

Nebraska Commission for the Blind
Public Meeting, Saturday, February 6, 2016
4600 Valley Road, Room 4A
Lincoln, NE

Approved Minutes

Call to Order. Welcome and introductions. Announcement concerning public comment periods, meeting agendas, open meeting act, proof of publication, recording & other logistics.

Mike Hansen, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioners present: Mike Hansen, Chairperson and Designee of the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska, Lincoln; Mark Bulger, Designee of the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska, Omaha; Robert Leslie Newman, Vice Chairperson, Omaha; Becky Rieken, Executive Secretary, South Sioux City; and Chad Bell, Alliance.

Commission staff present: Dr. Pearl Van Zandt, Executive Director; Bill Brown, Business Manager; Bob Deaton, Deputy Director HR; Wes Majerus, Program Manager Technology; Julie Buren, Administrative Assistant III; Connie Daly, Lincoln District Supervisor; Kim Schnitzer, VR Counselor; and Kathy Stephens, Administrative Assistant.

Public Present: Hubert Paulsen, Meeting Recorder; Jim Jirak, ACB, Omaha; Lisa Kelly, Outlook Nebraska, Omaha; Barbara Epworth, ACB, Omaha; Kenda Slavin, ACB Omaha; Sandy Alvarado, NBE Licensee, Omaha; and Valerie Bell, Alliance.

It was noted that public comments are always welcome regarding the agenda items or other topics. Hubert Paulsen recorded the meeting and the recordings are available on the website.

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

Approval of the November 6, 2015 public meeting minutes.

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2015 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Rieken seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Rieken, Newman and Hansen voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Bell and Bulger abstained. The motion passed.

Focus Topic: Commission Finances

The Focus Topic was presented by Bill Brown, NCBVI Business Manager.

NCBVI Financials The Basics

Overview:

NCBVI is a State government agency. The money that supports NCBVI's programs comes from three main sources, Federal funds, State funds and private donations. The majority of the money comes in the form of matching grants from United States Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). These grants work by the RSA putting up X amount of Federal dollars and NCBVI matching it with Y amount of non – Federal dollars based on an agreed upon formula, according to each specific grant requirements.

Budget:

1. Federal Funds are appropriated through the Federal Budget Process. They are part of the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration. They are allocated on a State by State basis using formulas unique to each grant and then awarded to us based on formulas arrived at and agreed to by Nebraska Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) and Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI). These funds are administered on a Federal Fiscal year basis which is October 1 through September 30.
2. The State Budget is administered through Nebraska State statute. The State Fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Budget cycles are a 2 year cycle (biennium) with the next cycle beginning July 1, 2015 and running through June 30, 2017. Budget process for this cycle starts with a request turned in through the Budget system on or before September 15, 2014. The governor will submit his budget recommendations from this request on or about January 15, 2015. The Legislature will hold hearings and will appropriate funds during the session commencing the first Wednesday in January and generally lasting through June 1, 2015. Governor has veto power and Legislature can override. The Legislative Appropriation bill will determine how much will be appropriated for NCBVI to spend by type of fund over the biennium. NCBVI must put together a plan to use those funds as appropriated. Legislature has, in the past, earmarked some of those funds for specific purposes, such as client aid (services) and older blind. That is their prerogative.

Funds:

1. General Funds:
 - a. Come from Nebraska tax receipts via legislative act. General Funds are used to match Federal grants. General funds make up about 20% of our funding.
2. Cash Funds:
 - a. BEP Set-Aside (Vending Operation) can be used for match.
 - b. Program Income: Sale of canes and cane tips, center services, the Encounter, book cannot be used for match.
 - c. Donations and Contributions used for Client supply can be used for match.

