

Nebraska Commission for the Blind
Public Meeting, Saturday, August 4, 2018
Best Western Plus, 3201 S. Jeffers St., North Platte, NE
and
NCBVI Norfolk office, 214 N. 7th St., Norfolk, NE
(Video Conference)

Draft Minutes

9:00 a.m. Call to Order. Welcome and introductions. Announcement concerning public comment periods, meeting agendas, open meeting act, proof of publication, recordings and other logistics.

Mike Hansen, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The meeting began with introductions.

Commissioners present: Mike Hansen, Chairperson, Designee of the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, Lincoln; Robert Newman, Vice Chairperson, Omaha; Chad Bell, Alliance; Becky Rieken, Executive Secretary, Dakota City (attended via video conference from Norfolk).
Commissioner absent: Mark Bulger, Designee of the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska, Omaha.

Commission staff present: Carlos Serván, Executive Director; Carol Jenkins, Deputy Director; Kathy Carroll, Business Manager; Kathy Stephens, Administrative Assistant; Erin Brandyberry, North Platte District Supervisor; Jan Brandt, Kearney; Cristal Dimas, Kearney; Fritz Nuffer, North Platte; Connie Daly, Lincoln District Supervisor (attended via video conference from Norfolk); John Schmitt, (attended via video conference from Norfolk) and Stephanie Olson (attended via video conference from Norfolk).

Public Present: There was no public present.

It was noted that public comments are welcome during the scheduled Public Comment periods regarding the agenda items or other relevant issues. Kathy Stephens recorded the meeting and the recordings are available on the website.

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was available. The Act was available in both print and Braille format. The Notice of the Meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star, the North Platte Telegraph, the State Government Calendar, NCBVI Website, NFB Newsline® and Radio Talking Book. The Notice was also sent to ACBN, NFBN, and the NCBVI List Serve.

Approval of the May 5, 2018 public meeting minutes.
Commissioner Bell moved to approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2018 Commission Meeting.
Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Focus Topic: Section 511 / Developmental Disabilities.

Presented by Erin Brandyberry

Over the past year, NCBVI has implemented many new procedures to be consistent with section 511 of the rehab act and to provide quality services to individuals with severe multiple disabilities. Some of the things that have been developed are as follows: Career Counseling and Information and Referral (CC&IR) sessions, various opportunities for individuals with severe multiple disabilities, a potentially eligible service mechanism to serve youth who are not ready to establish a vocational goal, and many networking opportunities throughout the state.

History of Section 511

The requirements of section 511 went into effect July 22, 2016, which was 2 years after the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The purpose of section 511 is to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to information and services that will enable them to achieve competitive integrated employment if they desire to pursue it. Section 511 requires that all individuals who are employed by an agency who hold a 14(c) certificate and make less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, receive ongoing career counseling and information and referral services (CC&IR) throughout the duration of their subminimum wage employment from the appropriate VR agency. (Note: A 14(c) certificate permits agencies to pay individuals with disabilities less than minimum wage). Section 511 also has additional criteria for youth who are entering a subminimum wage employment setting to ensure that they are provided with adequate employment related opportunities rather than it being “assumed” that they are unable to work in a competitive integrated setting.

Prior to section 511 going into effect, there were no requirements of state VR agencies to make contact with individuals employed in these settings. Once individuals entered this type of employment, it was ultimately up to the individual/family/guardian or the 14(c) certificate holder to establish new opportunities in which the individual could grow vocationally, and often those opportunities were not sought out and the individual would stay in subminimum wage employment for extended periods of time, if not their entire working life. Section 511 now emphasizes informed choice and facilitates VR agencies providing these individuals numerous opportunities throughout their life to make sure they are informed of all of the services that are available to them and gives them opportunities to grow instead of being static in subminimum wage employment without at least knowing what opportunities are available to them.

Subminimum Wage Employment and CC&IR

The main function of the CC&IR session is to provide career counseling and information and referral services. Within this session, however, the VR agency is also to provide information on self-advocacy, self-determination, and peer mentoring training opportunities that are available in the individual’s local area. NCBVI created a document that staff can use to discuss many different resources that are available to the individual, and that NCBVI can assist with arranging those services as requested. Some of the topics that are discussed during the session include information on benefits counseling, various advocacy groups, Centers for independent living, adult education opportunities, and assistive technology options. The session should also include discussion about what minimum wage in Nebraska currently is, explaining that the individual is currently making less than that amount for the work they are completing, exploring their strengths and interests, types of accommodations in the workplace, and thoroughly explaining that NCBVI believes in the individual and that we are here to help them reach their vocational goal.

All individuals who were in subminimum wage employment prior to July 22, 2016, should receive CC&IR services from the appropriate state VR agency annually for the duration of their employment. Any individuals who enter subminimum wage employment after July 22, 2016 should receive CC&IR services every 6 months for the first year of their employment, and then annually thereafter for the duration of their subminimum wage employment. The VR agency should also reflect on any clients served since the implementation of WIOA on July 22, 2014 and reach out to any individuals that we knew entered subminimum wage employment.

CC&IR is most often completed at the place of the subminimum wage employment, and the individual him/herself must be present. The individual may decide to have other people present for the meeting, such as a staff member of the employer, a caseworker for Developmental Disabilities, guardian, or other family members or friends. Thus far, we have most often had the individual present with a staff member from the employer.

The NCBVI staff member conducting the CC&IR session must present the information in a way that is understandable to the individual with the disability, so while there is a set of core information that is provided to all individuals, the method of delivery and the pace of the meeting likely varies from session to session. The CC&IR session must also facilitate independent decision-making and informed choice as the individual makes decisions regarding opportunities for competitive integrated employment and career advancement, particularly with respect to supported employment, including customized employment.

Section 511 only requires that individuals in subminimum wage employment accept hearing about the CC&IR information; they are not required to pursue competitive integrated employment. If they are interested in looking into competitive integrated employment, however, they can make an application for VR services at the time of CC&IR. The individual may stay in the subminimum wage employment setting while pursuing a VR goal. It is unacceptable for an individual to refuse hearing about CC&IR services and stay in the subminimum wage employment setting. They have every right to decline pursuing any additional services that we discuss, but they must accept the CC&IR session in order to maintain their subminimum wage employment.

The state of Nebraska has a list of all individuals who are employed at subminimum wage at an employer who holds a 14(c) certificate, and the list is shared with Nebraska VR. This list, however, does not include the individual's disability, so Nebraska VR often does not know which individuals are blind or visually impaired until they meet with them. At that time, Nebraska VR informs the individual and others in attendance that a referral will be made to NCBVI to conduct the CC&IR session. NCBVI obtained a list of 14(c) certificate holders in the state of Nebraska and did outreach to each agency to inform them about NCBVI and the laws that pertain to Section 511 and 14(c) certificate holders in attempt to receive more direct referrals.

