

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

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Reggie Laister
Jonathan Pringle
Bea Shapiro

Members Absent

Josh Sauter
Terell Welch
David Steinmetz

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Penny Perry

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of the June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

David Steinmetz motioned to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting. Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Event Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated that Lindsey Powers submitted the E75 invite to the Department of Economic Security (DES) Graphics and Design Unit for an update, and she would share that with the Committee once it was done. Jonathan Pringle stated the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) was involved in the NDEA Conference, and he believed an individual from Arizona would be featured at the event. Nathan Pullen stated Terell Welch had been working with the Mayo Clinic and they would receive a tour from the doctor that was trying to hire blind and visually impaired individuals to work there. Reggie Laister stated he received a tour of two Amazon warehouses, and one seemed to be more prepared to hire blind and visually impaired individuals. Mr. Laister noted that both warehouses were willing to hire blind and visually impaired individuals, although one just needed more experience in accommodating individuals. Nathan Pullen stated the Amazon employers could still attend the E75 event and could learn more about hiring individuals with visual impairments. Reggie Laister stated the National Federation of the Blind State Convention on August 24th would include an Employment Panel and several employers would be invited to participate on that. Jonathan Pringle stated that Amazon was doing great nationally to hire an inclusive workforce, although it took time for those efforts to trickle down to the local level. Mr. Laister noted that any advocacy at a local level would be beneficial for the business. Reggie Laister agreed that Amazon was willing to learn, they just weren't experienced in hiring blind and visually impaired individuals.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for August 8, 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 1:20 p.m.