

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
August 9, 2021

**Members Present**

Bob Kresmer, Chair  
Nathan Pullen  
Bea Shapiro  
Ted Chittenden  
David Steinmetz

**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. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of May 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Ted Chittenden moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Executive Committee Member Update**

Bob Kresmer stated the Independent Living Blind (ILB) funding increase did not pass, and consumer groups would begin advocating for the funding again in September. Bob Kresmer stated at the previous meeting, the committee had discussed the State's requirement for individuals to submit a copy of their driver's license to be considered for employment. Mr. Kresmer stated that Amy Porterfield had agreed to follow up with Christina Corieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, regarding that requirement, and the council would receive an update at the Full Council meeting.

## **Committee Chair Reports and Recommendations**

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Executive Committee members would like to include any agenda items to the upcoming Full Council meeting. Bob Kresmer stated the council would discuss the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) and how the council would be participating. Mr. Kresmer stated the council would also discuss any efforts for an increase in ILB funding. Ted Chittenden inquired whether the council should consider outreach efforts to the community regarding COVID vaccinations. Mr. Chittenden stated the Arizona Center for the Deaf and Blind (ACBVI) would be holding a Town Hall meeting and stated the council could hold a similar meeting. David Steinmetz stated the council could hold a Town Hall meeting like the ACBVI, although he was unsure whether the council would have a further reach compared to organizations that were already providing outreach. Bob Kresmer agreed that different organizations such as SAAVI Services for the Blind, ACBVI and Sun Sounds were providing outreach to the community, although the Arizona Talking Book Library might want assistance with any outreach efforts. David Steinmetz suggested the Full Council agenda include the Annual Report. Mr. Steinmetz inquired whether the council could advocate for additional ILB funding or could hear about any advocacy efforts from other organizations. Bob Kresmer stated the council would have to wait to hear from the Governor's Office before any advocacy efforts or updates.

Nathan Pullen stated the Employment Committee would meet the following week to discuss potentially holding an E75 event in the Spring. Bea Shapiro stated she would be interested in hearing an update from Brian Dulude regarding hiring efforts for ILB rehabilitation teachers. Ms. Shapiro stated that Karla Rivas-Parker's position had been filled as well. Ted Chittenden stated the IL Committee had not met recently, although he could provide an update from the ILB Workgroup meeting. Mr. Chittenden stated he could apprise the council that any additional funding would go towards ILB services and that the funding for individuals under 55 had been removed upon the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Bob Kresmer stated the council would also receive an update from the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) regarding the start of the school year.

David Steinmetz inquired regarding who had developed the RSA scorecard. Bob Kresmer stated the RSA scorecard had been developed years previously, and Lindsey Powers attached the scorecard to the end of the Full Council meeting minutes for review. David Steinmetz stated he had some suggested additions to give an understanding of how VR services were being offered. Bob Kresmer stated that David Steinmetz was welcome to send any

suggestions to him, and he could discuss those recommendations with Kristen Mackey. Ted Chittenden stated the council had new members, and suggested the council hold an introductory meeting to orient new members to how the council worked. Bob Kresmer agreed and stated he would invite another council member to attend his welcome call to the new members.

### **Council Membership Discussion**

Bob Kresmer stated that Jonathan Pringle and Andrew Cohen had applied directly to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions and had been appointed as new members of the council. Mr. Kresmer stated that he knew Mr. Pringle during his career with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and he was now with the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC). Bob Kresmer stated that both members had participated on the Deaf-Blind Committee in the past.

Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the members' whose membership terms would be ending in December. Lindsey Powers stated Michael Bailey, John McCann, and Bob Kresmer's terms would be ending in December. Bob Kresmer requested that Lindsey Powers send information to the council members so they would be able to apply for reappointment. Nathan Pullen, Bea Shapiro, and Ted Chittenden indicated that they had been reappointed as council members.

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

The next meeting date of the Executive Committee would be determined.

### **Announcements**

Ted Chittenden stated that Dean Colston had left the state and he had been hired by the American Council of the Blind (ACB).

Bob Kresmer stated that Terri Hedgpeth had previously resigned from the council but had recently indicated that she was ready to begin participating on the council again.

### **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjournment of Meeting**

Ted Chittenden motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.