

VHEAP Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, 16 January 2025

Attending

- Korey Singleton
- Barbara Zunder
- Jason Heron
- Charlene Jones
- Mark Nichols
- Jamie Chandler
- Mollie Kropp
- Danielle Smith
- Brittany Dioszeghy
- Christina Wulf
- Pearl Xie
- Sarahbeth Dreis
- Stacy McBain

Agenda Items

GA Session – Sarahbeth

Bill 1805 (1850?) is SB21 Part II. SCHEV disability higher access committee met this morning and the majority of the attendees are in support of it.

Any constituent/departmental/presidential/dean feedback, please share with Emily so she can pass that along to Grace

Budget Amendment from Department of Human Resources would expand postsecondary access for students with intellectual disabilities. There will be a bit of back-and-forth with the General Assembly with this given that this started as a budget amendment.

DOJ Training – Sarahbeth

Steve retired from the DOJ 🙄 Finishing out his term now. Emily will contact him towards the end of January. As a private citizen, he will be able to record the training.

AHEAD and VHEAP will likely have to take larger roles in training than before. SCHEV was going to be the host, but now with Steve retiring, that's more complicated.

The “Dear Colleague” letter will still come from SCHEV, but SCHEV will likely not be the entity that hosts the letter.

What do we need to do to host? Set up a webinar?

Unsure at this point because Steve is trying to wind down his work and transition. The webinar was supposed to be on January 14.

It could be as simple as a Zoom link, but Steve originally wanted panelists – maybe VHEAP/AHEAD members/BOD folk act as panelists?

Title II meeting at UVA – Christina / Mark

John Unsworth helped pull together VIVA, Virginia Higher Ed Procurement Consortium (VHEPC), VHEAP, also other higher education institutions, VASCCUPP (**most assuredly misspelled**), and the Library Accessibility Alliance (<https://www.libraryaccessibility.org/>).

Discussing how best to support each other w/r/t Title II. Lots of folks did not know about VHEAP or the resources that we offer (training, cooperative contracts on captioning, access to accessible document remediation).

Comments from participants:

- How do I know if I have representation from my university participating in VHEAP? Where is your member list? Can the member list be made public?
 - This came from the dean of the library from the college of William & Mary

Privacy concerns are likely why this information isn’t public – we didn’t ask about disclosure when people signed up, so we’re a little unsure about sharing this information publicly.

The Dean was interested in following up with folks at her institution who might have access to VHEAP resources and could spread the word about events that we’re hosting.

- Could there be a specific lead or a point person for each institution or university who would be represented on the site? That way, individuals could contact that person without having to go through the BOD.

Other similar organizations have this kind of information shared publicly.

- Sending out communications to membership about points of contact for people.

- Discussed VHEAP potentially creating some tip sheets for creating accessible content. What did people think about these topics?

- Captioning
- Training resources
- How do we categorize and publicize these resources for people who are just discovering us?
- From Christina: VHEPC representative asked about coordinating a set of standards for product accessibility. Ryan (the representative) said he was amenable, but that we would have to come up with the standards.
- John Unsworth created a listserv for this meeting – anyone who wants to be included, pass that information along to Barb and Christina
- Each school has training resources about ADA Title II work. Maybe we could try to share out these resources from the VHEAP website?
 - Maybe there's a process where we vet the materials and endorse one video in particular that gets highlighted on the website.
 - Might even be an opportunity to spin up a subcommittee with VHEAP membership to develop those tips and strategy guides in the creation of AEM.

There's a new bill? – Mark

We got an updated draft on December 31 "Give us your feedback before this is finalized!"

HB2541 (to replace HB1355) - bill details available here: <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/HB2541>

Dropped from the bill: any language about developing equally effective alternative access plans. "Since all content has to be accessible by April 24, 2026, we don't need to create EEAAPs!" :eyeroll-emoji-goes-here:

Delegate Tran took the input from the NFB and drafted 2541. The procurement subgroup also reviewed and gave input. This seems more likely to pass this year. The new bill seeks to identify a coordinator, provide a VPAT and an accessibility roadmap, has annual reports that should go to the head of an executive branch agency (more details in the bill itself).

Third time's a charm!

Title II of the ADA seems to have spurred this positive movement. This bill is designed to support Title II implementation and create a solid foundation for accessibility in the state of Virginia.

If this bill passes as-is, it would provide a means for us to collect VPATS/ACRs across the state and build a shared resource.

Captioning committee update

Met earlier this week to review the reports provided by the captioning vendors, and to determine what's needed from VHEAP in order to support those contracts.

Continued marketing and advertisement to build awareness and capacity of these captioning contracts. How can we better align our efforts, continuing to promote and build awareness? How many entities across the state are in the same position – unaware that this resource exists?

We'll need to do the same thing with the Document Accessibility work as well, so it's a good time for us to investigate this.

- Worth having a town hall? Maybe we partner with/reach out to the folks who were so excited about these captioning contracts (VIVA, Library Alliance, Website Modernization Group). By that point, we'd likely be ready to share Document Accessibility work.

Barb to reach out to VHEPC, VASCUP, and VIVA

Kristen reiterated that only three vendors have been approved by UVA for sensitive data (CALO, 3Play, Verbit). We may need to be explicit about this on the website.

From Korey: do we maybe try to do this around the UnConference? Could maybe draw in some groups who wouldn't traditionally attend the UnConference. Since AHEAD is doing a part of Day One – is there a way to piggyback off that?

We are at the second tier of medium spend with Verbit. Verbit rates have gone down until June 2025. Verbit is also the first vendor to establish an unlimited captioning model, which includes a first-pass of ASR and a human review (called Captivate). This may become more popular as institutions need to increase accessibility w/r/t Title II, but don't have unlimited funding.

Nobody is currently using it within Virginia. Virginia Tech is currently exploring it (to run tests and analyze the outcome).

- Does Captivate have a specified accuracy rating?

The more you use it, the more accurate it gets. That's what Virginia Tech is currently testing.

Lunch and Learn

Forty-seven people have registered. Korey will send another notice likely mid-week next week, and another the Monday before the session.