- d. Omaha Enrichment Foundation (also referred to as PILBO) provides a private grant to purchase aids for persons in the Omaha area only. We do not use these funds for match because of grant requirements for Statewideness. Also because we do have enough match already.
3. Federal Funds: (makes up about 80% of our funding)
 - a. Federal Grant money coming in the form of a letter of credit.
 - i. Vocational Rehabilitation
 - ii. Independent Living Services for the Older Blind
 - iii. Supported Employment
 - iv. Statewide Independent Living Services (Administered by Federal HHS)
 - v. In Service Training
 - b. Social Security Administration (SSA) Reimbursement funds: If a client transitions into gainful employment the cost of that client's services can be reimbursed based on the savings to the SSA Fund. The client must make substantial gainful activity wages, which is approximately \$1,800 per month for nine months out of a twelve month period. This funding can vary substantially from year to year. With the retirement of Dottie Wilmott it has been approximately nine months since NCBVI has submitted any social security reimbursements. Julie Buren, who replaced Dottie Wilmott, will be taking over this task.
 4. Trust Funds:
 - a. KD Robinson Fund (interest spent on services for younger people) can be used for match. NCBVI has no definition for "younger people." Commissioner Newman asked what this money might be used for. Bill Brown stated that the source of the funding requires that the money be used for young people. NCBVI has not used any money out of this fund for at least 16 years. Pearl Van Zandt added that there is nothing in writing, but it was the wish of the donor that the money be spent on services for young people. NCBVI has used the fund in the past of some of our early work with children during our early programs. Later, when funding was not a problem with the actual grants it was decided to sometimes use the interest from it on youth. The fund is there if it is needed, but NCBVI is basically just letting it grow.

Federal Grants:

1. Federal Grants
 - a. Each have their own eligibility criteria
 - b. Must be spent in accordance with guidelines in 2 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 200
 - c. Each have their own specific regulations attached
2. Vocational Rehabilitation Grant
 - a. This makes up about 90% of our funding. It is determined by Federal formula. FFY 2016 Grant is \$2,736,472. It is 1.5% less than 2015 formula portion. 2015 was \$2,778,633.
 - b. Nebraska must provide a 21.3% match for this grant.
 - c. We get about 15.5 % of this Statewide Grant (Shared with Nebraska General VR).
 - d. Randolph-Sheppard Program (Nebraska Business Enterprise).

- e. WIOA Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act 2014. Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) 15% of Federal Grant. No additional funding and with the new PreETS requirements, we have to provide traditional services with less. Estimates would indicate that 5 to 7% of grant funds were used for PreETS services prior to WIOA.
 - f. FFY 2016 Grant
3. Independent Living Part B Grant
 - a. Nebraska must provide a 10% match for this grant.
 - b. We get 11.25% of this Statewide grant. (Shared with Nebraska General VR)
 - c. Recently moved to the US Department of Health and Human Services from the Department of Education.
 - d. WIOA creates options for what agency will administer the State Independent Living Program. So far it has not been moved from us.
 4. Supported Employment
 - a. We get 10% of this Statewide grant.
 - b. There is no match required of this grant.
 - c. We spend this grant exclusively on Services.
 - d. It is a part of the Vocational Rehab Program.
 5. Independent Living Services for Older Blind Individuals
 - a. We receive 100% of this Statewide Grant.
 - b. This serves individuals over 55 years of age.
 - c. 10% match is required.
 - d. State appropriates \$128,250 to serve Older Blind individuals which we use for match and it provides extra services over and above requirements.
 6. In Service Training
 - a. No longer exists with the passing of WIOA.

Private Grants:

PILBO Grant

- a. Issued by private Enrichment Foundation of Omaha.
- b. Can only be spent in the Omaha catchment area.
- c. Must be spent on eligible clients.
- d. Not one of our Federal grants, not used for match.

Miscellaneous terms and concepts:

1. Carryover: Federal grant money that is unused can be carried over for 1 year after the initial year of the grant. Over the past 5 years, Social Security Reimbursement, Reallocation, and ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) have made it such that we have been able to carry over most of our yearly grant. We try to avoid any situation where we might carryover or ask for reallocation in an amount that would be too much to spend in the subsequent year.
2. Maintenance of Effort: Nebraska's Non-Federal effort in the VR program must be equal to or greater to amount of its Non-Federal effort of 2 years earlier. If not, we are penalized the difference in Federal funds.

3. Re-allotment: We tell the Feds how much money from each grant we can't use or match or what we could use over our original annual allotment. In the case of telling the feds how much additional money we could use these funds will still need to be matched in the grant year by Nebraska to receive the re-allotment from the Feds.
4. Match Non-Federal funds except program income funds that are used within Grant guidelines to support the grant. These funds cannot be used to match more than one grant. Examples are State General Funds, BEP Set aside, Donations and Contributions, and Statewide Cost Allocation Plan funds.
5. Funds are appropriated by the Legislature. Federal fund adjustments can be made given evidence of availability and approval by Legislature and the Governor's budget staff. General and Cash funds adjustments require Legislative action and the Governor's signature, through the Deficit Appropriation process.

