



# **BCB BULLETIN**

## **November 2021**

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### **BCB Holiday Party and Membership Meeting Planned for December 8!**

We are planning an in-person Holiday Party and Membership Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from Noon to 2 PM! We'll serve a boxed lunch that includes baked chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans. The location has not yet been determined.

Membership is required to register, and each member can bring one guest! Membership is \$10 and must be paid in full 30 days prior to the meeting, which means you'll need to have your membership paid up by Nov. 8. Registration for the meeting closes two days prior, so be sure to register by noon on Monday, Dec. 6! To register, call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org).

This meeting will be in person so masks are required while you move about the room and offices.

### **Holiday Schedule Changes**

There will be no Lunch & Learns in November and December due to the holidays. Food distribution will be delivery only and the dates have also been adjusted to November 18 and December 16.

### **We Need Your Feedback!**

Have you used any BCB service since July 1? For example: have you received food distribution, participated in a mentoring or community

outing/in-ing, received assistive technology training, etc.? If so, BCB is eager to hear your feedback on our services to help us with grant reporting and evaluating programs. So, we're holding a focus group on Wednesday, Nov. 17, from noon to 2 PM here at BCB Headquarters. We'll supply boxed lunches, and the attendance will be capped at 20 to keep everyone socially distanced.

Registration is required by noon on Monday, Nov. 15. To register, call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org).

This meeting will be in person so masks are required while you move about the room or office.

For those who are unable to attend or are not comfortable coming in person, we will offer a focus group meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 7 PM to 8 PM. We will also be conducting phone surveys in November and December to gather feedback, so you may receive a call from us, too. Thank you in advance!

## **Audio Books Available for the Taking!**

It's the perfect time of year to cozy up with an audio book! Bluegrass Community and Technical College has donated several boxes of books on CD to us and we are making them available to you! The collection runs across all genres, including books by Sue Grafton, Dean Koontz and Stephen King; popular titles like *The Davinci Code* and *The Secret Life of Bees*; and classics like *Jane Eyre*, *Robinsons Crusoe*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Beowulf*. If you don't have a CD player, you should be able to listen to the CD on a computer with a CD-ROM drive.

If you're interested in picking up some books on CD, email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) or call 859-259-1834 and we can send you a list of what we have available.

## **Richard Sizemore Is Now Certified!**

BCB's Information Technology/Cybersecurity Manager Richard Sizemore has just become certified for training on JAWS and Zoom Text. JAWS, which stands for Job Access With Speech, is a computer screen reader program that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a Refreshable Braille display. Zoom Text is a magnification and screen reading software for the visually impaired. Congratulations, Richard!

## **If You Live Outside Fayette County, Check out Lextran's Visitor Policy for Paratransit**

Lextran has a program that allows visitors to Fayette County to use Wheels! Here's how the policy reads:

"Lextran will provide Paratransit service for visitors to our service area who are eligible for Paratransit service in their home city or jurisdiction. For the purposes of the policy, a visitor is considered any individual who currently receives Paratransit services but does not reside in the area serviced by Lextran. Lextran shall treat visitors as eligible for Paratransit service upon provision of documentation of their eligibility in their own home city or jurisdiction. If the visitor does not have documentation of their eligibility, they must provide a phone number or email contact for the agency that granted their eligibility. Lextran personnel will contact that home agency to document the visitor's eligibility. Once Lextran confirms eligibility, the visitor is immediately eligible for Paratransit service in Lextran's service area.

"Visitors can contact 859-255-7754 or [info@lextran.com](mailto:info@lextran.com) to request Paratransit service. Please contact Lextran as soon as possible to ensure timely access to the service. Upon confirmation of their eligibility, visitors wishing to utilize Lextran's Paratransit service may do so for any combination of 21 days during any 365-day period beginning with the visitor's first use of the service during the 365-day period."

## **BCB's October Meetings Available on YouTube**

If you were not able to attend BCB's October Assistive Technology Seminar, Lunch & Learn and Tai Chi, or if you'd like to experience them again, you can find them on YouTube! Just click the links below:

[Click here for BCB's October 2021 Assistive Technology Group Seminar: 'Accessibility and Streaming Services'](#)

[Click here for BCB's October 2021 Lunch & Learn: Blind Abilities Celebration](#)

[Click here for the Oct. 14, 2021, Tai Chi for the Visually Impaired](#)

## **Take Advantage of United Way's Financial Empowerment Day**

On November 3, United Way is teaming up with PNC and Fifth Third Bank to help people open no-overdraft-fee checking accounts at our WayPoint Centers in Lexington! Open a checking account and you can set up direct deposits for your job, Child Tax Credits and future tax refunds. Free financial counseling and job search assistance will also be available onsite and the first 20 people to open accounts will receive a \$50 deposit!

