

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

Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair

Jeff Bishop

Sue LeHew

Nathan Pullen

Bob Kresmer

Members Absent

Karla Rivas-Parker

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of August 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Jeff Bishop seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated that Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Board and was scheduled for November 1st and there would be no virtual attendance option. Jeff Bishop inquired regarding the time the committee would be presenting. Bea Shapiro stated she had not heard yet, but she had requested a morning presentation time. Jeff Bishop stated that he talked to Dan Martinez to let him know he would be providing 2 presentations and to not schedule them at the same time. Jeff Bishop inquired whether the committee would be able to use a projector during their presentation. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could use a projector and might have to submit materials to a Google drive. Jeff Bishop stated that if he needed to submit materials before, he would need to know prior to the presentation. Mr. Bishop stated that he would be showing a couple of videos, would provide some handouts and would offer some hands-on demonstrations with some devices. He added that he would be talking about the current state of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the potential biases in the educational and employment spaces, and whether it represented everyone. Jeff Bishop stated he would also discuss how individuals could ensure that technology companies were held responsible for ensuring that AI was accessible for everyone. He added that many applications and tools were using AI and a lot of them were not accessible. Bea Shapiro stated that some individuals were using AI for things such as creating resumes, and they were not always accurate. Jeff Bishop stated that it was important to remember the point of AI and that it was a tool but should not be relied on completely. Mr. Bishop added that Chat GPT was now integrated into many programs, but individuals should be cautious when using it. Bea Shapiro stated that many individuals were using it in the workplace, and some employers might not support that. Jeff Bishop agreed and noted that AI had some advantages such as describing graphs and charts in great detail. He noted that individuals needed to be mindful when using AI.

AT Committee Outreach

Bea Shapiro stated that Jeff Bishop had been very helpful in setting up an account for the committee's podcasts. Jeff Bishop stated he had created the account and was just waiting on the validation. Bea Shapiro stated that she would create a list of potential topics for the podcast and would invite individuals to speak on the podcast. She added that she would like to invite the VRATE Chair to speak on the podcast at the 25th anniversary of the event. Ms. Shapiro stated that if the podcast account would be ready by October, the committee could record a podcast with the VRATE Chair prior to VRATE in November.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro inquired regarding the battery life of the Apple Air pods. Jeff Bishop stated the Air pods charged quickly, and the case took a little longer to charge. He added that the Air pods would remain charged for a couple hours of use. Jeff Bishop stated that new features could allow the individual to use as hearing aids if the individual created a profile for their device. Sue LeHew stated the committee could invite an audiologist to talk about how the device could work as hearing aids. Jeff Bishop stated he would always recommend an individual see an audiologist, although it could be a less expensive option for individuals. Bea Shapiro stated the new iPhone 16 camera was great with 48 megapixels and useful for individuals that performed a lot of scanning. She added that Apple products had been great with accessibility, although some individuals might not know how to use the new features. Jeff Bishop stated JAWS had a new beta feature with many improvements and a new AI Assistant. He added that in October, the new Amazon Alexa AI would be released. Bea Shapiro inquired whether individuals would have to pay for that feature. Jeff Bishop stated the feature would be \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month and individuals would need to decide if it was worthwhile.

Jeff Bishop stated the new regulations from the Department of Justice stated that all state and education institutes would be required for providing accessible websites for users even if they used third party vendors. He noted his understanding that Title 2 did not relate to desktop applications, however. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee should bring their

recommendations to the GCBVI regarding the new regulations. Jeff Bishop stated he would draft recommendations and share them with the committee prior to the next Full Council meeting. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the regulations would apply to all state entities. Jeff Bishop stated the regulations would apply to all state and educational entities. Bob Kresmer stated the committee could review Jeff Bishop's recommendations and discuss them at the next committee meeting.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for October 16th. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Committee Activities Discussion
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Bishop seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.