

Draft

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

Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair

Nathan Pullen

Bob Kresmer

Sue LeHew

Members Absent

Jeff Bishop

Karla Rivas-Parker

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm, Phoenix, AZ.

Introductions

Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Call to the Public

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

Approval of Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had requested to have a classroom setting for their upcoming presentation at Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE), which would include a morning and afternoon session on Artificial Intelligence (AI). She noted that Jeff Bishop would be compiling and distributing information for individuals to take home also. Ms. Shapiro stated the classroom would be somewhat small and would accommodate about 25 individuals. She added the announcement on the VRATE website would require that individuals register to attend the presentation due to the limited seating. Sue LeHew noted that 25 individuals would be plenty because individuals would have different skill levels. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee would have access to electricity during the presentation. Bea Shapiro stated that she requested outlets although the Wi-Fi was not great at the previous VRATE event. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding alternate methods for offering Wi-Fi to attendees. Bea Shapiro stated that individuals could potentially bring or use hot spots and inquired whether there would be a limit to the number of individuals using a hot spot. Nathan Pullen stated that it would depend on what the individuals were using the hot spots for, although he could bring a couple of hot spots for the presentations. Bea Shapiro stated that it would be a good idea, and she would discuss that option with the VRATE Board also. Sue LeHew suggested that individuals bring their own headsets also, to limit any noise from devices or screen readers.

AT Committee Outreach

Bea Shapiro stated that Jeff Bishop was still working on finishing and posting the committee's podcast. She noted that she would like to invite the VRATE Chair to the next podcast to discuss the upcoming VRATE event and then invite individuals to attend upcoming podcasts.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro inquired whether anyone was following the Apple updates. She noted the next iOS would be iOS26, which would coincide with the year. Bea Shapiro stated Apple would also have a floating interface and she was unsure how accessible it would be for individuals with visual impairments. Ms. Shapiro inquired whether there would be a lot of exhibitors at the AzTAP conference. Nathan Pullen stated there would be a lot of exhibitors for individuals with all disabilities, although they often had several exhibitors for the blind and low vision population.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Council Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for July 16th. The agenda items are:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Outreach
- AT Trends

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.