

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Nathan Pullen
Mark Nelson
Terri Hedgpeth

Members Absent

Ed Gervasoni
Sue LeHew

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Brian Dulude

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of July 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to table approval of the July 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to table approval of the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

TVBI Training/Survey Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) were holding Assistive Technology (AT) Drop In calls for the teachers to receive additional information regarding AT. Mr. Kresmer noted the calls would be held weekly. Bea Shapiro stated the goal of the TVBI Survey was to identify the topics that teachers would be interested in learning more about, and to offer a full day training. Bob Kresmer noted the ASDB calls would not negate the AT Committee's planned training but could be an ancillary training to teachers. Bea Shapiro stated that if ASDB teachers were receiving AT training, should the AT Committee continue planning for a one-

day training. Bob Kresmer stated he was unsure whether the weekly calls would encourage or discourage teachers from wanting to attend a one-day training. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the AT Committee should still plan to resent the TBVI Survey to teachers to obtain more information. The AT Committee agreed that the AT Committee should resend the survey to identify areas of training. Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee would resend the survey and identify the most requested AT topics for training.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee should begin targeting the TVIs, but also send the survey to the staff that worked in disability resource centers in colleges. Terri Hedgpeth stated the disability resource centers in universities and colleges had changed and did not have staff that worked only with blind and visually impaired students. She noted the survey title could be changed to reflect the target audience of staff that worked with blind and visually impaired students. Bob Kresmer inquired whether each county had a community college system. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that each county would have a community college system. Bob Kresmer inquired whether there was a list serve of disability resource centers in community colleges. Terri Hedgpeth stated she was unsure whether a list serve was still active, but she would investigate that. Bea Shapiro stated Sue LeHew planned to send contact someone in the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and inquired whether she had forwarded that information to Lindsey Powers. Lindsey Powers stated she had not received any information. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Terri Hedgpeth would locate a list serve for community colleges and colleges. Terri Hedgpeth stated she knew of a list serve of community colleges, although Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff might have that contact information also. Brian Dulude stated he would inquire with Sue Kay Kneifel and compile a list of contacts at the community colleges. Bob Kresmer inquired whether community colleges had statewide associations. Terri Hedgpeth stated community colleges followed county rules. Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee would review the additional survey responses and identify the areas of interest for training.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Terri Hedgpeth stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would be held virtually on November 13th. She noted the conference would have 8 speakers and a lunch hour in which sponsors could speak for approximately 15 minutes. Terri Hedgpeth stated the Exhibit Hall would be held via Zoom so that vendors could send their Zoom links, or pre-recorded videos to be posted on the VRATE website. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the conference would only have 8 speakers. Terri Hedgpeth stated the VRATE Board had discussed offering more presentations and running

them concurrently, but the Board decided to simplify the conference. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the AT Committee should contact Dan Martinez to express interest in presenting at VRATE. Terri Hedgpeth stated that Dan Martinez and Jordan Moon were responsible for scheduling the presenters. Ms. Hedgpeth suggested the AT Committee consider providing a joint presentation with the Employment Committee similar to the previous year. Bea Shapiro and Nathan Pullen agreed that the AT and Employment Committees could provide a joint presentation. Bea Shapiro stated the previous VRATE presentation included great information, although it was not well-attended, and noted the committee would need to identify potential presentation topics. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committees discuss the role that AT played in employment and focus on the consumer. Brian Dulude suggested the committee could also discuss how to utilize AIRA effectively for job searches. Terri Hedgpeth stated that of August 29th, AIRA would no longer offer the first 5 minutes free, and would have a streamlined version, although job searches would be still be offered for free.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro inquired whether committee members had seen or heard about the Amazon Echo loop. Ms. Shapiro stated the loop was worn on the finger and allowed the individual to make calls. Terri Hedgpeth inquired whether anyone had heard about the Amazon glasses that were similar to Bose glasses. Nathan Pullen stated his understanding that the Amazon Echo loop and glasses had not been released yet, although both devices would likely provide the same service to the user. Bea Shapiro stated she was able see a demonstration of the new APH keyboard, which was light, like a small laptop. Bea Shapiro inquired whether committee members had seen the Orbit Bluetooth keyboard. Mark Nelson stated he had not seen that keyboard, although he did have a new Bluetooth large print keyboard. He noted the keyboard was small and was missing the Insert key. Bob Kresmer inquired whether a new iPhone would be released with a Home button. Bea Shapiro stated an iPhone had been released with a Home button, and noted the phone was about the size of the iPhone 5. Terri Hedgpeth stated she had heard the iPhone was good for users that did not want facial identification.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for September 16, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- TBVI Survey/Training Discussion
- VRATE Presentation Discussion

- AT Trends

Announcements

Bob Kresmer stated that Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) would offer training with ASU for students interested in becoming TVIs. Mr. Kresmer stated that 12 students had signed up for the courses.

Bob Kresmer stated the National Federation of the Blind State Conference was being held virtually via Zoom from September 10-12th and individuals could register on the NFB website.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

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