Chairperson Hansen asked if there is a time frame in which requests for Social Security Reimbursements need to be submitted. Bill Brown reported that there is a 13 month window in which to request the reimbursements. However, over this last 9 month period, we spoke with SSA about the complexity of the process and they are going to allow NCBVI some leeway with the 13 month window since we have had changes in staffing.

Chairperson Hansen asked if the funds that the State provides NCBVI are more than we need to meet our Federal match. Bill Brown stated that this is correct. There is another piece to this called Maintenance of Effort. With the VR grant only, the federal law requires that Voc Rehab agencies maintain the level of non-Federal support that we received two years prior to each year in order to keep the program from bouncing up and down. If the State does not provide non-Federal funding to the level it did the year before the last, then the feds will penalize the agency that amount. The Maintenance of Effort is important in that the agency tries to walk a fine line with this. The other thing NCBVI has with its Federal grant is that the grant is for a Federal fiscal year, but they allow us two years to spend that money. This is what we call carry-over. If the entire Federal grant is not spent then we carryover that money for an additional twelve months. Over the past few years, NCBVI has utilized carryover funds.

Commissioner Bulger asked if the State ever failed to provide their 21.3 % that the Federal government would match. Bill Brown stated that at the beginning of NCBVI's existence this was a major difficulty for the agency. One of the great results of NCBVI becoming a separate Commission was that the original entity was funded primarily on overhead costs of the Department of Health and Human Services. Through the Federal indirect cost formula they would use a lot of the overhead that they had as funding for the match. The first few years NCBVI scrambled and the legislature was kind to us by coming up with the funding. It took about five years for NCBVI to get to where it was comfortable. At this point, NCBVI is provided with more than is essential to match that formula grant. This past year, the Board and the Executive Director asked the legislature for an additional position to be funded by State funds for transition. As a result of this, we now have a transition coordinator position to work with our school systems. Since this position is funded by State funds it adds to our pool of match funding.

Commissioner Bulger asked if there are any provisions on how agencies spend reallocation money. Bill Brown stated that the money must be spent on the grant that it is reallocated through. However, all of the reallocation money that NCBVI has ever received has been for vocational rehabilitation.

Executive Director Van Zandt reported that the grant awards come to the State and then it is divided between the two VR agencies. The two agencies are held accountable for the maintenance of effort and the match. For example, if NCBVI was over matched and the VR agency did not get enough match, the two agencies can come to an agreement; the feds consider the match as combined for both agencies. Same with maintenance of effort, if the State VR agency receives a lot of extra money then NCBVI's maintenance of effort would also be impacted. NCBVI and the State VR agency work closely with each other on these issues.

Chairperson asked how the money is allotted to the States. For example, is it given as one lump sum or are the payments divided out? Bill Brown stated that after the federal budget is passed for the new Federal Fiscal year, which has been as late as March for business that started the previous October, we generally receive our 3 smaller grants, Independent Living Older Blind, Independent Living State Program Part B, and Supported Employment in a lump sum. The Vocational Rehabilitation grant is generally distributed awarding 85% of the grant immediately and the other 15% awarded around July 1. In years other than the shutdown year, awards are generally made on a Continuing Resolution basis, passed by Congress as a stop gap measure.

Commissioner Bulger noted that Nebraska is one of the States that has a separate agency for the blind and as consumer groups and commissioners we need to continue to strive for this because at some point it could be in danger.

Commissioner Newman noted that rehab agencies are one of the few agencies that make the government money because we get people back to the workforce. Newman asked what the current figure is for the return on rehab money. Van Zandt noted that this is referred to as return on investment. Currently there are a number of figures out there. However, in general, it is accepted that \$6 is gained to society for every \$1 that is invested by the VR agencies. This is just the dollar amount, but there other things such as being a productive person which cannot be measured.

