

Draft
Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Nathan Pullen
Mark Nelson
Sue LeHew

Members Absent

Ed Gervasoni
Terri Hedgpeth
Bob Kresmer

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Terrell Welch
Dan Martinez

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of July 15, 2020 and August 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Sue LeHew motioned to approve the July 15, 2020 and August 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Mark Nelson seconded the motion. The motion to approve of the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Joint VRATE Presentation Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee and the Employment Committee would provide a joint presentation at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Bea Shapiro stated that she had suggested the committees address employer concerns when hiring blind and visually impaired individuals and discuss AT such as Aira, which provided services for job seekers. Nathan Pullen stated the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) included an employment panel with mock interviews and

suggested the committees include any common questions that arose during those discussions. Bea Shapiro stated the committees would have 45 minutes to present, which did not allow for a lot of time for questions from the audience. Ms. Shapiro inquired regarding the deadline for submitting the presentation outline for VRATE. Dan Martinez stated that VRATE would be held on November 13th and the VRATE Board would like to include preliminary information on the website about two weeks prior to the event. Bea Shapiro stated the committees would develop an outline and submit to the Board by mid-October. Sue LeHew inquired whether the committees should engage the end-users to talk about their AT and how to obtain and retain their employment. Terrell Welch stated he had a list of the questions asked during the employment panel at the NFBA Conference. Mr. Welch stated that employers were asked how COVID-19 changed their hiring practices and whether each employer could share any current job openings and where to find those positions. Bea Shapiro suggested the committees focus on the job seeker, although those were good questions to ask employers. Nathan Pullen inquired whether the presentation would focus on the employer or the job seeker. Bea Shapiro stated the presentation could focus on both and noted that many employers had difficulties hiring individuals with visual impairments. Nathan Pullen suggested the presentation discuss how a job seeker could present him/herself professionally in a virtual interview and the supports available to assist an individual in using that technology. Bea Shapiro agreed that the presentation could discuss the different virtual platforms such as Zoom or Skype for interviewing. Sue LeHew stated the committees could also demonstrate what not to do during an interview, such as allowing pets or children in the room.

Dan Martinez stated the committees would have 45 minutes to present, which would require the committees provide a focused presentation. Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the message the committees would like to present at the conference. Nathan Pullen stated the committees could identify the topics and the bullet points for the panel discussion. Dan Martinez noted that the VRATE audience was typically job seekers. Bea Shapiro stated the committees could focus on employment and how to apply for employment virtually. Sue LeHew suggested the committees demonstrate how to apply for a position using an accessible website and the workarounds needed to apply on a non-accessible website. Terrell Welch inquired whether the committees would include mock interviews during the presentation. Bea Shapiro stated that many conferences and events included mock interviews, and the committees could focus on the AT required for employment. Nathan Pullen stated the committees could discuss the technology used to obtain employment during the pandemic and how to adapt to the virtual landscape. Mark Nelson stated the committees

could discuss the different virtual platforms such as Zoom or WebEx, and how to set up a camera correctly and know when to mute and unmute. Mr. Pullen stated the committees could discuss how an individual could arrange their space for an interview and how to set up free accounts. Nathan Pullen noted the discussion could include a self-advocacy component as well and how an individual could request a different platform that was more accessible. Bea Shapiro stated the committees could focus on the "new norm" and how to help job seekers obtain employment virtually. Mark Nelson stated he liked the title "Interviewing in the New Norm". Mr. Nelson stated the panel could also discuss different perspectives and how some individuals might be comfortable disclosing the need for accommodations and some might not. Bea Shapiro stated the committees could meet again to discuss the presentation outline, so it would be complete in time for VRATE to include the information on the website. Dan Martinez inquired whether the committees would like 2 presentation time slots. Sue LeHew stated that when the committees provided 2 presentations, they often lost some of the audience. Bea Shapiro agreed that the committees would provide one presentation of 45 minutes.

TVBI Training/Survey Discussion

Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee had not received any new responses to the survey and she was unsure whether Bob Kresmer or Terri Hedgpath had distributed the survey for professionals that work with blind and visually impaired students. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had originally intended to offer the training in October. Mark Nelson suggested the committee identify training topics and offer a couple of trainings one at a time. Mark Nelson stated he recently offered a training on how to teach individuals to use JAWS on the Internet, which was well attended. Bea Shapiro agreed that the committee could provide 3 one-hour trainings. Sue LeHew suggested the first training be simple. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could identify the training topics. Ms. LeHew suggested the committee wait until after VRATE. Bea Shapiro agreed and suggested the committee provide the trainings in January and allow individuals to attend VRATE. Sue LeHew stated she was able to modify the AT Interest Survey spreadsheet to highlight the highest areas of interest among the individuals that responded to the survey. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could discuss more than one AT topic during a training if the technologies were related.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff now had Zoom accounts, and the AT Committee would use that platform for

their committee meetings. Mark Nelson stated that Aira 14 had been released. Mr. Nelson noted that Apple would not release a new iPhone this year, and the new Apple watch would measure an individual's blood oxygen levels.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for October 21, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Discussion
- TBVI Training Discussion
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Mark Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.