

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

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Jonathan Pringle
Bea Shapiro
Terell Welch
David Steinmetz

Members Absent

Josh Sauter
Reggie Laister

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 August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Bea Shapiro motioned to approve the amended minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting. Terell Welch 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 still working on implementing accessible software in order to hire blind and visually impaired individuals. Mr. Welch stated that the Doctor was likely to hire blind and visually impaired individuals once the issue was resolved. Nathan Pullen inquired whether the Doctor from Mayo Clinic would be willing to speak at E75. Terell Welch stated that he had been in contact with the SBVID Supervisor in Phoenix, who indicated that 1-2 individuals would like to work at the Mayo Clinic once the software was made accessible. He added that someone from Mayo Clinic would like to attend the E75 event. Nathan Pullen noted that he was somewhat reluctant to invite an organization to speak at E75 when they had not hired a blind or visually impaired individual yet, although the event might give them incentive to follow through. Mr. Welch noted that Mayo Clinic had worked with Project Search in the past and had hired individuals with disabilities. Nathan Pullen agreed and stated the Mayo Clinic representative could potentially talk about the open positions. Nathan Pullen stated that Jordan Moon was working with Amazon regarding employment opportunities, and could offer an update at the next meeting. Nathan Pullen inquired whether Terell Welch could reach out to Josh Sauter regarding his interest in speaking at E75. Terell Welch stated that he could ask Mr. Sauter, who was a business owner. Nathan Pullen stated that Josh Sauter spoke at a previous event and had expressed interest in hiring blind and visually impaired employees. Jonathan Pringle stated he knew of an individual that was successfully placed in employment through the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) that could potentially be highlighted at the event.

Terell Welch inquired whether the committee still had access to the Vimeo video created for a previous E75 event, which could be used in the opening of the event. Nathan Pullen inquired whether the video would still be current or whether it would need to be updated. Terell Welch stated his understanding that the individuals were still employed. Lindsey Powers stated she could try to locate the video to be shared with committee members. David Steinmetz stated he was trying to bring awareness to the E75 event, and could potentially have contacts with the accessibility team with Amazon. Mr. Steinmetz inquired whether the committee had drafted an initial agenda for the event. Nathan Pullen stated that he would usually talk about the mission of the E75 event, share a video or an educational piece, highlight employers that had hired blind or visually impaired individuals and allow them time to speak briefly. He noted the committee potentially had a speaker from the Mayo Clinic and the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) could speak also. David Steinmetz stated he could talk about the barriers to employment if the committee needed additional speakers. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could shift towards more educational information if the committee was unable to identify more employers to speak. David Steinmetz stated that someone

from Arizona Disability Law might be able to speak at the event. Nathan Pullen stated he had a contact with the organization and could inquire. Nathan Pullen noted that since the event was virtual, the committee did not need as much time, and could fill in any additional time with educational information and/or a video. Nathan Pullen noted that committee members could send out the E75 invite to their contacts to get a better understanding of the attendance. Mr. Pullen stated that he would develop a draft agenda for the event and noted the committee had potential employers but still needed a client success story. Terrell Welch inquired whether a counselor could provide a client success story. Jonathan Pringle stated that he could inquire whether the client from HKNC and/or their employer would be willing to speak at E75.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for September 21, 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

Terrell Welch motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.