Once an individual has been referred to NCBVI for CC&IR services, it is the responsibility of NCBVI to track the frequency of the CC&IR sessions and provide them as needed. The first CC&IR session must be provided within 30 days of the initial referral.

Section 511 has additional criteria that youth (under the age of 25) must meet in order to be in a subminimum wage employment setting. It is required that the youth receive some transition services (as defined by any of the five required Pre-Employment Transition Services) prior to entering subminimum wage employment. These services can either be provided by the VR agency, or the school if it is appropriately documented in the IEP. It is the responsibility of the VR

agency to provide documentation of the transition services to the 14(c) certificate holder even if they were not the ones to provide it. If youth refuse transition services, they are not eligible to enter subminimum wage employment until they reach the age of 25. Youth must also meet the same criteria of CC&IR services as detailed above.

Commissioner Newman asked what happens if the individual refuses a CC&IR session. Erin Brandyberry stated that fortunately we have not had that happen yet. However, if the individual was refusing CC&IR services, we would reach out to the supports of the individual to make sure everyone understands the importance and significance of the CC&IR services. We would also do everything we can to get an acknowledgement of the information being received. We would then need to provide documentation to the 14(c) holder and it is assumed that the 14(c) holder who would be responsible for making sure that the CC&IR sessions are being fulfilled. The VR agencies responsibility is to make sure that the CC&IR session is offered within the required timetable.

Commissioner Newman asked if someone has been employed for 20 years, do we really keep his or her case open for 20 years. Erin stated that at this time we are taking this person as a referral into our AWARE Case Management system and opening the referral every six months or one year; whichever is applicable and having their case open only while we are meeting with them. Then, the status of the closed referral is subminimum wage closure follow-up. The supervisors of each District are keeping a calendar list to keep track of the next time it is due. This is not an ideal system, but we have talked with AWARE and WINTAC and they agreed that there is not a perfect system. Hopefully, at some point AWARE will develop something that is a little easier to maintain.

Belief in the Blind with Multiple Severe Disabilities

There have been many formal and informal discussions within the agency in the last year about our agency's philosophy pertaining to individuals with severe multiple disabilities. We entirely believe that all individuals, regardless of the severity of the disability, deserve multiple quality opportunities to develop transferrable work skills if they are interested in pursuing competitive integrated employment. NCBVI consulted with WINTAC (Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center) for guidance on section 511, and found this to also be the recommended practice for VR agencies to follow. NCBVI has set a minimum two-year time frame to work with an individual in service status before considering closing their case for the reason of their disability is too significant to benefit from services.

NCBVI staff members strive to discover the individual's strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, positive reinforcers and triggers, etc. during the period that we are working with them. For youth, this can be accomplished through the Pre-ETS services. Staff are encouraged to do a variety of work experiences with the individual, such as practicing the same task consistently over a period of time to see if they are able to learn a new skill, go into the community to see how he/she responds to stimuli, and discuss and tour jobs in the community to discover his/her underlying passions. Again, the opportunities provided will vary greatly between individuals based on their needs. It is imperative to continually evaluate the progress that the individual makes during these experiences, as this will establish the direction that we should take the case in to see the most improvement and success for the client.

There are individuals throughout the state where the guardians do not see how the one they care for will ever be able to work in a competitive integrated setting, as this may be the first opportunity they have been given to consider quality vocational options for the individual. They may be understandably hesitant to establish a vocational goal in these instances, so NCBVI created a program to serve transition-aged students called "Potentially Eligible". This mechanism allows students to receive the five required Pre-Employment Transition Services without applying or being determined eligible for services, which therefore eliminates the requirement of establishing a vocational goal. This may be a good alternative method for discovering more about the student's capabilities through various work related experiences without the overwhelming thought of having to pursue a vocational goal in a competitive integrated employment setting.

Customized employment and supported employment are two services that are highly utilized once some transferrable job skills have been identified. In some instances, NCBVI staff have provided these supports and created job opportunities for clients that meet their needs and emphasize their strengths. In other instances, NCBVI staff have arranged to contract with community resource providers (CRPs) to provide the milestones program (in conjunction with Developmental Disability Services) in which the CRP provides a more structured environment for the individual to learn job skills, establish employment, and maintain employment.

Commissioner Newman asked what NCBVI is doing differently now than in the past with this population. Executive Director Serván stated that in general some staff had previously stated that they were only trained in blindness and they did not know much about other disabilities. NCBVI formalized the training for individuals with blindness and multiple disabilities; therefore, NCBVI is doing most everything needed already.

Commissioner Newman asked what a typical scenario might be if someone was interested in competitive integrated employment. Erin stated that the individual would be placed in a regular VR program. NCBVI has talked to WINTAC about what they suggest. WINTAC asked what we would expect anyone without multiple disabilities to need and then how much time would they need with their disability? We did set a two-year minimum requirement for all plans, meaning that the agency cannot decide to close a case earlier than two years because their disability is too severe. NCBVI has always been good about giving the individual an opportunity, but now we have put emphasis on giving them multiple opportunities and evaluating throughout those opportunities to see even the littlest strengths and turn that into a domino effect in building on their strengths. The two-year minimum requirement is a new process for NCBVI.

Commissioner Newman inquired as to if the individual could stay in the same job or move into a different job. Director Serván stated that if someone just wants to learn more blindness skills so they can be more independent then we would do an application for our independent living services and not VR.

Commissioner Newman inquired about money that NCBVI could use to hire a job coach to work with them for a period of time. Director Serván noted that this is Supported Employment. Commissioner Newman asked how this was going to be different. Director Serván stated that the only difference now is that 50% of that Supported Employment money needs to be used for pre-employment transition services. Therefore, there is less money available for other things. However, because of the nature of the philosophy of the agency, we never were concerned about spending Basic Support money for those services.

Chairperson Hansen asked if an individual at a 14(c) Center needed some assistance in performing their job at the 14(c) Center, and if it is not competitive integrated employment, is this something that NCBVI would support them with? Erin reported that NCBVI would help this individual under the IL Services case type.

Chairperson Hansen stated that this may be just tooting NCBVI's horn, but if he understood some of the comments made earlier, this process is not a large change in the way NCBVI operates, but it is just more formalized now and things are being documented better. However, philosophically, it is not that big of a change. Erin stated that this is true. Erin noted that NCBVI is a great agency and we do these things because it matches the agency philosophically.

