

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2018

Members Present

Sharonda White, Chair
Ed Gervasoni
Sue LeHew
Bea Shapiro
Jaime Trausch
Julie Jones

Members Absent

Scott Mehosky
Nathan Pullen
Janet Fukuda

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Sharonda White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of July 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ed Gervasoni motioned to approve the June 20, 2018 meeting minutes. Jaime Trausch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

EyeKnow.AZ Feedback Discussion

Lindsey Powers stated the Public Information Committee inquired whether the AT Committee would recommend that the EyeKnow.AZ database be printed in epub or PDF. Sharonda White stated the committee had discussed the benefits of each format previously and inquired whether the committee had a preference. Jaime Trausch stated that epub would easily convert to different formats for printing although PDF documents would print in the

same way that the document was displayed. Sue LeHew stated the format preference would depend on what the user was printing, such as a list of resources from the database. Sharonda White stated a user could also print the entire database without the inclusion of the extraneous information included. Sue LeHew inquired whether the user could also save the database resources as a document. Sharonda White stated the AT Committee requested that an individual be able to save the database resources as a document file. Sue LeHew inquired whether an individual would require skills to use epub documents. Sharonda White clarified that the EyeKnow.AZ database would include a link in which an individual could download the entire database, which could be printed in epub or PDF. Ms. White inquired whether epub would allow an individual to open the document in Word. Jaime Trausch stated the user would choose a program to open the document such as Adobe for PDF documents. Mr. Trausch stated epub was essentially html with extra features and would not require extra resources to maintain.

Sue LeHew stated that accessible documents were historically saved in text files, which were somewhat messy or RTF, which were more universal. Bea Shapiro stated if an individual wanted to print the document, a PDF would keep the original format of the document. Jaime Trausch agreed and noted that PDF documents would maintain the original format of the document, although epub documents would be easier to download. Bea Shapiro stated that epub documents were easier to download and access on devices, although PDF documents were better for printing. Sue LeHew suggested that the user have the option to choose with format to use. Ed Gervasoni stated the database could include both options, which would allow the user to choose based on his or her needs. Sue LeHew inquired whether the AT Committee received answers regarding who maintained the EyeKnow.AZ database and how the resources were tagged. Sharonda White stated the Public Information Committee reviewed the resources that were entered into the database and updated the information as needed. Sharonda White stated she could inquire regarding the tagging process. Lindsey Powers stated the Public Information Committee would send out email blasts to the resources included in the database requesting updated information and members of the committee or Lindsey Powers had the ability to update the information in the database. Sue LeHew suggested the database include an option on the homepage that would allow an individual to update their information, such as "Add or Update your Profile". Ms. LeHew stated the option could be included in an obvious location where an individual could easily locate it.

VRATE Discussion

Sharonda White stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) was on November 16, 2018. Ms. White stated the committee had been allotted two hours to present and inquired regarding the topics that committee would like to present. Julie Jones inquired whether the committee would present for a two-hour session or two one-hour sessions. Sharonda White stated the committee had been approved to present for two hours at VRATE. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had presented for two hours at previous conferences, and some individuals left after the first hour and did not return. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee could consider providing the same presentation twice. Sharonda White inquired regarding the topics that committee members would like to discuss. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee should first decide whether the committee would provide two of the same presentations. Sharonda White stated the presentations would depend on the amount of material the committee had to discuss. She noted if the committee had enough topics to discuss, the committee could present for two hours. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee could develop a presentation for one hour and if necessary, develop a presentation for an additional hour. Sharonda White suggested the committee identify the topics that the committee would discuss and then divide the topics into two presentations. Bea Shapiro inquired when the presentation topics were due to the VRATE Committee. Sharonda White stated she could develop a presentation template and submit to the VRATE Committee. Ms. White inquired whether the committee members would prefer to discuss topic ideas in workgroups or compile a list of potential topics. Sue LeHew inquired whether the committee would have enough topics to fill two hours. Bea Shapiro stated the committee did not have enough time to answer questions or provide demonstrations at the previous VRATE conference.

Sharonda White suggested the committee develop a list of potential presentation topics, which would help the committee to decide on the presentation format. She noted the committee discussed home modifications at the previous VRATE conference and could potentially discuss Google collaborations. Sue LeHew stated the committee could discuss AT competency such as using Word, email and the Internet, which were skills an individual would need to stay employed. Bea Shapiro stated most individuals that attended VRATE were seniors and would not necessarily be interested in employment skills. Sharonda White inquired whether the committee would prefer to develop topics in workgroups or compile a list of topics as a committee. Sue LeHew stated the committee would be able to identify topics easier as a whole. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could discuss EyeKnow.AZ as a resource for the audience. Sharonda White stated

the committee could discuss basic skills to appeal to the broader audience as well as some intermediate and advanced skills. She added that the committee could discuss how to navigate through Word and the Internet. Sue LeHew stated the committee could discuss all those topics using EyeKnow.AZ and demonstrate how to print using epub or PDF. Sharonda White stated the committee should identify some skills that committee members would discuss at VRATE. Sue LeHew noted the committee could only discuss printing the database if the recommended changes had been made in time for VRATE. Sharonda White stated she could inquire regarding when the recommended changes could be made to the database. Ms. White stated if the changes were not implemented in time, what additional topics would the committee discuss. Sharonda White inquired regarding other documents or manuals that could be downloaded. Sue LeHew stated the committee could download the Orientation and Mobility Manual or Dan Martinez's Employment Soft Skills.

Sharonda White suggested that all committee members develop a list of potential presentation topics or documents that could be downloaded as a demonstration during VRATE. Ed Gervasoni stated the committee could bring up the iCanConnect website, which offered free technology to individuals with combined vision and hearing loss (CVHL), although the committee should be cognizant of including different organizations to be fair. Sharonda White stated each committee member could suggest a website or a manual that the committee could navigate during the committee's VRATE presentation. Ed Gervasoni noted that the committee could still navigate EyeKnow.AZ even if the database had not been updated for printing. Sharonda White asked that all committee members send their list of potential presentation topics to Lindsey Powers by Monday, September 24, 2018.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro inquired whether any committee members had tried the Microsoft Soundscape app. Ms. Shapiro stated she downloaded the app but had not tried it yet. Bea Shapiro stated the app would let the individual know what was in front of or to the left and right of the individual. Ed Gervasoni stated he was unsure how the app would work for an individual with CVHL. Sharonda White stated Sunu Bands vibrated to alert the individual about obstacles. Ed Gervasoni stated the Miniguide did not allow the user to quickly change the distance from an object. Mr. Gervasoni stated he purchased a device that would allow the individual to feel the music, although it did not allow the individual to hear the music.

Sue LeHew stated that Bea Shapiro was able to discover a way to lock

down a function key on a laptop. Bea Shapiro stated that laptops do not have hardware to increase volume or dim the display, so the user was required to use the function keys. Bea Shapiro stated the FM key and the Shift key locked the function, so the user did not have to go through the bios.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for October 17, 2018 from 3:00-4:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Discussion
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.