

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

Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Jonathan Pringle
Bea Shapiro
Reggie Laister
David Steinmetz

Members Absent

Josh Sauter
Terrell Welch

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Nancy Lucas

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of the September 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

David Steinmetz motioned to approve the amended minutes from the September 14, 2023 meeting. Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Event Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated that he spoke to Terell Welch, who found a shorter version of the E75 video which could be shared at the event. Jonathan Pringle stated he had not spoken to the individual that could provide a client success story, although he did have a video that could be shared. Nathan Pullen stated the committee had also discussed including an educational piece from Arizona Industries of the Blind (AIB) as well as a presentation from the Mayo Clinic. He noted that he also spoke to someone from Arizona Disability Law who would be willing to talk about accommodations and the ADA. Nathan Pullen stated Terell Welch also spoke to Angela Dial, a Supervisor with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), who could potentially speak about the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process. He noted that Nancy Lucas was also attending the meeting, and could provide a presentation regarding her experience with VR. Nancy Lucas stated that she was thankful to VR, although she did have some challenges. She stated that her VR services timed out due to a lack of funds, and she had to reapply, although she was able to attend the Masters in Business program at ASU. Nancy Lucas stated that she did not receive her Assistive Technology (AT) until after the first semester, and had to commute to the campus. She noted that she was one of the first students at ASU with low vision, and her professors worked hard to provide her accommodations. Ms. Lucas stated that many individuals would get discouraged and she wanted to encourage people to not give up and to advocate for themselves. Reggie Laister agreed that it was important to advocate for oneself and to not give up.

Nathan Pullen stated he also had a placeholder in the agenda for a potential presentation from SAAVI Services for the Blind if the organization would be interested. Reggie Laister stated that he would be interested in presenting, and he would receive confirmation from SAAVI. Nathan Pullen stated that VR could present how an individual received VR services, SAAVI could speak about job placement services, and AIB could present on accommodations at AIB. David Steinmetz agreed and noted that it would be good for employers attending the event to be aware of the available resources. Nathan Pullen stated the committee could add a couple of client success stories to round out the agenda. He noted that he would develop a draft agenda for the event, and share it with the committee at the next meeting.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for September 28, 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

Jonathan Pringle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Reggie Laister seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.