

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2022

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Sue LeHew
Nathan Pullen

Members Absent

Mark Nelson
Karla Rivas-Parker

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Cristina Renteria

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 March 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the March 17, 2022 meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had not met recently. Ms. Shapiro stated she was unsure whether the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would be scheduled in November or whether the committee would have time to prepare

a presentation for the conference. Bob Kresmer suggested the committee abstain from presenting at VRATE. Sue LeHew and Nathan Pullen agreed that the committee would not have time to develop a presentation in time. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had presented at Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP), the combined Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)/Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) event as well as the previous VRATE event in April, which went well.

AT Outreach Update

Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that the committee's most recent podcast had been played on the 4th Saturday, although she could confirm that with Andrea Pasquale. Bea Shapiro inquired how someone could use their technology to hear Sun Sounds on their devices. Bob Kresmer stated someone could ask their smart speaker to play the Sun Sounds of Arizona, which would ask whether the individual preferred Tempe, Tucson or Flagstaff, and the speaker would play that. Bea Shapiro stated Karla Rivas-Parker was interested in knowing how to access the podcast.

Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee had any ideas for future podcasts. Ms. Shapiro stated that Mark Nelson might be willing to discuss different technologies during a podcast. Bob Kresmer suggested that Eve Sanchez discuss the technologies offered through the Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program. Bea Shapiro stated she could follow up with Ms. Sanchez for a podcast in September. Sue LeHew inquired whether someone could discuss the different comprehensive programs. Bea Shapiro noted the podcasts were only 30 minutes, and there might not be enough time to discuss the different comprehensive programs. Crisina Renteria suggested the committee discuss the different comprehensive programs as a series of podcasts. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had discussed the comprehensive programs briefly during a previous podcast but had not gone into great detail of the 5 programs. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the Sun Sounds audience was mostly seniors that would not be interested in the comprehensive programs, although the committee could ask Ms. Pasquale about the programs' demographics. Bea Shapiro stated she could inquire about the Sun Sounds demographics.

Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee had ideas regarding future projects or activities. Sue LeHew suggested the committee compile a list of the Assistive Technology (AT) providers/specialists in the state. Ms. LeHew noted that RSA had a list of the AT providers/vendors of the state but did not have a comprehensive list of all providers in the state. Cristina Renteria stated that she had taken her son to a public library recently for resources and was referred to the Talking Book Library. Ms. Renteria noted that it would be helpful to have a list of available resources. Bob Kresmer stated the AT Committee was part of the GCBVI and would be able to offer assistance to Ms.

Renteria in locating available resources. Cristina Renteria stated there were a lot of resources available and she was fortunate to have those connections, although many families were not aware of the resources. Bea Shapiro inquired how the committee would try to obtain that information for an AT specialist list. Sue LeHew stated the committee could potentially compile a list that could be used internally and was not necessarily shared. Bob Kresmer stated the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) did not have a list of that information and had suggested the committee go through groups such as AER. Sue LeHew stated the committee would need to decide of the purpose of developing a list, and the criteria for including an individual on the list. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could discuss additional ideas at the next committee meeting.

AT Trends

Bob Kresmer stated he downloaded the Human Ware instruction manual for the new e-reader the Library of Congress distributed and suggested the committee invite an individual that could discuss that device. Bea Shapiro stated the Talking Book Library was promoting distribution of Braille materials to individuals. Bob Kresmer stated the library would transcribe materials into Braille materials for individuals. Bea Shapiro stated the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) was developing a new tool that would allow students to access graphics so they could participate with their peers. Bea Shapiro stated the new iOS update was available to Apple devices, which could impact blind and visually impaired users and she encouraged individuals to notify Apple of any accessibility issues.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for August 18th. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Committee Activities Discussion
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

Announcements

Bob Kresmer stated the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) State Conference, which would be held in person in Tucson on September 2nd and 3rd.

Public Comment

Cristina Renteria stated that she had taken her son to a public library for resources, and library staff did not know how to use the technology. Ms. Renteria stated the library could benefit from knowing who to contact for support in using the technology. Bob Kresmer stated that if Cristina Renteria needed additional assistance, she could call 888-899-6322.

Adjournment of Meeting

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