

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

## **Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**

September 20, 2023

### **Attendance**

#### **Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Bob Kresmer  
Karla Rivas-Parker  
Nathan Pullen  
Jeff Bishop

#### **Members Absent**

Sue LeHew

#### **Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

#### **Guests Present**

Nancy Lucas

### **Minutes**

#### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

#### **Approval of March 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Nathan Pullen motioned to approve the March 15, 2023 meeting minutes. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **AT Committee Updates**

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had not met recently and inquired whether the committee still preferred to meet every other month or monthly. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee had been discussing potentially presenting at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE), although the next event was not scheduled until November of 2024. Bea Shapiro stated that VRATE would also be partnering with AER and was considering alternating locations in Phoenix and Tucson. Bea Shapiro stated she informed the VRATE board that they would have better attendance if the event was held in a more central location. Jeff Bishop inquired regarding the committee's presentation topic at the previous event. Bea Shapiro stated Karla Rivas-Parker and Dr. Grandela provided 2 presentations on low vision, which were well presented. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee would have time to discuss potential topics for the next VRATE event.

## **AT Outreach Update**

Bea Shapiro stated that Andrea Pasquale with Sun Sounds, had indicated the committee's previous podcast quality was not good, and members could consider purchasing better microphones. Bob Kresmer inquired how many committee members would need microphones. Bea Shapiro stated that 4 committee members typically participated in the podcasts. Jeff Bishop inquired whether the committee's podcasts were available through iTunes. Bea Shapiro stated the committee's podcasts were currently only available through Sun Sounds, although she would like to be able to distribute the recordings more widely. Jeff Bishop stated the committee would need a subscription-based file, which could be shared through iTunes. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had previously discussed posting the podcasts on the council webpage on the Department of Economic Security (DES) website, but they were unable to. Bea Shapiro noted the committee members would also need to consider purchasing better microphones for better audio quality. Jeff Bishop stated committee members could purchase relatively inexpensive microphones for the podcasts. Bob Kresmer noted that Sun Sounds also assisted the committee in editing the podcast recordings. Bea Shapiro stated Jeff Bishop could assist in editing the recordings also. Bea Shapiro suggested inviting Andrea Pasquale to the next meeting to discuss the committee's options in sharing the podcasts. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired regarding the process for sharing podcasts through iTunes. Jeff Bishop stated the committee would need a host platform for the podcasts, which could then be uploaded to sites such as iTunes, Google, or Spotify. Bea Shapiro inquired whether committee members would be able to purchase microphones for the podcasts. Jeff Bishop stated committee members could also use their iPhones or iPads, or sit closer to their computer microphones for better audio quality. Mr. Bishop inquired regarding the outline of the committee's podcasts. Bea

Shapiro stated the committee would usually have a round table discussion of topics and would invite guests to speak.

### **AT Trends**

Jeff Bishop stated the new iPhone 15 had been released, which did not include major changes, it did offer some good updates. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the new iWatch required individuals to double tap to answer the phone. Jeff Bishop stated that feature had been available previously, although it was not very reliable at the time. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Apple got rid of the mini or SE iPhones. Jeff Bishop stated he had not heard whether Apple would stop producing those versions, although they would not have a home button.

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

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee TBD. Agenda items are as follows:

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

### **Announcements**

Nathan Pullen stated the Employment Committee was planning for the next E75 event on October 13th, which would include a presentation from the Mayo Clinic. He noted the committee was still seeking a client success story if any committee members knew of any prospective individuals.

### **Public Comment**

Nancy Lucas stated that she was interested in attending the meeting to learn more about the council and to contribute in any way. Ms. Lucas stated that she was a former Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) client, and had experienced some challenges, but had learned a lot during the process.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

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

