

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
AT Committee/VRATE Workgroup Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2021

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mark Nelson

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Dan Martinez

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of the June 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021 VRATE Workgroup meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. Bea Shapiro requested the minutes be corrected to reflect that Sue LeHew was present at the meeting. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated that she had invited Dan Martinez to give an update regarding the new format for the Vision and Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) presentations. Dan Martinez stated that all VRATE presentations would be 1 hour and would be pre-recorded. Mr. Martinez noted that presenters would be available to answer questions for 15 minutes

after the presentation for a total presentation time of 75 minutes. Dan Martinez stated the recorded presentations would also be available on the VRATE website. Bea Shapiro summarized the first presentation would be about low vision assessments and the second presentation would provide instruction for reading an eye report. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated that he could record the first presentation and could create a rough draft of the second presentation, which would include an example of an eye report. Dan Martinez inquired whether the first presentation would target consumers and the second presentation would target Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and medical professionals. Bea Shapiro stated her hope that the first presentation would target ophthalmologists also because they could learn about the low vision assessment and the resources available for their patients. Dan Martinez inquired how the committee would try to get ophthalmologists and professionals to attend the presentations. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee could advertise the presentations through the various medical associations. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated he could inquire whether the Arizona Ophthalmologist Association would be willing to advertise the presentations, which would be easier if the presentation time was 2 hours. Dan Martinez stated he was unsure how to offer CEUs, although he could investigate that process. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated he was not familiar with other associations such as nurses or ophthalmologists, although committee members could reach out to those groups. Bob Kresmer inquired whether other eye care doctors would be providing presentations at VRATE. Dan Martinez stated he reached out to Foundation Fighting Blindness but had not received a response. Terri Hedgpeth stated that universities and colleges had students with low vision that might be interested in attending as well. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated he would research some of the state ophthalmologist associations. Bob Kresmer stated he would investigate nursing and support staff associations. Dr. Carlos Grandela inquired whether the committee had a budget for advertising through the associations. Bob Kresmer stated the committee did not have a budget, although they could request the information be included in the association newsletters. Terri Hedgpeth stated the committee had distributed the information as a public service announcement rather than a marketing effort.

Bea Shapiro inquired whether the presentations would be recorded by VRATE staff or by the committee. Dan Martinez stated the presenters would record the presentations and VRATE would need to obtain the videos in advance to include captioning. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated he could create a draft of the second presentation by the next meeting and record the first presentation. Dan Martinez stated VRATE would like to get all videos by mid-October. Sue LeHew inquired whether the titles should be the same for each presentation with a Part 1 and 2. Ms. LeHew stated she added some slide information

from Dr. Carlos Grandala's presentation with images that tied into employment and ADA. Dr. Carlos Grandala inquired whether those modifications would be for the second presentation. Sue LeHew stated the modified information could be used for the second presentation. Dan Martinez inquired regarding the preferred presentation time. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would prefer to provide both presentations back-to-back if possible. Bea Shapiro stated that both presentations would be recorded and committee members such as Sue LeHew, Terri Hedgpeth and Karla Rivas-Parker could be available to answer questions after the presentations. Dr. Carlos Grandala suggested the committee prepare some questions before the presentation in case the committee did not receive many questions. Ms. Shapiro stated her preference that the presentations be recorded by the end of September. She noted that she would complete the paperwork regarding the presentations and submit to Dan Martinez.

Sue LeHew stated the committee still needed to decide on the title of the presentations. Dr. Carlos Grandala stated that he liked Sue LeHew's suggestion of both presentations having the same title but separate them out by Part 1 and 2. Sue LeHew suggested the title be Low Vision Rehabilitation for Medical and Rehabilitation Professionals. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the title include medical, rehabilitation and employment professionals. Sue LeHew inquired whether the title should include medical, employment and BVI professionals. Dan Martinez stated the title did not need to include every professional, as it could become too long. Sue LeHew stated she had modified the title to be Low Vision Rehabilitation for Medical, Employment and BVI Professionals, and she would share it with the committee. Terri Hedgpeth stated that most medical professionals would be able to attend the first presentation but might not have time to attend the second. Dr. Carlos Grandala stated he would create the draft of the second presentation and submit it for education credits. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) was a sponsor of VRATE, due to providing the ASL interpreters for the event. Sue LeHew stated that if RSA were considered a sponsor of VRATE, it would allow the committee to offer CRCs to attendees. Bea Shapiro stated that Shauna Holton was going to investigate whether RSA was considered a sponsor of VRATE. Sue LeHew suggested the second presentation provide information for an individual with low vision, an individual that lost their vision and was seeking employment and an individual with vision loss that was seeking different employment. Karla Rivas-Parker stated the technology would be the same for all individuals. Sue LeHew agreed, although the functional employment would be different for each group. Dr. Carlos Grandala stated the committee could request that multiple individuals present, which would be easier due to the presentations being pre-recorded. He noted the committee could decide on the speakers once he had developed the draft

second presentation. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated his understanding that the first presentation would be geared more towards consumers and the second presentation would focus more on the reports. Sue LeHew agreed and noted the rehabilitation path was different for each even though the technology would be the same. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated the committee could encourage attendees to attend the second presentation at the end of the first presentation.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the VRATE Workgroup was scheduled for August 4, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Carlos Grandela seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.