

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021

Members Present

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

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 3:15 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of May 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the May 19, 2021, meeting minutes. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

BARD Training Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the AT Outreach Workgroup met to discuss ways to provide outreach and to inform the community about BARD. Bea Shapiro stated the workgroup decided to partner with Sun Sounds and develop an AT podcast about different topics. Ms. Shapiro stated that Christine Tuttle, for example, would discuss BARD and the process for registering to become a user of the Arizona Talking Book Library. Bob Kresmer noted the podcast would be recorded and that library staff could provide a list of the most commonly asked questions regarding AT and equipment. Bea Shapiro stated

that Janet Fisher had indicated the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) was encouraging library users to use BARD to access library materials before requesting a machine. Bob Kresmer stated the goal of the podcasts were to spread information about the library to the community. Bea Shapiro stated the podcasts would be recorded monthly, although the recordings could potentially be played weekly. She noted that she envisioned inviting different individuals to provide information on different AT topics for each podcast.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Sue LeHew stated that in order to qualify for CRC credits, the presentation would need to have a certain word count. Ms. LeHew inquired whether the committee intended to offer different CRC credits for Dr. Grandela's presentation and the presentation regarding functional vision assessments. Bea Shapiro Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would have a new presentation format this year, although it would be beneficial to offer different educational credits for each presentation. Sue LeHew stated that Dr. Grandela might be able to add more notes in his Power Point presentation, which would increase the word count for educational credits. Sue LeHew stated the committee would then submit the Power Point and a presentation outline for CRC credit consideration. Bea Shapiro stated she would prefer to submit the paperwork for CRC consideration so that the information could be included on the VRATE website. Kallie Harrier inquired whether she should request that Dr. Grandela add additional notes to each Power Point slide. Bea Shapiro stated the VRATE workgroup would meet to discuss the Power Point presentation, although Dr. Harrier could give Dr. Grandela a brief update.

Sue LeHew inquired regarding the presentation times. Bea Shapiro stated that all presenters would have 75 minutes to provide a recorded presentation for VRATE. Sue LeHew inquired whether individuals could ask live questions after the presentation. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that individuals would be allowed to ask questions. Sue LeHew suggested the committee submit the CRC credit for a 1-hour presentation. Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the title of the presentation so that it could be included on the VRATE outline paperwork. Karla Rivas-Parker noted that Dr. Grandela's Power Point likely had a title on his presentation. Lindsey Powers stated the Power Point title was *Adapting for Independence: Low Vision Rehabilitation*. Bea Shapiro stated she would contact Christine Tuttle to inquire how the presentations should be recorded. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that VRATE had been approved for CEUs, although it had expired in 2018 and was told to contact the President of AER to see if VRATE could be covered under AER. Bob Kresmer inquired whether anyone could obtain CEU

credits when attending the presentation. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that anyone would be eligible for CEUs. Sue LeHew stated the committee would be providing 2 presentations and suggested the title for VRATE indicate that it would cover medical and functional aspects of vision assessments. Bea Shapiro stated she would let Dan Martinez know that the committee was developing the presentation outline and would decide on a title. Bob Kresmer inquired whether VRATE had scheduled the presentations yet. Bea Shapiro stated the presentation schedule had not been created, although she would request a morning presentation.

AT Trends

Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she received a call from an individual requesting a magnifier app for an Android phone. Ms. Rivas-Parker stated she was able to find 2 apps that allowed the user to turn the light on and off, increase and decrease the magnification, change the color contrast, and freeze the image. Bea Shapiro stated that some iOS apps, such as Be My Eyes, were also available on Android devices. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that Android devices were offering more accessible apps. Bob

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee/VRATE Workgroup was scheduled for July 12, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion

Announcements

Karla Rivas-Parker stated the virtual IHD Conference would be held July 7-9 and individuals could still register to attend for \$50.00 through the website.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.