

**Governor's Advisory  
COUNCIL ON THE BLIND (GACB)**

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**August 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chair, Jillian Queen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at the Smyrna Rest Stop, Conference Room, 5500 Dupont Parkway, Smyrna, DE at 10:06 am.

**Roll Call:** Council: Jillian Queen (Chair), Lloyd Schmitz, Deidre Morris, Patti Addison, Kat Bottner. Absent: Ken Rolph, Pat Carzo  
DVI: Elisha Jenkins (Director), Jill Morrison.  
Public: Rob Keller, Mary Marsh, Wayne Marsh (BVC), Michelle Robinson

**Minutes:** April 2019. After discussion, Lloyd Schmitz made a motion to table the April 2019 minutes due to the inaccuracies and corrected minutes were not distributed nor posted, seconded by Deidre Morris. Motion carried. June 2019. Lloyd Schmitz made a motion to accept the June 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Deidre Morris. Motion carried. The motion was later modified to include a program title correction. Motion modification was unanimously agreed.

**DVI Director's Report**

Change in scribe of minutes. Kat Bottner asked Elisha to send her the Director's Report. Elisha Jenkins agreed. She reminded Jillian that we were out of compliance with the minutes in June. The minutes of the meeting must be posted in draft format 20 days after the meeting. Jillian said she understood that and explained Kat Bottner will be assisting her with the minutes each month.

Business Enterprise Program (BEP).

07/11/2019 bi-annual Open House Meeting. Agenda included an overview of the program, BEP Operators sharing their experience, and program requirements. Available to residents in all three counties as well as by teleconference. Three individuals expressed interested in the Program.

Discussion: Q: Sites available at this time? No. Q: The individual has to be a client? Yes, they must be working with a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor. Wayne Marsh explained that interested non-clients are directed to intake. Q: What is the status of interested individuals? Varied, due to individual readiness and eligibility. They go through each of the steps of the application process. For instance, background check, credit score, etc.

Discussion included Micro markets projections, whether or not they were assigned, and the protocols to address issues, concerns, and complaints that come up. Elisha said the Agency does not have decision-making authority on assigned locations. The Deldot location, for instance, is determined by Mike, the Blind Vendors Committee (BVC), Deldot, and Canteen. No projection yet on Carvel location. Jillian asked if a complaint was received, what would the proper procedure be to address such a complaint; who would need to be contacted? Elisha said the Operator, then Wayne and Mike. Lloyd said he would need to contact DHSS because his understanding is that there needs to be a permit. Elisha said that is not her understanding. Further discussion continued without resolution.

07/18/2019 Healthy Vending Team Meeting. Attendees from the Division of Public Health, Blind Vendors Committee, Canteen and the Division for the Visually Impaired. Discussion: healthy vending decline of sales reported at last month's Council meeting. The research indicates that sales were less the vending machine content and more administrative issues. Canteen shared driver issues, the transition to card-readers. The team re-committed to public health, agreed to continue analysis of sales, provide feedback, and to meet quarterly.

Mission Transition, week-long event at Delaware State University. 8 Participating students engaged in various skill-building activities and experienced college life. In addition to work-based learning opportunities:

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Four students participated in an African American Literature Class where the students advocated for their preferred media, received the reading material, read it prior to class, and then participated in class discussions.

The Apple Classroom hosted the Division's Students and implemented a lesson that provided an opportunity for the students to interact with the technology and ask questions related to their technology concerns. Lloyd Schmitz said there is an on-going discussion with the university to put braille on the classroom doors.

Level Up: five students attended this week long program in Kansas June 23- 28, 2019. Focuses on the college or career path. The sessions that the students participated in included, communication skills, how to develop leadership skills as well as many other opportunities. They had an opportunity to participate in a college and career fair, as well as they were each given laptops.

Computers for the Blind partners with other camps and workshops that are offered. They provided the computers for the students at Level Up as well as the Robotics Camp in Virginia. DVI is going to see if they can use this same resource.

Summer Skills Academy: July 8th- July 19th, 8 students attended 2-week event. Delaware Association of Blind Athletes (DABA) and Blindsight offered funding assistance with this event. They had a drum circle, visited the Ashlyn Nature Center, the YMCA, the Route 9 Library, and other activities. Transportation to the event was available to all students. Discussion: During the event, students shared needs with Staff. DVI asked Council's assistance in exploring resources for students who do not have food and, additionally, funds for school supplies. Consideration of a sub-committee of the Council was suggested.

Camp Abilities: July 21, 2019, 20 students participated, door to door transportation was provided. Some of the same students who attended Camp Abilities, attended the DVI Skills Academy. Students were challenged to choose which activity to attend, whether it be an internship or camp experience.

### **Future Outreach:**

Orientation and Mobility to collaborate with Salus University. Salus ask for DVI's assistance with their current research on client and correctional officers in the Pennsylvania prison system. The long-term goal is to create and implement a sensitivity training program within the correctional facilities and first responder organizations to modeled and incorporated into other states.

The Delaware Art Museum is partnering with the Division to obtain guidance on how to make their exhibits accessible to visitors who are visually impaired.

The Seagal Jewish Community Center to develop a water safety course for the visually impaired. They also want to increase awareness of blindness and visual impairment. This location is in Wilmington.

### **Old Business:**

Delaware Libraries are asking for the specific libraries and assistive services needed by residents to determine which library to start exploring these options. Lloyd suggested they start with the Library locations with One Stop services first. Last month Council discussed MS Office and Windows program accessibility options. This operating system and program are already on Library computers and have improved. Instructing Library staff to access these options will not cost anything. Kat Bottner and Lloyd Schmitz shared keyboard commands that access the accessibility options on Windows computers, so that individuals could use the computers independently. A suggestion was made to incorporate keyboard commands in client trainings.

Staff: Last month, there were questions in regards to the Orientation and Mobility and RFPs. There are three Admin Specialist positions going to be posted soon, but no temporary contractors are being sought.

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Teacher for the Visually Impaired (TVI) Certifications: No changes. VR Information: Since our June 2019 meeting, information has changed, Elisha will get back with Jillian.

#### **New Business:**

AIRA, a phone app. A “life agent” will explain surroundings, as well as they can help with many other tasks.

DVI Milford office is moving to two locations, Georgetown and Smyrna. Georgetown will be relocated to the Stockley Center Campus. There will be a location in Milford in the Child Development. Q: If someone wants sensitivity training? It will be in Georgetown. Clients can be served in New Castle and Kent in Milford and in Smyrna, but the main center will now be in Georgetown. Are there a fixed route bus stops there? Will find that out.

Independent Living Skills (ILS) workshops. Healthy Lifestyles Workshop 5/15/2019.

Location: Blindsight Delaware, 2915 Newport Gap Pike, Wilmington DE, 19808.

iPhone Voice Over gestures Workshop August 21, 2019, New Castle August 23, 2019.

#### **Public Comments:**

Lloyd asked if DVI still has the smart glasses, and if so, could they do a workshop on them? There will be a workshop and that information will be shared when it is set up.

DABA’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner is Friday, October 4, 2019. Tickets are \$25. For information contact Patti Addison or Terry Marsh at Blindsight Delaware at 302 998-5913.

**Motion to Adjourn:** With nothing left to discuss, Jillian Queen asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Patti Addison, seconded by Kat Bottner. Motion passed. Jillian Queen Meeting adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jillian Queen

Thanks to Kat Bottner for transcribing the meeting