Erin reported that last year NCBVI created a new program called Potentially Eligible, which is available only for students. This gives us an opportunity to serve individuals who do not want to apply for services. This gives the individual an opportunity to work with NCBVI for transition services without having to declare a vocational goal. A lot of families and students are afraid to commit to anything or the thought of their child going to work is scary for them. Therefore, this is a nice intermediate option for us to provide them with some transition services.

Networking

It is vital that VR agencies, local education agencies, community resource providers, and Developmental Disabilities Services (DD) all work closely together in order to ensure that quality services are provided to individuals and that the requirements of section 511 are met. Leadership from NCBVI, DD, and Nebraska VR have regular ongoing meetings to discuss and plan for providing quality services. Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being established or updated to aid in these partnerships and assist in information sharing. Each district supervisor has met with the local regional DD team to establish a relationship and increase awareness of our services.

Seeing it All Come Together

Despite the fact that NCBVI just started making these changes within the last year, we have already seen several positive outcomes for clients where this system change played a significant role.

A young gentleman who has Down syndrome and limited verbal skills was referred to NCBVI a couple of months after high school graduation without any plan as to what he would do now that he was not in school. The NCBVI counselor had met with the gentleman and his mother/guardian and learned about his strengths and discovered that they desired for him to work gainfully in the community. The NCBVI counselor identified some transferrable job skills and reached out in the community to find potential places of employment. Pizza Hut was responsive to completing an on the job training (OJT) experience for this gentleman, so the counselor, the Pizza Hut manager, and the gentleman all met to customize a job for him consistent with his strengths and abilities that also addressed some of the unmet needs that Pizza Hut had. After a few months of the OJT, Pizza Hut decided this young gentleman was a very valuable employee and decided to employ him permanently.

A referral was made to NCBVI for a CC&IR session at a 14(c) certificate employer. The NCBVI staff member met with the individual, her guardian, and some staff from the employer for the

session. The individual said that she wanted to work in the community, but her guardian and the employer staff did not believe that was a possibility for her. The NCBVI staff member engaged in discussion about her strengths and interests, and discovered that she already knows the skill of folding towels. The NCBVI staff member knew that this is a transferrable work skill, and explained that she could find some employment opportunities in a competitive integrated setting, and explained more about supported and customized employment opportunities and encouraged the individual and her team to make an application for VR services.

A 16 year old student was referred to NCBVI by his mother who does not want her son in a sheltered workshop after high school graduation, and wanted to know about what opportunities could be available to him. This student has no vision, is hard of hearing, and is nonverbal. During the school year the counselor worked on building a relationship with the student and observing his likes and dislikes. When it was time for summer break, the NCBVI counselor set up a work-based learning experience in the community to discover more about his abilities. He worked 1 hour per week at a children's museum assisting with cleaning duties; a task that he had not completed before in his life. The first week he did not engage in many of the tasks and just stood by the counselor. After a couple of weeks, it was clear that the student was able to remember things from the previous weeks as he started engaging in tasks such as wiping a surface or holding the broom and moving it. This is a great example of giving a student with severe impairments an opportunity to learn a new skill. The counselor identified strategies that were effective in teaching him, and intends on arranging it with his family to aid him in maintaining these skills by continuing to practice them at home once the work-based learning experience has ended.

Public Comment

Connie Daly – Connie thanked Erin for her presentation on Section 511/Development Disabilities and for all her work and being the lead on the topic.

Break

A break was taken at 10:05 a.m.
The meeting resumed at 10:22 a.m.

Report from the Executive Director

I. Client Statistics October 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

A. For Older Blind/Independent Living services

At the beginning of the fiscal year, 191 individuals applied for services, along with the six that applied from the previous fiscal year, for a total of 197 applicants for services. Of these, 187 applicants were accepted for services; two applicants were not accepted for services, one for "other reason" and one "withdrawn." There were eight applicants remaining at the end of the period.

There were 181 active clients on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year. One hundred eighty seven clients were added to active status since the beginning of the fiscal year, making for a total of 368 clients altogether in active status during the fiscal year. Of these, 234 clients closed successful with

zero clients referred to VR services, 19 clients closed unsuccessful with eight deaths, one institutionalized, one withdrawn and nine closed for other reasons. One hundred fifteen clients remain in active status at the end of the period. Total number of OIB applicants and clients in all statuses at the end of the period was 378.

B. Independent Living under 55

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, there were 28 applicants. Twenty six applicants were accepted for service with two remaining at the end of the quarter. Along with the four carried over from the previous fiscal year, a total of 30 clients were currently in active status. Of these, three clients closed successful and one closed unsuccessful due to other reasons. Twenty-six clients remained in active status at the end of the period. Total number of IL applicants and clients in all statuses at the end of the period was 32.

C. Vocational Rehabilitation

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, there were 127 applicants for services. Along with nine on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, there is a total of 136 applicants. Of these, 107 applicants were accepted for services; 18 applicants were not accepted for services: six had no disabling condition, two were no longer interested in receiving services, five were unable to locate or contact, three for all other reasons, one for health/medical and one had no impediment to employment. Eleven applicants remain at the end of the period.

Three hundred eighty-nine clients were in active status at the beginning of the year. One hundred seven clients were accepted for services since the beginning of the fiscal year, totaling 496 clients in active status during the fiscal year. Of these, 32 clients were closed as successful. One hundred four clients were closed as unsuccessful after an IPE was developed for the following reasons: 26 were no longer interested in services, two do not require VR services, one entered foster care, one for no disabling condition, 10 for health/medical reasons, one was institutionalized (Not Jail or Prison), 28 were unable to be located, five deaths, nine transferred to another agency, and 21 for all other reasons. Eleven clients were closed as unsuccessful before an IPE was developed for the following reasons: five were no longer interested in receiving services, three were unable to be located, one for does not require VR services, one due to being ineligible and one for all other reasons. Three hundred sixty remain in active status.

Total number of VR clients served in Active Statuses was 497. Total number of VR clients in all statuses at the end of the period was 526.

We had clients get jobs as: Assembler and Fabricator, Billing and Posting Clerk, Cartographer and Photogrammetrists, Cashiers, Coin/Vending and Amusement Machine Servicer and Repairers, Cook, Dishwasher, Food Preparation and Serving, Healthcare Support Workers, Interior Designer, Randolph-Sheppard Operator, Teacher Assistant , Court Reporter, Engineer, Interviewer, Stocker, Farm Equipment Mechanic and Financial Specialist.

