

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2020

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Sue LeHew
Bob Kresmer
Nathan Pullen
Mark Nelson

Members Absent

Terri Hedgpeth
Ed Gervasoni

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of June 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Nathan Pullen motioned to approve the June 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Mark Nelson seconded the motion. Sue LeHew requested the minutes be corrected to indicate that she had suggested the committee develop a list of resources and videos for individuals to use their smart phones. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

TVBI Training/Survey Discussion

Bea Shapiro inquired whether committee members had time to review the survey responses received thus far. Sue LeHew inquired regarding the number of TVI teachers in the state. Bob Kresmer stated the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) list serve did not include all TVIs across the state. Bea Shapiro stated that school would likely start in 3-4 weeks and the committee could resend the survey then to obtain more responses from teachers. Ms. Shapiro noted that not all individuals included their names on the survey, but most of the

individuals did include their emails. Mark Nelson stated that most individuals did not indicate an interest in teaching any topics of training, although one individual indicated she would teach on Braille and voiceover on the iPad. Mark Nelson stated that individuals indicated the most interest in learning about blindness strategies for learning, screen readers, and voiceover for iPad. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had previously discussed holding the training virtually via Zoom and noted that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff would likely have Zoom accounts by that time. Bob Kresmer stated that once the committee had identified the areas of interest, did the committee intend to hold 2-3 trainings concurrently, or separate trainings. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would likely receive more responses after resending the survey to teachers. Mr. Kresmer stated that once the committee had analyzed the areas of interest, would the committee send a second survey to inquire about interest in those areas. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had discussed holding concurrent sessions and inquired whether any committee members had attended a conference with several concurrent sessions. Mark Nelson stated that large presentations required one individual to present and one individual to moderate by watching for raised hands and monitor the chat box. Mark Nelson stated that someone would need to press the button for breakout sessions also. Bea Shapiro inquired whether it was easy to see who raised their hand first. Mark Nelson stated he was unsure, although that would be difficult with a large number of participants. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee would include captioning also. Mark Nelson stated that if an individual requested captioning, the committee would provide that service. Sue LeHew stated the committee should consider offering ASL interpreting and CART services for the training. Bea Shapiro stated that individuals could request accommodations during registration for the training, and the committee would be able to provide that.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee would send out a second survey inquiring whether individuals were interested in 1 or 2 topics of training or both. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Bob Kresmer was suggesting the committee send out a different survey. Bob Kresmer suggested the committee use the first survey to gauge the areas of interest, and then send out a second survey, inquiring whether individuals would sign up for area of interest 1 or 2 or both. Bea Shapiro stated the committee intended to resend the survey right before or after teachers had returned to school. Sue LeHew suggested the committee wait until teachers had returned to school. Ms. LeHew stated she located an Arizona Department of Education (ADE) inbox that the committee could forward the survey to. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee had enough information to decide which topics would be offered during the training. Bea Shapiro stated that individuals expressed interest in 3-4 areas thus far. Mark Nelson stated the

committee could split up the 7 topics and present 4 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. Sue LeHew stated that 7 topics might be too much for the first training, and suggested the committee offer one training at a time. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee could combine the top areas of interest. Mark Nelson stated the committee could offer training on low vision strategies for learning and low vision AT, blindness strategies for learning and Braille, screen readers and Chrome book, and voice over for iPad. Mr. Nelson noted that if the Braille training was on Braille display, it might fit better under screen readers. Bob Kresmer advised the committee against teaching Braille, but instead focus on the AT. Sue LeHew stated that question 5 inquired regarding any additional areas of training and noted there was interest in Braille display training as well. Mark Nelson stated that training could cover notetakers as well. Mr. Nelson stated there were a couple of teachers that indicated an interest in teaching. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would tally the responses and send the second survey once the teachers had returned to the classrooms. She noted the committee would then decide the number of sessions, although her preference was to offer 4 training sessions. Sue LeHew inquired whether the second survey would be the same survey, or a different survey. Bea Shapiro stated the committee would resend the same survey. Mark Nelson inquired whether Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) might have an email contact with the ADE. Sue LeHew stated that AzTAP would likely have a contact or email list with the ADE.

AT Trends

Mark Nelson stated a large print Bluetooth version keyboard was available, although it was smaller and did not have a number pad. He noted that he inquired whether the distributor planned to release a full-size keyboard. Mark Nelson stated he also told the distributor that individuals would benefit from a keyboard with a number pad due to the large number of individuals using JAWS and Zoom Text. Mark Nelson stated the keyboard was similar to the Apple Bluetooth keyboard. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Mark Nelson was familiar with the Braille display from American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Mark Nelson stated he had not seen that product yet. Bea Shapiro stated it was a nice Braille display with a Qwerty keyboard.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

This item was tabled.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for

August 19, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- TBVI Survey/Training Discussion
- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- AT Trends

Announcements

Sue LeHew stated the AzTAP Conference was being offered virtually on July 20-21 and registration was \$15 for one day or \$25 for both days.

Bob Kresmer stated the National Federation of the Blind National Conference was being held virtually through Zoom and Shoutcast from July 14-18.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Mark Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bob Kresmer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.