Bill Brown noted that with WIOA there are certain services out there that NCBVI is now mandated to provide for our clients. NCBVI is very fortunate in that we have carryover so we can mitigate some of the issues; however, our entire staff is working very hard in trying to take care of these issues. Fifteen percent of the vocational rehabilitation Federal money must be designated for pre-employment transition services. Congress has said that they want money spent on a particular program. NCBVI is being asked to provide 15% of the Federal grant monies on services that up until now had cost about 10% of our grant. Therefore, there is a gap. NCBVI is going to have to work with the services that we provide to decrease some things and increase some other things. WIOA went into effect in October 2014 and in February 2016 we still do not know exactly what this all means because the regulations which provide the specifics of how we are to implement the legislation have not been released yet. The regulations are to come out in June. One big piece that is not clear is how the population that WIOA covers will be defined. Currently, all the States are doing the best they can with the information they have.

Public Comment

Jim Jirak – Jim asked how the KD Robinson Fund is invested.

Bill Brown reported that the Nebraska Investment Council manages the investment.

Commissioner's Report

Chairperson Hansen reported that he has had the opportunity to work with some of the NCBVI staff to go speak to Senator Mello at the unicameral regarding a Little Randolph-Sheppard Act in the State of Nebraska. This pertains to how we are receiving preference vs. priority in our contracts for the Blind Vending program.

Chairperson Hansen also reported that he has been meeting with Wes Majerus and the OCIO (Office of the Chief Information Officer) about improving how the Commission Board has access to files. Hansen noted that the current Commission Board is one of the most widely spread out geographically that we have had in some time. Currently, we have board members from South Sioux City to Alliance. Hansen stated that he has been investigating what opportunities we have for some of our board members participating via video conference if the need arises.

Vice Chairperson Newman reported that he had the opportunity to go to the last Vendor's Licensee Committee meeting in December. Newman stated that he also plans to attend the upcoming March 5 meeting.

Report from the Executive Director

February 6, 2015

Executive Director Van Zandt reported that last week she went to Washington, DC to attend a major meeting for Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) National Convening which was held at the Washington Hilton. The Convening consisted of three days of meetings and it was a good opportunity to learn. The Federal folks brought in a team from each State, comprised of the core partners of those States who are responsible for WIOA. This includes Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult Education and Literacy, Unemployment Insurance or Wagner-Peyser and Department of Labor Adult and Dislocated Workers, Employment and Training. There were approximately 900 individuals in attendance at the Convening. Van Zandt reported that she was fortunate to be able to attend as a team member from Nebraska. The major theme of the Convening was "One Team – One Vision – One Conversation." The goal was to get all the Core Partners nationally, within States and local regions to make sure that we are all talking to each other and understand each other about the requirements of the new law.

The 15% requirement for PreETS (pre-employment transition services) is for vocational rehabilitation agencies. The other parts of workforce also have some requirements to provide services to youth. Congress really intended that the younger a person is to receive services, the more likely they are to succeed in careers as adults.

Van Zandt reported that there were a lot of inspirational talks during the Convening. There were also sessions about the Congressional intent and there was a lot of emphasis on apprenticeships for people and engaging with business.

Additional activities and efforts since November 2015:

Weekly meetings with Leadership Team on many issues

Admin Team meetings every four to six weeks

Continued attending WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act) Core Partners Meetings with Nebraska Department of Labor, Education/Voc Rehab, Wagner-Peyser, and Adult Education colleagues

Finalized our draft State Plan section of the WIOA Combined Plan for Nebraska

Assisted with and attended Friends of the Commission quarterly meeting.

Attended Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee for Lincoln/Lancaster County

Continued work on the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for case management system. Bill Brown and Wes Majerus spent many hours working with key people from the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) in this project. It had been posted for bids, was pulled for revisions; now we expect to renew the posting in early February. Lincoln offices update at Valley Road location. Work has begun in some areas and we are in discussion about time frames for rolling out the projects.

Kearney office update – we have moved the Kearney offices. All reports say the space is very nice. Some final details are still in process, but most is done. A part time person with Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is collocated with us there.

Attended Supervisors Meetings

Along with Shane Buresh, attended the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) Stakeholders Annual Meeting, and the State Transition Advisory and Practitioners Committee.

Presented about NCBVI and our status as a Commission to the Leadership Lincoln group 'ALL'. ALL met at our Center for a full day of their program, which is focused at helping underrepresented people become leaders on Boards and Commissions within the community of Lincoln.