II. Administration

In June, I met with senators Vargas from Omaha and Wishart from Lincoln to talk to them about increasing our budget to expand NCBVI's OIB services. Their advice is that NCBVI should submit

the request and make our case in front of the Appropriations Committee. They also mentioned that the Appropriations Committee was very impressed with the services we provide based on the testimonies they heard back in March. I also talked to the Lieutenant Governor and the Governors Policy and Research Office (GPRO) to see the possibility to amend the NBE law and make clear the priority to blind vendors. The staff from the GPRO assigned to our agency is looking at this issue. I have schedule to meet with two more senators in the next few weeks.

Some of the events/meetings I attended were WIOA Partners meetings, the ACB and NFB National Convention, and the Omaha Association of the Blind Annual Banquet. Carol Jenkins, Kathy Stephens and I also toured Outlook Nebraska; and met with the Executive Director and talked about collaboration between our agencies. I also attended the second Annual Disability Pride Rally at the State Capitol where Commissioners Bulger and Senators Blood and Crawford were speakers.

The State-wide assessment was completed by Gemini Research and we are looking at the results, which will be forwarded to RSA. Do to our success on expending Pre-ETS funds, we were asked to do a presentation to rehab professionals from across the country in June in Texas. Carol Jenkins did the presentation. The Leadership Team continue to meet on a weekly basis and most recently working on the budget narrative. We completed revising the four chapters of our rules as well as the paperwork before it can be amended. We sent the revised chapters to the Governor Office, the Secretary of State, and the Unicameral. We should be ready for Public Hearing by September 13.

Human Resources and Training:

Greg DeWall finished his Center training in June and already started his duties as Center Supervisor the first week of July. Carrie DeFreece, the NBE manager, gave her letter of resignation effective July 31, 2018. We already got authorization to fill the position from the Governor's office and should be interviewing candidates by the end of August.

We will enter into a contract with Bill Santos to come to Nebraska to provide training on how our counselors can build trusting relationship with employers. We contracted with him eighteen years ago when we started to change our agency culture to do employer contacts and it was very helpful.

III. Field Services

In Lincoln some clients had a job class ending in July, from which one client got an internship with Leadership Lincoln. Nancy Coffman provided a workshop on technology to NBE vendors during their quarterly meeting in June. The Lincoln District partnered with Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind and Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) to develop internships for three of their students who have multiple disabilities, which took place in David City and Nebraska City. Besides WAGES, several Pre-ETS clients got a job in their own communities and some of them were offered part time jobs. The Employment Committee is active again and members from each district are already planning an employment conference to be held in Omaha, with the projected date of March 12-14, 2019.

The Deaf-Blind Proclamation was on June 4 at the State Capitol and some deaf-blind clients and NCBVI staff were present. We are working with Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) to develop a

Support Service Provider (SSP) Program. Many states have this service to support Deaf-Blind individuals to be independent and promote integration in the community. The SSP serves as the eyes and the ears of the person who is Deaf-Blind. We also provided training to Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) and the I Can Connect program on Deaf-Blindness and will enter into an agreement with ATP to provide training to deaf-blind individuals.

NCBVI staff continue to get training, network, create partnerships, and outreach by attending: transition programs, Project Search meetings, community leadership training, WIOA Local Board meetings, Winnahead Conference, Lion's Club meetings, Caregiver Symposium in Gering, public school meetings, and the Nebraska Workforce Conference in Lincoln. NCBVI had a booth at the Lincoln Human Rights convention and at the Workforce Summit.

NCBVI staff also attended: the Webex training presented by WINTAC on Section 511; Mental Health First Aid Training and Certification; Social Security training on PASS; webinars on business engagement sponsored by Explore VR; the WINATAC meeting on the topic of customized employment; the NCBVI statewide VR conference calls on various topics; Family First, a training on a new pilot program through HHS; Career Planning and Stackable Credentials/Work Based Learning training hosted by Nebraska VR and instructed by the Nebraska Department of Education; and the ACB and NFB State and National conventions among others.

In the transition programs, WAGES had 12 students who completed the program and eight were first time attendees. Businesses such as the Lincoln Children's Museum and Madonna Landscaping Department provided some new work based learning opportunities for our youth. Consumer groups and other blind role models also provided seminars. WAGES was a success, as employers were happy with our consumers and several of the students expressed their interest to return next year.

The NFB Career Mentoring Program also began in this quarter. We have ten mentees and eight mentors signed up in the program. Several monthly calls have been held for each group and five of the mentees experienced their first face-to-face meeting in the program as they traveled to the NFB National convention. The target is 15 or more mentees to enroll in this project and we are still looking for both mentors and mentees.

From July 29-August 2, Project Independence (PI) will take place. We have 12 youth between 8 and 13 years old who will be attending; three are new. Our theme is "Superhero in Training". This theme was selected to help us shape the thought process and provide a backdrop for discussion for the students about their blindness and why it is important to learn alternative techniques. At PI, we will again be conducting the annual home chore challenge, playing beeping kickball, making our own catapults, running our own energy drink and power snack business, visiting the Omaha Children's Museum, visiting a blind chef, zip lining, learning mobility through a saving the universe scavenger hunt activity, and much more.

IV. Center

We currently have seven students in Center training. Three of the students need one on one teaching/training due to their severe multiple disabilities. One staff trainee (Center Supervisor) and three WAGES staff trainees completed training. We had one 3-day stay, one student who had a Mini Meal, and four students had Commencement Meals. Touring the Center we had one

consumer from Kansas, Parents Network, four agency consumers, one potential student, a TBI Social Worker from Madonna and two staff from Channel 3 (Local News).

For Center Activities, in May, students requested zip lining, fishing, geo caching, and human foosball at Carol Joy Holling. The Friends of the Commission sponsored these activities. In June, students attended a Salt Dogs baseball game and in July, students went canoeing on Holmes's Lake (a free activity through Lincoln Parks & Recreation). On July 30, students volunteered at the Salvation Army. This activity included packing backpacks full of school supplies for those in need.

Center students now can use the State of Nebraska Active Directory network accounts. In the past, students used either a generic account, or local computer accounts, which had to be created on each computer that they might be expected to use during their Center training. These new network-based accounts provide added freedom and security for students. A student can now log onto any computer on the State of Nebraska network; whether a lab computer, a staff computer, or the computer in the student lounge. JAWS and other program settings they change do not affect others who use the same computer so students no longer need to always log into the same computer. This is beneficial if schedules change, or a different combination of students work concurrently in the Communications Lab for Vocational Seminar. In addition, the students receive network storage space rather than hard drive space on each computer they log on to. Staff can also have read-access to this data. Finally, because the account only has to be created once, the administrative overhead is greatly reduced. This new method of managing student computer access has been a goal of the Communications instructor for close to two years now, and thanks to additional efforts by NCBVI's new technology manager, this goal has finally been accomplished.

