

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
July 25, 2019

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Ted Chittenden  
Jim LaMay  
Allan Curry  
Bea Shapiro  
Ed Gervasoni  
Nathan Pullen

**Members Absent**

Amy Porterfield

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm in the Council Liaison Office, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Ted Chittenden moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Strategic Plan Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated the Independent Living Blind (ILB) Workgroup met recently to discuss the large number of individuals waiting for ILB services, the lack of staff such as Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructors and that ILB funds were underutilized. Ed Gervasoni stated that smaller contractors were unable to pay the high insurance costs to be a contractor unless those individuals could become a subcontractor under a larger entity. Bob Kresmer stated a workgroup would meet to discuss the training for Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) staff and supervisors. Mr.

Kresmer stated a workgroup would also develop to discuss the Orientation to Blindness Workshops once the Regional Program Manager had been hired. Bea Shapiro stated that SBVID staff did not contact RSA staff, such as Assistive Technology (AT) staff to provide instruction to the new Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients. Bob Kresmer stated the workgroup would likely suggest that new VR clients receive information regarding all the services available in order to have informed choice.

Bob Kresmer stated the Executive Committee members were meeting to discuss the GCBVI Strategic Plan and how the committees could communicate to complete the tasks. Jim LaMay stated that some of the Independent Living (IL) outcomes were lofty goals that would not be accomplished without additional funding. Mr. LaMay noted that the Legislative and Public Policy Committee was the lead committee on several of the outcomes and the IL Committee had not received any guidance regarding those outcomes. Jim LaMay stated the IL Committee had performed the initial data collection but had not been able to move forward. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the bulk of the work would be done in the committees, and the committees would then present their activities to the council. Ted Chittenden inquired whether Jim LaMay had contacted the Chair of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee to ask for guidance. Jim LaMay stated he contacted the Chair and brought up the issue in a Full Council and Executive Committee meeting. Bob Kresmer stated the Legislative and Public Policy Committee had not met recently, although the workgroups under that committee had been active. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee and AT Committee were expected to collaborate, although those committees had not discussed their actions in depth. Bea Shapiro agreed and stated the AT Committee was focused on developing a presentation for the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) and had not had time to discuss a collaboration with the Education Committee. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee was in the process of completing the GCBVI Annual Report, although the committee had completed activities such as enhancing the EyeKnow.AZ database and developing employment rack cards with the Employment Committee. Mr. Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee was waiting for guidance regarding the outcome that ensured that the GCBVI received the same recognition as the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ed Gervasoni stated that he submitted the Deaf-Blind Committee report to Ted Chittenden and would appreciate receiving feedback regarding that report. Ted Chittenden stated that he typically made minor changes to the reports, although he would send the updated report to Mr. Gervasoni. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Ted Chittenden had received all the Committee reports. Ted Chittenden stated he was waiting

for the Legislative and Public Policy and Employment Committee report as well as the Chair Report.

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI Strategic Plan included big goals for each committee with the expectation that each committee would break down those large goals into smaller action items. Ed Gervasoni stated the Deaf-Blind Committee did not have specific goals included in the Strategic Plan. Bob Kresmer stated the IL Workgroup discussed reviewing the IL Best Practices that had been previously developed. Jim LaMay stated that ILB currently used the VR Best Practices because the unit did not have an ILB Best Practices. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the IL Committee would begin development of an ILB Best Practices prior to the hiring of a Regional Program Manager. Jim LaMay stated the IL Committee could begin development of a ILB Best Practices and could ask the Regional Program Manager for feedback. Mr. LaMay stated that the IL Committee would be unable to complete the Strategic Plan tasks unless the committee was able to obtain additional funding from the Legislature. Bob Kresmer stated that not of the Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) funds were used and agreed that the committee would have a lot to review. Ted Chittenden inquired whether any of the council members would have a copy of the ILB Best Practices. Ed Gervasoni stated the Deaf-Blind portion of the ILB Best Practices would be outdated and would not include recent changes to technology. Bea Shapiro stated that Karla Rivas-Parker and Kristen Mackey recently provided information to the AT Committee regarding the AT equipment held in storage for OIB clients, VR clients and individuals 54 and under. Ms. Shapiro stated that some of the AT equipment was quite old, although there were not many of the older devices. Jim LaMay stated that during the IL Committee's information gathering, the committee was able to obtain the justification for ILB to purchase high cost equipment. Ed Gervasoni stated the rehabilitation teachers provided instruction on O&M and how to use GPS but did not provide as much instruction on AT equipment.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether Allan Curry was a Chair of any of the committees. Allan Curry stated that he was not a Chair of one of the committees although he would be willing to do so. Bob Kresmer stated that all the committees currently had a Chair, although he would consider ways that Mr. Curry could participate. Jim LaMay stated the GCBVI Strategic Plan was from 2017-2021 and suggested the council revisit the plan and discuss how to implement the outcomes. Ed Gervasoni stated the Deaf-Blind Committee did not have any goals and did not have any activities to work towards. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the council members should consider meeting in person as an Executive Committee to review the plan. Ted Chittenden suggested the Executive Committee members meet by phone to review each outcome and identify whether each goal was

meaningful. Jim LaMay suggested the Executive Committee develop action steps to complete the outcomes. Bob Kresmer stated the intent was that each committee would be responsible for identifying the action steps to complete the outcomes. Jim LaMay stated the IL Committee was responsible for completing some universal goals and would benefit from guidance on how to complete those goals. Bob Kresmer stated that each Committee Chair should review their goals, identify some action steps, and present to the Executive Committee at the next committee meeting. Mr. Kresmer stated that he would contact each Chair prior to the next meeting to brainstorm action steps to assist the committees in completing their outcomes.

### **Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting date of the Executive Committee would be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- Strategic Plan Discussion

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.