**The event takes place Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 2 PM to 7 PM at two locations:**

WayPoint Center—East End  
Charles Young Center  
540 E Third St,  
Lexington, KY 40508

WayPoint Center—West End  
Black & Williams Center  
498 Georgetown St.  
Lexington, KY 40508

Parking is available in the Charles Young Center parking lot (across Shropshire Ave) and the Black & Williams parking lot in addition to street parking.

## **Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Announce Virtual Public Hearing on the State Plan**

The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will hold two virtual public hearings to gain feedback on ways to improve services for individuals with disabilities in Kentucky on Nov. 30 and Dec. 2, 2021. The State Plan outlines how OVR will administer vocational rehabilitation and supported employment services. OVR is seeking input regarding the goals and priorities for our upcoming revised State Plan. Registration for the virtual events is required. The dates, times and registration links are below.

### **Registration Links**

[Click here to register for Nov. 30th, 11 AM to 1 PM \(ET\).](#)

[Click here to register for Dec. 2nd, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM \(ET\)](#)

After registering for one or both of the following events you will receive an email confirmation with details on how to connect to the virtual session.

### **Additional Options for Comments**

Kentuckians who are unable to attend a virtual forum may send comments in any format (written, phone call, in person, etc.) through Nov. 27, 2021. Comments may be sent in writing to the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 500 Mero St, 4th Floor NE, Frankfort, KY, 40601, or via email

to [cora.mcnabb@ky.gov](mailto:cora.mcnabb@ky.gov), [becky.cabe@ky.gov](mailto:becky.cabe@ky.gov) or [susiem.edwards@ky.gov](mailto:susiem.edwards@ky.gov).

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

ASL interpreters and automated speech-to-text transcription service will be provided for this event. If other reasonable accommodations for a disability are required for participation in the virtual public hearing, please call 1-502-782-3421.

## **Calendar**

### **November Events**

#### **November BCB Mentoring Small Groups**

Share and learn tips and techniques for living and coping with a vision impairment in these small group settings. Do you have questions and just don't know where to find the answers? Are you trying to deal with challenges due to your vision and wondering how others manage? Join us for a more personal way of sharing and learning. These groups are confidential, and participants are expected to be mindful and respectful of one another's privacy when personal information is shared. New group members are welcome! We offer two dates for the mentoring small groups: an afternoon meeting and an evening meeting.

#### **Afternoon Mentoring**

**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021

**Time:** 1 PM to 2 PM EST

**Location:** Zoom meeting

To participate, contact Theresa Thomas at [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) or 859-259-1834 for access information.

## **Evening Mentoring**

**Date:** Monday, Nov. 15, 2021

**Time:** 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM EST

**Location:** Zoom meeting

To participate, contact Theresa Thomas at [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) or 859-259-1834 for access information.

## **November BCB Community In-ing**

### **Tai Chi for the Visually Impaired**

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**Instructor:** Rachel Eldridge

Please join us for Tai Chi for the Visually Impaired, brought to you through a partnership with A Caring Place. This class will use verbal descriptions to familiarize people with vision impairments with the various movements and forms of Tai Chi, a relaxing form of exercise that is also meditative.

Movements will be done from a seated position and there will be a short, guided meditation at the end of the class. Sighted guests are welcome to join.

**Registration:** Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org).

Remember, you can use a landline telephone as well as a cell phone, computer or tablet to access a Zoom meeting. Carrier rates may apply.

## **November BCB Assistive Technology Group Seminar**

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021

**Time:** 1 PM to 2 PM

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**Topic:** The Scan Jig

Do you use a text-to-speech app on your phone to read your mail? How about the cooking instructions on a food package? If you've ever had difficulty holding your smartphone or tablet while scanning text, then the November AT seminar is for you! This month we will be demonstrating the Scan Jig! The Scan Jig holds both smartphones and tablets in the perfect position and angle for scanning documents. Several of these devices have been made available for distribution through a generous grant from the Kentucky Colonels and we can't wait to show you how it works! Join Sam as he demonstrates how the Scan Jig can work with a wide variety of phones, tablets, and apps, and see if one of these gadgets is for you!

**Registration:** Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) to register. Remember, you can use a landline telephone as well as a cell phone, computer or tablet to access a Zoom meeting. Carrier rates may apply.

### **BCB Focus Group**

**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021

**Time:** Noon to 2 PM

**Location:** BCB Headquarters (1093 S. Broadway, Ste. 1214, Lexington, KY 40503)

If you have received any BCB service since July 1, you are invited to participate in our annual focus group! BCB is eager to hear your feedback on our services to help us with grant reporting and evaluating programs. We'll supply boxed lunches, and the attendance will be capped at 20 to keep everyone socially distanced.

