

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Employment Committee Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2021

Members Present

Nathan Pullen
Bea Shapiro
Jonathan Pringle
Reggie Laister

Members Absent

Terell Welch
David Steinmetz

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Nathan Pullen called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

Approval of the August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Jonathan Pringle motioned to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2021 meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Member Updates

Jonathan Pringle stated the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) would be holding an Employment Open House for the residence program on September 27th and he would share that information with the committee.

E75 Event Discussion

Nathan Pullen stated the committee had discussed planning for a virtual E75 event and he agreed that would be the best format. Mr. Pullen stated that Terell Welch indicated that he would reach out to some employers and would be able to provide an update at the next meeting. Nathan Pullen stated the

Department of Economic Security (DES) recording studio would be willing to assist the committee in creating pre-recorded videos that could be played during an E75 event, which could be followed by questions and answers. Jonathan Pringle inquired regarding the overall format of the E75 events. Nathan Pullen stated the E75 event was typically held annually and was an award or recognition event where the committee would highlight employers that hired blind or visually impaired employees and would encourage other employers to do the same. Nathan Pullen stated the committee had recognized employers such as Peckham, SRP, and Wells Fargo and would allow an individual to speak about their experience being employed.

Bea Shapiro stated that she was working with a client that was employed by State Farm, which had an accessibility team that worked to provide ADA accommodations to employees. Ms. Shapiro stated that client might be interested in speaking during the event as well as individuals from the accessibility team. Nathan Pullen agreed and noted the committee had invited Assistive Technology (AT) vendors in the past to provide demonstrations of different equipment, which could be offered virtually this year. Bea Shapiro stated that many clients experienced difficulties obtaining the appropriate accommodations, and she was pleased to see how the accessibility team was able to assist this individual. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had discussed creating an updated E75 video to highlight an individual that was currently employed, and this client might be interested in being included in that video. Jonathan Pringle stated that he had 4 successful closures over the past year, and he would be willing to reach out to those individuals regarding their willingness to participate in the E75 event. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee planned to hold the event in February. Nathan Pullen stated the event was typically held in late January or early February and the committee could plan for that timeframe, but could push the event back, if necessary, also.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee was scheduled for October 28, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Event Discussion
- Committee Member Updates

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Bea Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Pringle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.