WAGES students and staff spent a day with the Center. This included preparing and eating lunch with Center students and staff and working on projects in the shop. We also continue to have a staff from the Department of Labor providing training once per month on finding jobs, writing a five-year plan, and be ready for their first interview.

V. Nebraska Business Enterprise

I signed the Vending agreement with Veterans Administration (VA) for a new clinic in Omaha. This was after NCBVI filed for Arbitration last year. However, we are still waiting for the VA to send us their signed copy. The Department of Corrections decided to wait until November 2018 to put an RFP out. Therefore, we can submit our proposals and start running the new facilities in May 2019 if awarded the locations. We are still negotiating the language with the State Building Division to include all of their buildings into one contract. However, our vendors started the process to operate the State Office Building and the State Capitol since July 1 and should be concluding August 15 with the rest of the buildings. By using Coke/Pepsi machines, used snack machines, and a new kind of coffee machines, we saved around \$122,000.

At the end of July we licensed a new vendor who is operating facilities in Omaha. We also have a new vendor operating several sites in the North Platte area after Dan Knuter had to leave the program for health reasons. The vendor for the Omaha City/ County building is retiring by the end of this year and we already placed an announcement to fill his position. We had an annual training for vendors on June 15. The training covered various areas such as, using credit cards for machines, keeping their books organized, and some new technology that is available.

Lincoln District Activity Report – Connie Daly

Job class ending this month. We had four people complete the class. One of those individuals started an internship with Leadership Lincoln.

Nancy Coffman provided a workshop to NBE vendors. It was very well received. We are participating in some Stepping On classes. These classes are offered to senior citizens and they focus on staying safe in your home and community.

We partnered with NCECBVI to develop internships for three of their students. The internships are located in David City and Nebraska City. We had six clients also attend WAGES.

We presented at the Nebraska Workforce Conference in Lincoln. We had booths at the Lincoln Civil Rights Convention and at the Workforce Summit.

Charli Saltzman taught Braille for Sahar when she was off this summer.

We had clients get jobs as a Court Reporter, Engineer, Interviewer, Stocker, Farm Equipment Mechanic and Financial Specialist. We also had some students get summer jobs as an Interviewer, Waitress, and at Walmart. These jobs were obtained on their own initiative. They had all been a part of the WAGES program.

Omaha District Activity Report – Nancy Flearl

The technology committee met on June 6 in Kearney. We provided training to Assistive Technology Partnership and I Can Connect program on Deaf-Blindness. We then met to review and update our Technology Guidelines.

We have had staff working WAGES. We have three students participating in WAGES. We have 8 students that are working here in the Omaha Metro area this summer. Some are being paid by their employer and others by our agency. Some of the places they are working: Henry Doorly Zoo, Bakers Grocery Store, Hy-Vee Grocery Store, Genesis Health Club, New Life Thrift, DiGiorgio's Sports and T-Shirt Shop, Boss Vending, Majestic Theatre. Staff put a time into developing these jobs and the necessary supports. So far, everyone reports they are having a successful work experience. Some of these students have shared that they will have the opportunity to continue their employment.

The employment committee is meeting once again with a representative from each district, Carol Jenkins and Jerry Bryan with the Client Assistance Program (CAP). We are planning an employment conference to be held in Omaha. The projected Dates are March 12-14, 2019. We all are actively working on our various assignments for this conference.

June 27 was Helen Keller's Birthday and the Deaf-Blind Proclamation was on held June 4. Elaine Kavulak helped to coordinate this event.

July 16-19 there was a Deaf-Blind Institute held in Lincoln. This program was open to teachers, professionals and families. There is a Deaf-Blind Advisory Committee that is comprised of professionals providing services to individuals of all ages that are experiencing a dual sensory loss. This is being facilitated by the Deaf-Blind grant through the Department of Education and Nebraska Center for the Education of Children that are Blind and Visually Impaired. We attended this meeting on July 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Lincoln. This was a great opportunity to do outreach to educators from across the state who attended this Deaf-Blind Institute.

We are working with Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) to develop a Support Service Provider (SSP) Program. Many states have this service to support Deaf-Blind individuals to be independent and promote integration in the community. The Support Service Provider (SSP) serves as the eyes and the ears of the person who is Deaf-Blind. A trained SSP is the liaison between the person who is Deaf-Blind and his/her environment.

Beth Jordan with Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) was be in town the week of July 16 and we met with stakeholders on July 19 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss collaboration on this (SSP) program and all deafblind services.

We continue our networking activities with business. Lincoln has a networking group EmployLink and Omaha has started to implement a similar group EmployOMA. Tim Jefferson will represent us at these meetings.

Kelly has been on the Project Independence (PI) Planning Committee. There are 12 students registered for PI with a theme of the program being "Super Heroes in Training". As a part of PI they will be touring Mama's Pizza. One of their employees is a former transition student. This employee will visit with them and about his job and work with them on making individual pizzas. The employee at Mama's Pizza is excited about giving back and encouraging other students.

North Platte District Activity Report - Erin Brandyberry

Networking: Erin participated in the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board meeting in Columbus, NE. Cristal and Deanna have regularly attended the community connections in Kearney. Cristal attended the spring Winnahead Conference in Grand Island, serves on the foster care review board in Grand Island, and made business connections at the following locations: Eaton's Corporation, Brown Transfer Company, KinKaider restaurant, and Kearney Area Children's museum. Angie conducted two vision loss and fall prevention workshops, had a booth at a caregiver symposium in Gering, spoke to the Scottsbluff Lion's club, met with the City of Scottsbluff regarding accessible street crossings, made a business connection at Sysco, and attended a WIOA Partner's meeting in Scottsbluff. Deanna attended an Elder Issues group. Erin and Diann met with North Platte Public Schools to strengthen the working relationship. Diann attended the Project Search Committee and graduation ceremony, and a one-stop networking event on services available in the North Platte community. She has met with the following agencies/schools about our services: Region II Mental Health, Goodwill Industries, Valentine public schools, and Ogallala public schools.

Projects: Angie has worked with several clients and the City of Scottsbluff to advocate for client's needs as they are looking at installing accessible street crossings. Cristal is a member of the

employment committee. Diann has worked on the PI planning committee and attended WAGES and PI. Fritz worked the beginning of the WAGES program.