**Registration:** Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) to register. Registration is required by noon on Monday, Nov. 15. This meeting will be in person so masks are required while you move about the room or office.

### **November BCB Food Distribution Home Delivery**

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021

**Time:** Between 3 PM and 6 PM EST

November food distribution will be delivery only. If you are blind or visually impaired, live in Fayette County and need food due to financial difficulties or barriers to shopping, BCB offers a pre-determined variety of grocery items we can deliver to your home.

**Registration:** To register for food delivery, call 859-259-1834 and press 1 to leave your name, street address and phone number, and state that you would like food delivered. If you are unsure of your availability, please only call when you are certain of your arrangements to avoid confusion. If you have questions, please call the BCB office during normal office hours and press zero to talk with a staff member. If you do leave a message but then need to change your request, you must talk with a staff member to make the change. Changes will NOT be accepted through the voicemail system.

## **Kentucky Council of the Blind 48th Annual Conference and Convention**

**Date:** Nov. 18-20, 2021

The 2021 Kentucky Council of the Blind Virtual Conference and Convention will be held November 18 - 20 on the Zoom platform and on ACB Media, heard on all Alexa devices, on the computer at [acbmedia.org](http://acbmedia.org), and on any telephone by dialing (518) 906-1820.

## **December Events**

### **December BCB Community In-ing Tai Chi for the Visually Impaired**

**Date:** Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**Instructor:** Rachel Eldridge

Please join us for Tai Chi for the Visually Impaired, brought to you through a partnership with A Caring Place. This class will use verbal descriptions to familiarize people with vision impairments with the various movements and forms of Tai Chi, a relaxing form of exercise that is also meditative.

Movements will be done from a seated position and there will be a short, guided meditation at the end of the class. Sighted guests are welcome to join.

**Registration:** Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org).

Remember, you can use a landline telephone as well as a cell phone, computer or tablet to access a Zoom meeting. Carrier rates may apply.

### **BCB Holiday Party and Quarterly Membership Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021

**Time:** Noon to 2 PM

**Location:** TBD

Please join us for our in-person Holiday Party and Membership Meeting! We'll serve a boxed lunch of baked chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans. Membership is required to register and each member can bring one guest. Membership is \$10 and must be paid in full 30 days prior to the meeting, which means you'll need to have your membership paid up by Nov. 8.

**Registration:** Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) to register. Registration for the meeting closes two days prior, so be sure to



register by noon on Monday, Dec. 6! This meeting will be in person so masks are required while you move about the room and offices.

### **December BCB Assistive Technology Group Seminar**

**Date:** Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021

**Time:** 1 PM to 2 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Topic:** "All about the OrCam!"

The OrCam is a wearable device that detects text and speaks it aloud. The OrCam can also identify various products, US currency, credit cards, and even faces. In this month's A-T group seminar, we will discuss the two types of OrCam devices currently on the market and demonstrate their features. Join us for this exciting look at some of the most current assistive technology available!

### **BCB Focus Group**

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021

**Time:** 7 PM to 8 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

If you have received any BCB service since July 1 and did not participate in the Nov. 17 focus group, you are invited to participate! BCB is eager to hear your feedback on our services to help us with grant reporting and evaluating programs.

**Registration:** Call the office at 859-259-1834 or email [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) to register.

### **December BCB Food Distribution Home Delivery**

**Date:** Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021

**Time:** Between 3 PM and 6 PM EST

December food distribution will be delivery only. If you are blind or visually impaired, live in Fayette County and need food due to financial difficulties or barriers to shopping, BCB offers a pre-determined variety of grocery items we can deliver to your home.

**Registration:** To register for food delivery, call 859-259-1834 and press 1 to leave your name, street address and phone number, and state that you would like food delivered. If you are unsure of your availability, please only call when you are certain of your arrangements to avoid confusion. If you have questions, please call the BCB office during normal office hours and press zero to talk with a staff member. If you do leave a message but then need to change your request, you must talk with a staff member to make the change. Changes will NOT be accepted through the voicemail system.

## **December BCB Mentoring Small Groups**

**Date:** Monday, Dec. 20, 2021

**Time:** 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM EST

**Location:** Zoom meeting

Join us for a more personal way of sharing and learning. These groups are confidential, and participants are expected to be mindful and respectful of one another's privacy when personal information is shared. New group members are welcome! To participate, contact Theresa Thomas at [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org) or 859-259-1834 for access information.



*If you would like to help support the BCB Bulletin and the vital services provided by the Bluegrass Council of the Blind, please consider clicking the Donate Now button to make a secure online donation today or [click through to our Web site here](#). Thank you!*