

# **Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**

## **Employment Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 8, 2023

### **Attendance**

#### **Members Present**

Nathan Pullen  
Reggie Laister  
Jonathan Pringle  
Bea Shapiro  
Terell Welch  
David Steinmetz

#### **Members Absent**

Josh Sauter

#### **Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

#### **Guests Present**

### **Minutes**

#### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

#### **Approval of the July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Bea Shapiro requested the minutes be corrected to indicate that Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Bea Shapiro motioned to approve the amended minutes from the July 13, 2023 meeting. Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **E75 Event Discussion**

Terell Welch stated he had been in contact with a Doctor at Mayo Clinic, who was interested in hiring blind and visually impaired individuals. He noted the next step was to test Mayo Clinic's software to ensure that it was accessible. Terell Welch stated that it would be a great opportunity for blind and visually impaired individuals to work in the healthcare industry. Nathan Pullen stated that they were open to hiring blind and visually impaired individuals and inquired whether they would be willing to speak at the upcoming E75 event. Terell Welch stated the Doctor indicated that she would be willing to speak at the event, and she hoped to hire several blind and visually impaired individuals. Nathan Pullen stated that he was somewhat reluctant because they had not hired blind and visually impaired individuals yet, although he did want to keep them involved. Reggie Laister stated the Dream Job Fair would be in Tucson and Phoenix in October, and he would inquire if he could share some of the employer contacts with the committee as they would benefit from attending the E75 event. Terell Welch agreed and noted that Tim Stump had been reaching out to his employer contacts as well regarding the E75 event. Reggie Laister stated that he would share information regarding the Dream Job Fairs if any committee members were interested in building relationships with the employers. Nathan Pullen inquired how the Dream Job Fair was organized and if some of the employers would be interested in being spotlighted at the E75 event. Reggie Laister stated that he could inquire how the organization was structured and could put Nathan Pullen in contact with some of the employers. Nathan Pullen stated the committee did not need monetary sponsorship as the E75 event was virtual, but a couple of the employers could speak briefly at the event.

David Steinmetz stated that he had been busy conducting outreach at the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) with an emphasis on inclusion. Mr. Steinmetz stated that some of the employers could be invited to attend the event, although he did not know of a potential keynote speaker. Nathan Pullen stated the committee was still looking for an employee that would like to be highlighted at the event. Reggie Laister stated that he knew a couple of individuals that could potentially speak at the event, although they were not experienced public speakers. Nathan Pullen stated the committee would typically invite the employer to speak about the position first, and then the employee could speak briefly about their employment experience and how it benefited them or their family.

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

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for September 14, 2023. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Jonathan Pringle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.