

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Reggie Laister
David Steinmetz
Bea Shapiro

Members Absent

Terell Welch
Jonathan Pringle

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 2:05 am. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of the April 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Bea Shapiro motioned to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2023 meeting. Reggie Laister seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Event Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated the committee members were continuing to plan for the next E75 event in the Fall and had been reaching out to businesses, HR professionals, job coaches and anyone that was hiring. Reggie Laister stated he was successful in reaching out to Amazon in Tucson, and they were willing to participate in the upcoming E75 event. He noted that he would follow up with them when he received a tour of the warehouse. Nathan Pullen agreed that would be a good foot in the door with Amazon, and potentially some of their HR professionals. Bea Shapiro stated she reached out to an employer in Tucson but had not heard back yet. Reggie Laister stated he worked with Project Search, which had a paid internship program and inquired whether they would be a good resource for the committee. Nathan Pullen stated his understanding that Project Search worked primarily with individuals with developmental disabilities and noted that he planned to reach out to the Disability Resource Center regarding student work opportunities as well. Reggie Laister noted that Project Search did provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities, although they hired individuals with all disabilities and had hired a visually impaired individual as an editor. Nathan Pullen stated they would be a good resource. He noted that he also reached out to Brian Dulude and Jami Parente with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) regarding the top three employers of blind and visually impaired individuals but had not heard back yet. David Steinmetz stated he was familiar with Project Search also and noted that Arizona Industries for the Blind had hired a couple of individuals after their internships. Reggie Laister inquired whether there was a list of the employers that had been contacted already. Nathan Pullen stated the committee had discussed contacting SRP, APS, Amazon, and Peckham as a potential backup. Mr. Pullen stated that Josh Sauter, who attended the previous meeting, had agreed to be a speaker at the next E75 event also. Nathan Pullen stated that Lindsey Powers could send out a list of the employers that received the E75 Save the Dates, and committee members could suggest any additional employers to be included.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for June 14, 2023. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Reggie Laister seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.