With Wes, worked on setting up a file transfer system for Commissioners. We thought there was progress on this, from some information provided; more recently, the project is stalled and may not be possible. Meetings are in the works to pursue the idea.

Welcomed Julie Buren to NCBVI, as our new Data Quality Specialist, replacing Dottie Wilmott and Jim Hill. Most of us on the Admin Team worked with her on training. We are all very pleased with Julie and expect great work, ideas and energy from her.

Completed my last term as Treasurer of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind; managed the details for transfer of this position, which I had held for many years, to a new person.

Met with Leadership Team and the newly appointed Budget Liaison from Governor Ricketts office, Gary Bush. Mr. Bush discussed our budget issues with us and then toured the Center.

Attended the quarterly NBE Vendors' Committee meeting with Nebraska Business Enterprises (NBE) staff

Met via conference call our newly assigned RSA State Liaison, Samuel Pierre, and other RSA officials who serve on a team working with our State, both NCBVI and General Voc Rehab

Attended funerals of three important people in the Nebraska blind community - Terry Brennfoerder, Steve Speicher, and JoAnn Beach, mother of Barbara Beach Walker Loos

Worked on issues with State Personnel, NCBVI supervisors and others

Had discussions with Committee leads on brochures, new logo, business cards, and other topics

Met with Julie Buren, Bill Brown and Kathy Stephens for annual Review of Security Standards for compliance with Social Security Administration. The timing was good with Julie new in her position as the key person working on Social Security Reimbursements processing.

Met with Statewide Independent Living (IL) Council principals, IL Center Directors, VR Director and others to discuss the transfer of IL Services (Part B of the Rehab Act) from RSA to US Administration for Community Living (ACL). The change will occur after the

current State Plan for Independent Living term is completed, in 2017. Agreement has to be made by then for a new Designated State Entity, to administer the IL funds.

Worked with Leadership Team to revise and finalize a manual for Contract Drivers, to bring it up to date with better emphasis on philosophy and how best to interact with the staff and clients they drive.

Had the opportunity to attend a small focus group meeting of the Lincoln Long Range Transportation Plan, for setting goals, discussing challenges, and identifying possible solutions.

Service Statistics

Our new Data Quality Administrative Assistant, Julie Buren, pulled the numbers for FFY 2015, to see how many people achieving employment were field clients only or also completed Center Training. We had 50 successful closures (status 26); of those 12 had completed Center Training and 38 received a variety of field services, which includes tuition for higher education, agency programs, technology, career counseling, etc.

During the first quarter of Federal Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015), we served 489 Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients in all statuses. Eighteen (18) were closed having achieved their employment goals. Twenty one (21) were closed without achieving employment (refusing further services, transfers to another agency, unable to locate, disability too significant to benefit from VR, and other). One client was closed before a Plan for Employment was developed.

In the Independent Living (IL) track, 355 clients were served, in all statuses. Eighty three (83) were closed successfully; eight (8) were closed without achieving their goals (withdrew, moved, deceased, and other reasons).

Nebraska Center for the Blind by Carol Jenkins 11/8/2016-2/6/2016

There are currently 7 students and 2 staff trainees in the Center.

During the past quarter, there were:

5 New Clients (One client from Kansas)

3 New Staff Trainees

2 Three Day Stays

2 Students had Commencement Meals

27 Bryan Nursing Students

Tours: Representatives from Congressman Fortenberry's Office, Nebraska Budget Analyst, A.L.L. Program through Leadership Lincoln, Lincoln Public Schools Vision Teachers, and three NCBVI Clients

Activities: Turkey-thon volunteering, Pie Baking, Thanksgiving Luncheon with Center Students Family Members, Decorated Christmas Tree, Lancaster County Manor Volunteering, Gateway Mall Budgeting, Holiday Party, and Escape Room Activity
Center Supervisor is still completing Leadership Lincoln Executive Series, continues to speak to all NCBVI districts on Center changes and updates, and went to Blind Inc. with another Center staff member to learn about their ESL Program and Code Master
Center Staff attended Procurement Training with Bill Brown; one Center staff member is on the Star Tran Planning Committee and has also applied for the Star Tran Advisory Board

The Center is still in the process of hiring a new Home Management Instructor. Cindy Zimmer is the New Client Services Counselor, and Monica Tripp is the new Communications Instructor.

