists, and also enter a job title field. Bob Kresmer stated that when an individual responded to the survey, the spreadsheet should be able to separate out the individual's job titles. Terri Hedgpeth stated the survey could include a job title field, which would offer that information. Sue LeHew suggested the title include "and related staff". Mark Nelson stated the title could include "and related positions". Bob Kresmer stated that "related staff" would identify who was responding to the survey. Bea Shapiro stated that title would allow the committee to obtain the necessary information.

Ms. Shapiro stated the committee did not know if schools would be allowing students and teachers to return to school in the fall, and inquired whether the committee should consider a virtual workshop using a platform such as Zoom. Mark Nelson stated Zoom worked well for sighted and individuals with low vision, but did not work for blind individuals. Bea Shapiro stated she attended a Zoom presentation with AT vendors, and noted the attendees could not hold the devices but they were described in detail. Bea Shapiro noted the AT training would be a great opportunity for TBVI staff. Bob Kresmer stated the committee would likely receive greater participation from staff that would be unable to travel to the training. Bea Shapiro agreed that

individuals in rural areas would be able to attend a virtual training easier than an in person training. Bea Shapiro suggested the committee invite some AT vendors to attend the training and discuss different products. Bob Kresmer agreed that vendors would have knowledge of the various AT products. Terri Hedgpeth stated that Zoom was a great platform, but inquired whether the council would have access to a Zoom account. Bea Shapiro stated the Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) had not purchased a Zoom license yet, due to the potential security risks. Mark Nelson stated he had a Zoom account. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could use Google Meets or Hangouts, which DES currently used. Bea Shapiro stated that unfortunately Google Meets would not show ASL interpreters for any deaf or hard of hearing attendees. Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the number of individuals that could attend a meeting through Mark Nelson's Zoom account. Mark Nelson stated his account would allow 100 individuals to attend a meeting. Terri Hedgpeth inquired whether Mark Nelson was able to hold several concurrent sessions. Mark Nelson stated he did not think so, but he would check. Bob Kresmer stated that if the committee was considering a virtual meeting, the survey form should include that information. Bea Shapiro stated that if the committee members agreed, the training should be offered virtually. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committee send out the surveys now and again at the beginning of the school year. Bea Shapiro agreed that the survey could be sent out twice. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the survey should identify that the training would be offered virtually. Bea Shapiro stated the survey email could be modified to indicate that the workshop would be offered virtually. Terri Hedgpeth motioned that the AT and Education Committee offer a virtual training to TBVI staff. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **AT Trends**

Mark Nelson stated the most recent AT trend was the increase in virtual leaning and meetings, which was a silver lining to the recent events. Bea Shapiro stated that some individuals would not be familiar with using Zoom and inquired how the committee could assist those individuals. Terri Hedgpeth stated the AT Committee would direct those individuals to the appropriate training resources. Bob Kresmer stated that many older individuals were not familiar with smart phones and devices to download books through BARD. Mr. Kresmer suggested the AT Committee partner with the Arizona Talking Book Library to provide a training to individuals interested in accessing BARD. Bob Kresmer stated the Talking Book Library currently offered training to individuals or small groups, and inquired whether there was a better method for providing that training. Terri

Hedgpeth stated the committee could develop a tutorial that could be sent to the individual on a thumb drive or a library cartridge.

### **VRATE Presentation Discussion**

Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) had been cancelled. Terri Hedgpeth stated that VRATE would not be held as an in person conference, although the VRATE Board was considering offering virtual presentations. Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee had planned to discuss the type of presentation to offer at VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the AT Committee wait until the VRATE Board had decided whether to hold a virtual conference.

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

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for June 17, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- TBVI Survey/Training Discussion
- AT Trends
- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Committee/Talking Book Training Discussion

### **Announcements**

Bob Kresmer stated the National Federation of the Blind National and State Conventions would be held virtually.

### **Public Comment**

Marilyn Henry stated she had an ATP certification and a parent with macular degeneration and thanked the committee for allowing her to attend the meeting.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Mark Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.