Training: Erin, Cristal, and Angie attended a Career Planning and Stackable Credentials/ Work Based Learning Training hosted by Nebraska VR and instructed by the Nebraska Department of Education. Nearly all staff participated in the Webex training presented by WINTAC on Section 511. Angie completed Mental Health First Aid Training and Certification. Cristal, Deanna, and Angie attended a social security training on PASS. Several staff attended webinars on business engagement sponsored by Explore VR. Erin participated in the WINATAC meeting on the topic of customized employment. Several staff have participated in the statewide VR conference calls on various topics. Erin, Fritz, and Diann received training on a new pilot program through HHS called Family First. Jan attended the first three days of the National Federation of the Blind Convention, attending the pre-convention workshops, working through the exhibit hall, attending a workshop on Tools and Best Practices for Helping Blind Elementary School Students Succeed in Math, and participating in the Computer Science and Assistive Technology Trainers Division meetings. Over the past year Jan has been working on the Hadley Institute for the Blind's Contracted Braille, UEB Edition course and successfully completed it during this quarter. Adrienne attended the State of Nebraska Pre-Audit certification course.

Client Outcomes: Angie has two clients that were closed successfully, one as a para-professional and the other as worker in the billing department at a hospital. Cristal has one client who was successfully employed at Cabela's. Diann had one client gain employment as a para-professional. The North Platte district had three clients attend the WAGES program, two students complete work-based learning experiences in their local communities, and two clients sign up for the NFB career mentoring program.

Center Activity Report – Greg DeWall

Currently: 7 Students

1 New Staff Trainee (Center Supervisor completed training 6/29/2018)

3 WAGES staff Trainees.

1 Three Day Stay

1 Student had a Mini Meal

4 Students had Commencement Meals

Tours: 1 consumer from Kansas, Parents Network (Including 4 agency consumers and 1 potential student), 1 from Madonna (TBI Social Worker), and 2 from Channel 3 (Local News).

Volunteer Activities: Back to School- On July 30 students volunteered at the Salvation Army. This activity included packing backpacks full of school supplies for those in need.

Student Requested Activities: For the month of May was zip lining, fishing, geo caching, and human foosball at Carol Joy Holling (A Friends of the Commission sponsored activity). For the month of June was a Salt Dogs game and for July, canoeing on Holmes's Lake (a free activity through Lincoln Parks & Recreation).

Guest Speakers: Naomi Rolofson, from Department of Labor, has come monthly to present. She has discussed five-year plans as well as preparing for that first interview.

Center Staff: Some Staff continue to work with the Tech Committee and attend these meetings; as well as collaborate with the FuZION implementation and testing project. Instructors are regularly working on projects to improve their classes, and participate in webinars to gain knowledge in working with students with multiple disabilities. A recent development worth noting is; Center students now enjoy the flexibility of State of Nebraska Active Directory network accounts. In the past, students used either a generic account, or local computer accounts which had to be created on each computer that they might be expected to use during their Center training. These new network-based accounts provide added freedom and security for students. A student can now log onto any computer on the State of Nebraska network, whether a lab computer, a staff computer, or the computer in the student lounge. JAWS and other program settings they change do not affect others who use the same computer, so that students no longer need to always log into the same computer. This is especially beneficial if schedules change, or a different combination of students work concurrently in the Communications Lab for Vocational Seminar. In addition, the students receive network storage space rather than hard drive space on each computer they log in to. Again, this means data they save there will be available to them regardless of which computer they use. Staff can also have read-access to this data so that, for example, the Home Management instructor can view recipes or grocery lists. Finally, because the account only has to be created once, the administrative overhead is greatly reduced. Once the student completes training, only one account has to be deleted. This new method of managing student computer access has been a goal of the Communications instructor for close to two years now, and thanks to additional efforts by the agencies new IT Program Director, this goal has finally been realized.

Center Supervisor: After completing training, he is getting settled in to his new position. In July, he attended the NFB National Convention, in Orlando. Already he is providing support and guidance to Center staff and students.

Additional Notes: WAGES students and staff spent a day with the Center. This included preparing and eating lunch with Center students and staff and working on projects in the shop with the shop instructor and Center students.

The Center is filling up. We have 3 students that need one on one teaching/training at this time due to severe multiple disabilities.

The total number of students attending the Center does not include staff trainees because they do not stay in the Center Apartments. We have 10 Center Apartments and so 10 students can attend the Center regardless of how many staff trainees we have. Nebraska consumers always have priority when attending the Center when it comes to consumers from other states.

Transition Activity Report – Shane Buresh

I cannot believe it, but as I write this quarterly report, WAGES is already in the books and Project Independence is only one week away. Much of this report will focus on these two prominent programs in our agencies calendar each year, but there are a few other offerings as well.

This summer WAGES had its familiar structure, traditional schedule and usual programmatic highlights, along with several new employers, activities and seminar offering additions mixed in. We had 12 students who completed the program and 8 were first time attendees. While many of

our employers have been engaged with the program for more than 15 years, hosting a student annually, businesses such as, The Lincoln children's Museum and Madonna Landscaping Department, provided some new work based learning opportunities for our youth. Many consumers, consumer groups and NCBVI connected individuals also provided several of the seminar offerings, which in some cases were new to the program. In general, WAGES was a success I believe, based on the number of participants who asked me when leaving the WAGES banquet with their parents if they could attend again next summer.

Beginning on July 29 and wrapping up just two days before your meeting, Project Independence will be commencing again this year. We have 12 youth between 8 and 13 who will be attending, 3 of which are new. Our theme is "Superhero in Training". This theme was selected to help us shape the thought process and provide a backdrop for discussion for the students about their blindness and why it is important to consider adopting alternative techniques that they will be learning into their lives. If a positive attitude and good skills can be thought of as a set of superpowers if you will, then they as their own superheroes can leverage their newly acquired information to assist them in defeat the villains of fear, self-doubt and low expectations that exist in the world, whether presented through others or placed on them by themselves. Beyond the customary sleep shade training; we will again be conducting the now seventh annual home chore challenge, playing beeping kickball, making our own catapults, running our own Energy Drink and Power Snack business, visiting the Omaha Children's Museum, Visiting a blind chef, zip lining, learning mobility through a saving the universe scavenger hunt activity, and much more.

Throughout this summer, youth who have additional disabilities to their blindness, or other circumstantial situations have also been completing work in their home communities through a series of work based learning opportunities. These placements are very similar to what we reported to you on last February, through the partnership project a year ago with NCECBVI and in fact, our project with them continues and has expanded since then. Beyond that partnership though, there are additional youth from each of our districts who are engaged in "On the Job Experiences" (OJE's) through the guidance of our commission staff. I look forward to reporting to you in future quarterly submissions about the success stories from these ventures as I learn about them as summer concludes.