The A.L.L. Program through Leadership Lincoln held their November monthly meeting in the Center.

Newsline, CAP, and the Election Commission (Accessible Voting) presented to the Center Students.

The Center Survey is now running live in Survey Monkey! Here are the statistical results of the 2015 Center Survey. We went back 3 years to get a better database of survey results. In the future, we will only do one year at a time. I have put the Center Goals for 2016 to improve services based on these results.

Overview

This document is a report of the consumer satisfaction survey of the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) during the months of September-December, 2015. These data are representative of 14 consumers who completed the survey during that time. This report is for the past 3 years.

To the question: "Attending Center Training improved and increased my level of skills and abilities" 12 consumers agreed with this Statement (85.71%), two consumers (14.29%) did not agree.

Consumers were asked, "Attending Center Training improved my attitude, outlook, and philosophy toward my blindness" to which nine agreed (64.29%), three consumers disagreed (21.43%), and two consumers were Unsure/Don't know (14.29%).

Next, consumers were asked, "Attending Center Training helped me advance towards reaching my educational, vocational, or personal goals" to which seven agreed (50%), five disagreed (35.71%), and two were Unsure/Don't know (14.29%).

To the question, "Attending Center Training increased my ability to self-advocate" nine consumers agreed (64.29%), two disagreed (14.29%), and three consumers said Unsure/Don't know (21.43%).

Next, consumers were asked, "Attending Center Training improved my relationship with my family and friends," and seven agreed (50%), four disagreed (28.57%), and three were unsure (21.43%).

To the question, "Center Training was an overall positive, learning experience for me" ten consumers agreed (71.43%), two consumers disagreed (14.29%), and two remained unsure (14.29%).

2016 Goals (developed as a result of the survey comments)

1. By December 2016, the Center will bi-annually (spring and fall) provide blindness education and awareness training to friends and family members of current Center Students to help improve their support system for while they are completing Center Training.
2. By December 2016, the Center will encourage and assist Center Students in helping to reach their personal, educational and vocational goals while at the Center by incorporating real-life projects and tasks into each class as well as incorporating a Goals and Expectations Questionnaire on their first day of Center Training.
3. By December 2016, the Center will help promote Center Students' self-advocacy skills by completing quarterly blindness-related seminars on various self-advocacy topics.

Lincoln District Activity Report by Connie Daly 1/19/2016

We have started a weekly ESPN Class (Employability Skills Program of Nebraska). The curriculum was provided by Karen Wolff. We decided to break down the training into a twelve week program. Eric Buckwalter has been leading this class and it has been well received by clients. We held two group home teachings with a total of six clients served. We have planned monthly transition activities. We will have our clients attend technology training and networking functions in Omaha. Thanks to Omaha for hosting these.

We had two people start the center.

Eric has been working on the Social Media committee, the website and the general media committee. He posts articles and events on Facebook and Twitter. We have developed a new logo and we will be updating our brochures among a number of other projects.

We are scheduled to attend the Statewide training for Project Search this month. I attended my first session of National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute.

We had clients get jobs as an Apartment resource person, VR counselor, QC Chemist, Farmer and Baker. We set up an internship for a transition student.

Highlights Omaha District February 2016 by Nancy Flearl

We have staff that are making contacts with all the high schools in our district. Meeting with Principals, Nurses, Special Ed Directors, 504 coordinators, Vision Teachers. Attending open houses at high schools.

Teens Adventures in Blindness Skills (TABS) continue to meet monthly

We have a technology workshop for transition students and their parents on 1/23/16 from 9-3.

We are hosting a networking event on February 20th for transition students to meet and mingle with area employers. Both events are open to consumers Statewide.

We are working with Sarah Schultz with Human Resource Association of the Midlands to develop after school and weekend jobs for teens.

We have had conference calls with Dale Carnegie to provide an emerging leadership program for teens, starting in March.

We will be participating as an exhibitor in a Statewide diabetes conference "Innovative Approaches in Diabetic Care" March 12th.

