Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated that if the AT Committee were allotted 2 hours to present at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE), the first hour could be about the medical aspects of low vision evaluations and the second hour could be about the functional aspect which included the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process. Bea Shapiro noted the second hour, for example, could show the counselors how to read an eye chart. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the second hour would target counselors only. Bea Shapiro stated that everyone could benefit from the second presentation and noted that many optometrists were not familiar with low vision evaluations. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired whether the workgroup members had reviewed the Power Point from Dr. Grandela. Bob Kresmer stated that Dr. Grandela had reviewed the Power Point at the previous meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the Power Point did discuss the resources available to individuals after receiving a diagnosis. Ms. Rivas-Parker noted the presentation had been approved for attendees to receive CEUs, and he was seeking additional credits as well. Bea Shapiro stated that individuals might not be aware of all the Assistive Technology (AT) equipment that was
available beyond the basic AT often distributed by doctors. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would not be providing an AT demonstration during the presentation, although individuals would benefit from learning about some options. Bea Shapiro stated that counselors tended to either be reluctant to purchase AT for VR clients or purchase expensive devices, such as an Or Cam, that clients are not familiar with or know how to use. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the Or Cam was a wearable OCR device in eye glass frame, which would read text, and could also provide face recognition to the wearer. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the Or Cam would attach to any glasses and the camera would face the front with the audio available as an over the earpiece or Bluetooth.

Bea Shapiro stated the first hour presentation would offer a brief synopsis of a low vision evaluation and the second hour could provide instruction for reading an eye report. Bea Shapiro stated that Sue LeHew had agreed to write the justification for attendees to receive CRCs for attending the presentation. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the CRCs would be appropriate for ophthalmologists and optometrists. Bea Shapiro stated the CRCs would be for the VR counselors attending the presentation, and Dr. Grandela indicated that his presentation had been approved for ophthalmologists to receive credits. Bea Shapiro stated that attendees could be potentially eligible to receive 3 credentials for attending the presentations. Bea Shapiro stated that she could contact Christine Tuttle, VRATE Chair, regarding the committee’s proposed presentations. She noted that if the committee were unable to get 2 hours to present, the committee would need to consolidate the 2 presentations. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that Dr. Grandela’s presentation was already approved for credits as an hour presentation. Bea Shapiro agreed and noted that she would contact Ms. Tuttle to confirm the committee’s ability to reserve 2 presentation time slots. Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the title of the presentation. Bob Kresmer suggested the title be Functional Low Vision Assessments and How to Understand Them. Karla Rivas-Parker suggested the title be Beyond Eye Diagnoses. Bea Shapiro stated the title could indicate that there were resources available after an eye diagnosis. Bob Kresmer and Karla Rivas-Parker agreed to send any more suggested presentation titles to Bea Shapiro. Bea Shapiro suggested the workgroup meet on a different day of the week to accommodate everyone’s schedule. The workgroup members agreed to meet on Mondays if that day would work better for Dr. Grandela.

**Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the VRATE Workgroup was tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:
• VRATE Presentation Discussion

**Announcements**

Bob Kresmer announced that the AZ Talking Book Library would begin distributing smart phones with BARD for library users.

**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 4:00 pm.