Speaking of going forward, The NFB Career Mentoring Program has also begun in this quarter. As of this writing, we have ten mentees and eight mentors signed up in the program and those numbers keep growing as we move along. Several monthly calls have been held for each group and five of the mentees experienced their first face-to-face meeting in the program as they traveled to Orlando for the NFB National convention. The target is 15 or more mentees to enroll in this project and we are still looking for both mentors and mentees. It would be great to have those of you as commissioners as mentors if you are interested let me know. We will be holding two more face-to-face events in this program as this year progresses, so stay tuned.

I will conclude my quarterly highlights now, wish all of you a great rest of summer, and look forward to the fall when things should transition back to a slower but steady pace for all the staff and youth involved in our transition efforts.

Technology Program Activity Report – Nancy Burdine

Printers

Canon printers have been deployed in Omaha, Kearney and North Platte locations. The Canons have built in software to make accessible PDFs. The Scottsbluff office received a HP multi-function device. This decision was made because there is only one person in that location, therefore, this will be more economical.

Center Network

Implemented creating user accounts for students in the center. Their accounts will have H drives that point to a location on our W drive that is accessible by center staff.

Some perks to this:

- Students can log onto any PC on the State Network. (Staff no longer needs to manually create accounts on each PC the student uses.)
- Saves time when students need to use a different PC than they normally use.
- Staff can access students' H drive locations to check assignments or save documents/files.

AWARE/Analytics

- Completed onsite training.
- Worked with OCIO to ensure Julie is able to connect to the database regardless of whether or not she is in the office.
- We have two licenses; one for Julie's laptop and one for her PC located in the Lincoln office – so it will be accessible to us if Julie is not available.

Active Directory / Network

- Continue to work on cleaning up our network presence.
- Deleting users and workstations that are no longer here.
- Setting up user groups and permissions.
- Working with Carol to sort the W drive information.

Nebraska Business Enterprise Activity Report – Carrie DeFreece

Facilities

The NBE program continued to meet with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). That Agency has decided to finish out the current contract with Valley Vending Service until May of 2019. They will send a Request for Proposals of Invitation to Bid late in 2018. NBE will bid on the contract and will find out in 2019 whether or not the contract will be awarded to NCBVI.

Staff continued to meet with State Building Division, DAS and Purchasing to discuss opportunities on the state buildings contract which would include the State Office Building, State Capitol and several other smaller locations in Lincoln. The transfer to NBE from First Choice Vending (LinPepCo) began on July 2 and will continue through the middle of August. These buildings/sites will be managed by four separate Licensees. All of the beverage machines are being supplied by Pepsi or Coca-Cola, saving \$84,720 in vending machine purchases. Additionally, most of the snack machines were purchased used saving another \$18,000. Finally, most of the coffee machines will be replaced with a Kuerig and Pod dispenser saving \$20,000 on those purchases. In all, purchases for the State of Nebraska Offices were \$122,720 less than originally planned.

Antonio Aguilar contracted with Hy-Vee Catering to begin catering service at the State Capitol on May 7. This will run for approximately 18 months until November 2019 when the HVAC project is completed.

Conversations continue with Offutt and a potential teaming partner.

Vendors (Licensees)

North Platte – Dan Knuter has retired from the program. After working with two clients that backed away from the program, a Licensee was finally placed in the North Platte area to serve Western Nebraska I80 machines and machines in the North Platte and Sidney areas. Shanon Clark was previously licensed in Colorado and has several years' experience with vending.

Nebraska City – Jeremy Cash has decided to leave the program to pursue his art.

Omaha – One licensee was placed on probation for failing to properly manage the sites being operated. Sandy Alvarado returned after her husband's health improved. Atty Svendsen is doing well and is now a fully licensed vendor. Jim Jirak is in training to service the Omaha State Office Building. Tom Scheibeler will retire at the end of July. An announcement has been sent to fill his vacancy at the Omaha City County building.

Annual Training

An annual training session was held for the Licensees on June 15. There were 11 licensees in attendance. There were three exhibitors, a webinar on new technology, and presentations from five different individuals. The licensees spoke very highly of the event.

Staff

Carrie DeFreece, NBE Manager, will be leaving NCBVI on July 31. In the interim, Carol Jenkins will be managing NBE and Dave Robinson will be assisting with contracts.

Business Office Activity Report –

Bill Brown -

- Much of my time over the past 3 months has been spent working on making sure that Kat Carroll has the tools and the knowledge to carry the finances of the agency to higher levels than it has been before. Kat has a good handle on the organization and has been instrumental in developing processes to improve business/accounting services to the commission. She is learning about the Grants and Programs as we go and has an excellent relationship with Carlos and Carol. We have been working in the Budget system, the E1 system, discussing agency issues in Leadership, working on our Organizational needs from an accounting standpoint, and getting to know the contacts required to conduct day to day business.
- Development of the NFB PreEts Mentoring contract.
- Working with Kat on Budget including the Budget Modifications and Issues. Setting up the current appropriation budgets and the financing of it all.
- Setting up next year's grants and business units
- Discussing Reallotment strategies

- Worked on Close out of Fiscal Year 2018. Obligations were closed and reopened and payroll put in place.

Dave Robinson -

Greg DeWall arrived in Lincoln and began his duties as Center Supervisor on April 30, 2018.

I participated in a FusioN conference room pilot and had an opportunity to navigate around the system and run some test scripts for the HR module.

Open enrollment for the insurance plan year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 was conducted from May 8–22, 2018. The state of Nebraska terminated its contract with Health Fitness and eliminated the Wellness Plan from its choices of insurance plans.

For those of us that were enrolled in the Wellness Plan and completed our program requirements for this plan year, we were allowed to enroll in the plan for this plan year, but it will no longer exist as of June 30, 2019. As of now, the benefits department does not know if they are going to try to replace the Wellness plan with some similar incentive based choice or not, but in a recent HR update meeting, it sounded like they were not.

Carrie DeFreece tendered her letter of resignation July 16, 2018, effective July 31, 2018.

Kathy Stephens –

Completed inventory scanning for Division 001. Don Ward completed the inventory scanning for Division 003 (Vending). The required physical inventory is to be submitted to Administrative Services no later than August 31 each year.

Toured Outlook Nebraska along with Carlos Serván and Carol Jenkins.

Attended the Deaf-Blind Proclamation Signing Ceremony.