Working with Coalition of Vision Resources, comprised of Nebraska Academy of Eye physicians and Surgeons, Nebraska Optometrist Association, TBBS, RTBN, NCBVI, ONI, etc.

We are planning an event at Westroads Mall to share resources on vision resources 9-1 on April 30th in an effort to make blindness more visible. Consumer organizations and organizations that work closely with individuals that experience vision loss will be present to share information.

Staff working with committees for Winnerfest and PI. We are working to identify students for the WAGES program this year.

Planning a workshop for June 23-28 here in Omaha on Social Savvy for transition students. Shane Buresh, Connie Daly, Angie Hoff and I had a conference call on this Monday, January 11th. A separate training will be done for WAGES students.

Hand and Hand met in December and Elaine Kavulak has reserved interpreters for the Deaf Blind Awareness Day in June.

We have held our Employment Skills workshop in November and clients are meeting monthly to work on their employment goals. Since holding this workshop 2 clients have obtained employment.

People that have found jobs or we have assisted in maintaining employment as follows: production worker, HR Associate, customer care representative and security guard, night stocker.

We have Kim Schnitzer is continuing to work on her Masters. Ashley Pinkelman is working on an intensive Spanish course.

A majority of us will be attending the Project Search Meeting on January 26.

Cheryl Poff has done a number of presentations in the Blair area on our services for older blind.

We have had a client start the center this month and another one next month. Several others are working on skills in preparation for the training.

North Platte (NP) District Highlights by Carlos Serván

The Kearney staff moved to their new office at the beginning of the year and it looks very nice.

NP staff started to contact the public schools to build partnership and recruit more Pre-ETS clients.

Some staff attended Project Search on January 26.

The NP new supervisor, Erin Brandyberry, is in her third month of Center Training.

The new Orientation Counselor from NP, Diann Vargas, is beginning her second month of training.

Sherrie Bruegman, North Platte, and Josie Rodriguez, Scottsbluff, will be part time employees by the middle of March.

FYI will take place the third week of March.

Bob Deaton Highlights

2015 Annual Report to the Governor submitted

FY 2015 704 report submitted

2016 PILBO grant application accepted

Quarterly Report on Transition Activities by Shane Buresh

As the Board of Commissioners was last meeting on November 7th, 18 Pre-ETS youth and a number of staff members were wrapping up a very successful Fall Winnerfest. It was entitled "Discovering Me" and was designed to strengthen students "soft skills" and deepen their examination of their own skills and talents along with learning how to work in team or social situations. Highlights included; learning how to mingle at our very own mocktail party, completing high ropes activities and learning a new game entitled Zorb ball, learning about the connection between happiness and success, exploring how to

handle many blindness situations through role playing, competing over the construction of newspaper towers and much more.

During this quarter, I have also continued to create, build and strengthen relationships within the transition and/or blindness fields. Dr. Van Zandt and I attended a joint meeting of the Transition Advisory/Practitioners Committee and participated in a meeting of the stakeholders committee at NCECBVI. It is my intention to continue serving on both of these committees going forward. In addition, I co-presented with Amy Buresh at several UNL classes with a number of future vision and special education instructors in attendance and continued meeting with various individuals and entities to create opportunities for staff and Pre-ETS consumers. For instance, I continue to collaborate with Dr. Gary Meers, an internationally respected transition consultant from Nebraska, to innovate a series of action steps that staff can use in their work with Pre-ETS clients, particularly in the area of after school work and college preparation activities. I regularly participate on conference calls with various blindness training center youth coordinators to leverage best practices for our youth and our programs.

Wes Majerus and I along with appropriate field staff in each area, have begun conducting visits with each of the ESU units across the State, in order to introduce ourselves as the lead agency in VR and technology services for individuals who are visually impaired or blind and to create rapport, correct old myths and look toward new collaborations between ourselves and the transition/vision teaching community. As of this writing we have begun the western leg of our tour, holding meetings in Kearney, McCook and Scottsbluff. I have also met with Lincoln district staff and Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) staff to begin dialogue about how we could work together. We also showed the LPS staff a flyer we created for explaining our agency and services to vision teachers. This flyer is now also being adapted for use with all educators and parents and is being disseminated Statewide for outreach by our staff to schools.

