

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Employment Committee Meeting Minutes**  
July 9, 2020

**Members Present**

Nathan Pullen  
David Steinmetz  
Terrell Welch  
Terri Hedgpeth  
Jordan Moon

**Members Absent**

Bea Shapiro

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

Terri Bernard  
Carlos Grandela  
Ben Fox

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

**Approval of the February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

David Steinmetz motioned to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting. Terri Hedgpeth seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**E75 Event Discussion**

Nathan Pullen stated the Employment Committee did not have any events planned and might not be able to hold in-person events but could consider webinars. Mr. Pullen noted that due to the pandemic, the committee might not be able to hold the annual E75 Diversity event. Jordan Moon stated the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) State Convention would be held virtually and Employment Committee members could participate in an employment presentation at that convention. Jordan Moon stated the

conference would be held September 11-12<sup>th</sup>. Nathan Pullen stated the committee would be interested in participating in the NFBA Conference in an employment panel or individual presentations. Terri Hedgpeth stated the Employment Committee had previously discussed holding a virtual event to reach out to more individuals statewide and stated the committee could potentially plan an event in the fall. David Steinmetz stated he was planning an Employer Roundtable event in October for National Disability Employment Awareness month and noted that Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) typically held an Open House, although the event would be virtual this year. Mr. Steinmetz stated the keynote speaker would be Debbie Lesko and Brian Dulude would briefly discuss the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process. David Steinmetz stated there would also be a presentation from an IT staff member to discuss no cost technology to high-tech technology. He stated that Terell Welch had also agreed to speak on the services offered through Employer Engagement and how the department assisted individuals with disabilities obtain employment. David Steinmetz stated the event would be on October 22, and he would welcome Employment Committee and GCBVI members to attend the event. Jordan Moon inquired whether AIB was sponsoring the Employer Roundtable event. David Steinmetz stated AIB was sponsoring the event, which would increase awareness of blind and visually impaired individuals and the value of a diverse workforce. Terell Welch suggested David Steinmetz include the video that Nathan Pullen and Charlie Collins recently created as a resource at the event. Nathan Pullen stated he could send out the draft video to committee members. Mr. Pullen noted that former committee member, Ben Fox, came to Arizona to create a video on topics related to blindness and employment of blind and visually impaired individuals. Nathan Pullen stated the video was not sponsored by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and was just a public discussion, although it could be used as a resource to VR clients.

Nathan Pullen inquired whether there were any updates regarding the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Jordan Moon stated that VRATE would be held virtually, although the VRATE Board was still trying to plan the conference logistics. Mr. Moon stated the Board investigated hiring a company that could run the conference behind the scenes, although the cost would be quite costly. Jordan Moon stated the Board would focus on the presentations that would be relevant to a broad audience. Jordan Moon stated the VRATE Board would likely hold the event in November or December, which could be a follow up event to the AIB Employer Roundtable event. Terri Hedgpeth stated that Arizona State University recently held a webinar on Global Accessibility Awareness, which ran 3 concurrent sessions. Terri Hedgpeth stated the VRATE Board was considering holding concurrent sessions at VRATE, although someone would need to be able to run the conference behind the scenes. She stated VRATE

was considering holding one session at a time, although the Board had not decided on the presentations.

Terrell Welch stated he would offer assistance in holding a Reverse Job Fair at either event. Mr. Welch stated the Employer Engagement Administration held a Reverse Job Fair recently using Google Meets, in which 37 employers and 12-15 job seekers attended. He noted that employers liked the event because they were able to listen to the job seekers and could briefly discuss their job openings. Nathan Pullen inquired whether Terrell Welch could discuss the new ARIZONA@WORK branding and how RSA would be using the logo for consistent branding. Terrell Welch stated that RSA staff received an email from the Public Information Officers (PIO), which indicated that Titles III and all programs under the Workforce Development Administration (WDA), and all IV would use the ARIZONA@WORK Proud Partner logo strengthen the ARIZONA@WORK brand so Arizonans can easily recognize the state's workforce program. Terrell Welch noted the logo would be used on all marketing materials going forward. Nathan Pullen stated the Employment Committee should be aware of the branding and could work with the PIO when creating marketing materials. Terrell Welch stated that if committee members knew of individuals that were job ready, they should consider being active in seeking employment. Mr. Welch stated that individuals would come off Unemployment Insurance at the end of the month and would be seeking employment. Jordan Moon inquired whether employers continued to hire individuals. Terrell Welch stated that VR clients continued to obtain employment.

Nathan Pullen stated the Employment Committee could consider posting content to the E75 website such as videos or post companies that were hiring. Mr. Pullen noted that Ben Fox had originally created the E75 website, although the Department of Economic Security (DES) owned the website and would be able to update the website internally. Terrell Welch suggested the E75 website include the link to ARIZONA@WORK, which was continually updated with the active jobs. Nathan Pullen agreed and noted the website could also link to any job boards specific to employment for blind and visually impaired individuals.

Terrell Welch inquired whether the Employment Committee had created a packet with information regarding the E75 event. Nathan Pullen stated the committee had not created a packet, although the PIO had developed a press release that could be modified and posted to the E75 website or for outreach efforts. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committee revamp the E75 website and include more videos and point employers and job seekers towards useful resources.

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

The next meeting of the Employment Committee will be on August 12, 2020, from 3:00 to 3:30 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- Employment Committee Event Collaboration Discussion

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **Public Comment**

Ben Fox stated that he had enjoyed participating on the Employment Committee and would be pleased to continue participating on the committee.

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Jordan Moon motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Steinmetz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.