We sent letters to all the individuals who have been selected to possibly serve as a Senator in the Nebraska Legislature. As a result, we have been receiving a few requests for a Center tour and a meeting.

Assisted in submitting the State Plan to RSA.

I attended training on new procedures for reporting damage to state-owned property.

I attended a Windows 10 training class. (July 26, July 31 and August 2)

Assisting in planning the retirement reception for Bill Brown, which will be held on August 7, 2018.

Will participate in the SSA Compliance Review meeting on August 15.

We have scheduled a Public Hearing to take testimony and evidence about amendment of Title 192, Chapter 1, entitled "Scope of Services and Cost Containment"; Title 192, Chapter 2, entitled "Review of Vocational Rehabilitation Determinations"; Title 192, Chapter 3, entitled "Blind Vendor Program"; and Title 192, Chapter 4, entitled "Workplace Policies". The Public Hearing will take place on September 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the NCBVI Offices, Lincoln District Conference Room.

Chairperson Hansen stated that he was honored to participate in the Mentoring program that NCBVI did 10 years ago and he is one of the eight mentors signed up for this year's program. Chair Hansen stated that he was able to meet his mentee for the first time over the phone last week and he had a great conversation with him. They had been meeting on monthly conference calls and he believes that they have had three now. They met in May, June and July. His understanding with the contract for the Mentoring program with the National Federation of the Blind was that the contract began in March. He asked how long the program would be supported for the participants. Will it be 12 months or will it be shortened because the negotiations, administrative tasks and other things were delayed. Director Serván reported that the program will last 12 months for each group.

Chairperson Hansen stated that a few of the WAGES students were mentees at the NFB Convention and some NCBVI staff and Carlos went to the NFB convention as mentors. Chairperson Hansen stated he had an opportunity to spend an evening with the WAGES students representing the Board and he spoke to them about the Board of Commissioners and what they do. He also got a chance to ask them about how they felt about the services they were receiving. Chairperson Hansen noted that the mentees were a little shy to speak up, but they had a good evening.

Commissioner Rieken reported that she helped work the PI program this year and it was very successful. Everyone had a wonderful experience.

Budget Update

Director Serván reported that NCBVI's budget is healthy. In general, between State and Federal funds, NCBVI receives just over \$4,000,000 per year. Our goal is to not spend more than funds that we receive per year. In that past we were spending a lot more because we were receiving lots of allotment money and social security money and we had carry-over funds. We were informed that we will not see those days of excess funds anytime in the near future. If we do happen to receive extra funding in some years, we will look at ways to invest the money at that time.

Director Serván stated that he again wanted to thank staff members for helping to come up with innovative ways to run the agency with less funding. NCBVI is still providing good quality services even though we have less funds.

Chair Hansen stated that he would share with Kathy Carroll some financial training information that Bill Brown has given to them in the past.

Newsline® Update

Bryan Baldwin, Outreach Coordinator

This report will be a bit shorter than the last few as most of the focus of Newslines has been on National Convention. I was unfortunately unable to attend the NFB National Convention this year and I was informed that Newslines had a few happenings there. This included an open house seminar where people could come in, ask questions, get to see Newslines in action, and share their experiences with others. The other was the NFB Newslines table set up in the exhibit hall where they were distributing literature, signing up those interested, as well as answering questions and giving people the ability to share their experience with others in the exhibit hall. The convention schedule was also available on Newslines, giving people the ability to access it after they are finished reading their favorite publications. I will be giving a presentation on NFB Newslines at the NFB State convention of Nebraska coming up in October. I hope that with this presentation we can get more subscribers and have them share the news with their friends about their new-found publication independence.

For the month of April, most things stayed the same. We had 938 calls into Newslines. Web sessions stayed around 1852, Newslines Mobile at 446, and In Your Pocket sitting at 4088. In May, we saw a call volume of 1012 and web sessions at 1312, and email was around 851. June saw the telephone calls at 927, Web sessions at 1332, and the Mobile at 469.

I have also been building a Twitter presence, finding and following other newslines twitter users, as well as sending tweets, sharing updates from Newslines, and adding/following many people that are following us to help build up our numbers. I will also be starting up a Newslines Facebook page for Nebraska to help spread the word to those who do not use Twitter.
Hope you have a great meeting!

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Complaints or issues – Jerry Bryan

There was one new case to the Client Assistance Program relating to the NE Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) during this time and the case has been resolved.

An exiting vendor had complained that NCBVI did not reimburse him for his initial inventory. There had been some miscommunication and the case has been closed.

Attended the NCBVI Supervisor Meetings.

Completed two-weeks of sleep shade training at the Nebraska Center for the Blind.

Currently serving on the Employment Committee.

New Business

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

November Meeting Date / Location

The November NCBVI Commission Board meeting will be Saturday, November 3, 2018 in Omaha, Nebraska at Outlook Nebraska. Outlook Nebraska is located at 4125 South 72 Street in Omaha.

Officer Elections

Chairperson Hansen reported that according to Robert's Rules of Order, a member of the Board can be elected to a position even if they are not present as long as someone has talked to the member to see if he/she will accept the office.

Chairperson Hansen moved to elect Commissioner Bulger as Chairperson. Chairperson Hansen stated that he has spoken with Commissioner Bulger and he stated that he would accept the office. There were no additional nominations. A roll call vote was taken and all commissioners present voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Rieken moved to elect Commissioner Newman as Vice Chairperson. There were no additional nominations. A roll call vote was taken and all commissioners present voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Bell moved to elect Commissioner Rieken as Executive Secretary. There were no additional nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Commissioners Bell, Hansen and Newman voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rieken abstained.

Final Announcements

Chairperson Hansen reported that there were no items in the NCBVI Employee Suggestion Box during this past quarter.

Chairperson Hansen thanked Friends of the Commission for their support with Project Independence (PI) and other things they do throughout the year.

The next NCBVI Commission Board meeting will be Saturday, November 3, 2018 in Omaha, Nebraska at Outlook Nebraska. The Focus Topic will be Outlook Nebraska. Chairperson Hansen requested that the commissioners come prepared to talk about the dates and locations for 2019 Commission Board meetings.

Chairperson Hansen also thanked Bill Brown for his years of service with NCBVI and he noted that Mr. Brown will be greatly missed.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

If you have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda of the November 3, 2018 Commission Board meeting, please email it to the NCBVI Commission Board at ncbvi.commission-board@nebraska.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Stephens, Administrative Assistant
NCBVI

Mike Hansen, Chairperson
NCBVI Board of Commissioners