

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI)
Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
Blind Vendors Committee (BVC) Meeting Minutes
1901 N. DuPont Highway, Biggs Building
New Castle, DE 19720
October 24, 2019
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendees: Wayne Marsh, Chairman; Rob Schmidlkofer, BEP Program Director; Elisha Jenkins, Division for the Visually Impaired; Jill Morrison, Division for the Visually Impaired; Gary Pizzolo, council member; Bill DeGraffenreid, BEP; Romy Mikhail, BEP; Mark Ridenour, Division for the Visually Impaired; Brian Drysdale, guest, Instant Imprints; and Debra Mills-Joe, Division for the Visually Impaired.

Call to Order: 10:10 AM

Approval of August 2019 Minutes: Gary Pizzolo made a motion to approve the August 2019 minutes. Wayne Marsh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finances: Balances on all accounts were provided.

Guest Attendee: Brian Drysdale of Instant Imprints first discussed what information is to be on vending machine decals. He then showed two options for the BEP vending machines. The first he demonstrated was the screen print decal, and the second was a digital decal. Mr. Drysdale will return later to show the layout preview for review.

Directors Report:

DVI is still engaged in the Sunset hearings. Meeting five of the Joint Legislative and Oversight Sunset Committee Task Force is to be held on October 30, 2019, from 10:00AM to 12 noon. Comments will be accepted until November 8 for any recommendations regarding the Division for the Visually Impaired.

Business Enterprise Program: The DELDOT micro-market opened on September 30 in conjunction with the DELDOT's Southern entrance construction project. This is the first micro-market for the Business Enterprise Program. There is a mini-kitchen area with a large seating area beside the

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micro market. Currently, a DELDOT employee will assist anyone requiring help with using the micro-market. Around the country, micro-markets have provided a significant increase in revenue over the traditional vending machines.

On October 30, 2019, BEP will be attending a webinar on "Healthy Vending". BEP's Upward Mobility will hold a training by the Money School at the Herman Holloway, Biggs Building on October 31, 2019. There will also be a training in December 2019 on how to label and fill the new vending machines. April 14-17, 2020, in Chicago, Illinois, there will be workshops on Lawyers and the Randolph Sheppard Act. The final draft of the State Law Revisions of the operator assignments is to be submitted by Tuesday, October 29, 2019 to operators for review.

A request made by DVI's director to have available at the next meeting an itemized inventory list of all equipment that BEP owns.

A motion to purchase 15 new vending machines was made by Wayne Marsh. Seconded by Gary Pizzolo. The motion carried.

If purchased, the new vending machines will be converted to hold new content information. Rob is requesting the status of the deployment of the 15 new vending machines.

Independent Living Services: The Independent Living Services staff exhibited at the Veteran's Stand Down event where health and community services information, which included information about the Division's services, programs, and eye diseases was circulated to over 1000 Veterans.

DVII's Independent Living, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Orientation and Mobility staff provided sensitivity training to employees of the Independent Resources Incorporated (IRI) Center for the Independent Living in Dover, Delaware. The Center was interested in learning best practices for working with and interacting with individuals who are visually impaired. DVI's staff provided an overview of the agency and discussed the courtesy rules of blindness, followed by a lesson in sighted guide by one of the Orientation and Mobility Instructors to all in attendance. At the conclusion of the training, the Executive Director of IRI invited DVI staff to attend their next scheduled training to work with individuals who are deaf and/or blind.

Vocational Rehabilitation: The Vocational Rehabilitation staff provided an overview of services offered through their program to the Independent Resources Incorporated (IRI) Center for Independent Living in Dover as well.

Education: The Division hosted its Fall Beach House Weekend on September 20 thru 22 in Rehoboth Beach geared towards students in 9th grade to 12th grade. Students acquired skills in running their own business, library careers, resources, on how to ride a fixed route bus, and how to tandem bike ride, all while working with the team to improve their leadership skills and plan activities for the Spring Beach House. Eight students attended and shared their appreciation for the program, and enjoyment of their time together each year.

DVI supported eleven students along with two Teachers for the Visually Impaired serving as chaperones to attend Space Camp for the Visually Impaired Students from September 27 through October 4, 2019, at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The camp was geared specifically for students with visual impairments including incorporating the use of accessible technology and materials. Students learned space and flight history and teamwork. They experienced simulators, completed simulated space missions, career exploration and visited the Helen Keller home.

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DVI celebrated White Cane Day on October 15, 2019 at Legislative Hall in Dover. The celebration included the VRAC recognition of the Sharon Sutlic- Winds of Change and the Deborah Briddell Excellence in Teaching Awards. The Men with a Message Program and Sharon Donovan were awarded the honor

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Adjournment: Wayne Marsh made motion to adjourn. Gary Pizzolo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Next meeting date: November 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by: Debra Mills-Joe
Administrative Specialist I
Division for the Visually Impaired