Even though the snow is now flying and the cold is definitely here, plans are underway for many programs yet this spring or during the upcoming summer. The Winnerfest this spring is a collaborative effort between NCBVI, We Fit Wellness, a Colorado based company dedicated to the reversal of sedentary and unhealthy tendencies among the blind, and the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA). Its programming will introduce students to various activities they can perform both competitively or for exercise and healthier eating options, along with team building activities. We will engage in a wide variety of sports: everything from traditional blindness friendly activities such as, bowling, goal ball, and judo, to home based exercise ball, typical backyard and society games and swimming exercises. The hope is to create advocates for physical participation back at home and school and perhaps an interest in beginning ongoing clubs within USABA here in Nebraska.

WAGES will also be held again this year with a number of exciting changes. Several of these require enough planning that Dustin Wardyn, WAGES Coordinator, and I have already begun working together. The program will begin this year on Wednesday, June 8, with an add-on workshop for both WAGES staff and students entitled, "Blind and Socially Savvy". This workshop will introduce the students to a number of techniques and strategies that will help them gain confidence in work and social situations and prepare them for employment, school and lifelong social success. Incidentally, a second workshop for Pre-ETS students who are not in WAGES will also be held later in June.

WAGES will involve a half workday/half training day schedule for all participants and all students will be attending national consumer conventions.

Project Independence will also be at the end of July just following the end of WAGES and will once again be at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont.

Before our next quarterly report, in addition to the spring Winnerfest, Pre-ETS students will also be given the opportunity to attend leadership trainings with the Carnegie Corporation. At first students will begin attending existing offerings that are already being made available to the public, however, the notion is that eventually we may conduct youth and agency specific based training tailored to our students.

As I conclude this quarterly report, there are still further projects that I have conceived and begun some discussion about but they are not far enough along at this writing to warrant reporting except in concept only. These include, a future mentoring program, a technology workshop for teachers/parents/students, and more opportunities for our students in Project Search.

Technology Program Report by Wes Majerus, January 19, 2016

Accessibility

Accessibility projects have not been prevalent this past quarter. I have done occasional accessibility audits of documents that have been sent throughout the agency. I have also done some brief document audits for a Medicaid contractor that works closely with the Omaha Office. In the coming weeks, I will look at sites and applications for the Department of Labor as we have been informed that their sites have been made accessible once again. Our partners at the Client Assistance Program have redesigned their Hotline for Disability Services, and I am working closely with Vicki Rasmussen to ensure that the application works well with screen access software.

Operations

Efforts continue for deploying iPads to staff interested in having them to complete their duties. This work took a hiatus due to contract negotiations between the State and Apple Computer. While we strove to find a new vendor for this equipment, the Apple contract was renewed and we are now providing iPads again. One staff member requested an iPad Pro, the newest iPad iteration, and it will be interesting to see if such an iPad is viable in the field work that we do.

The Lexmark copier continues to work well, albeit with some concerns. We have used the device to create accessible documents throughout the agency. We are experiencing issues with emailing documents that are at an annoyance level. We must occasionally reboot the machine to resume sending emails after a connection error. We continue to work with SolutionOne to determine the cause of this error, but believe it to be due to network congestion. After the signing of our 4600 Valley Road lease in Lincoln, I am working with OCIO to increase the bandwidth at this location in conjunction with Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We believe this will resolve issues with the copier, and with some other application latency we have been experiencing.

A great deal of work has gone into getting the Request for Proposal ready for bidding for our new case management system. As of the beginning of January, this RFP has been released by State Purchasing, and is open for bid through February 11. As of this writing, the target date for system go-live is still October of 2016.

Kathy Stephens – Quarterly Highlights

Work on surplus of old Kearney office furniture as they prepared to their move to their new office.

Work on surplus of items in fourth floor storage room of the Lincoln offices.

Order new iPhones for several staff and enable mobile Wifi hotspots on iPhones to accommodate the use of the iPads that are being used.

Attended Workplace Violence and Active Shooter Training which was put on by State Personnel. The presenter was a State trooper.

Made arrangements for speaker to come to Nebraska to present at our April State Staff meeting.

Made arrangements for Commissioner's retreat to be held in March.

Made arrangements for Nebraska Business Enterprise vendor to attend the upcoming Sagebrush National BEP Training conference in Las Vegas.

Made arrangements for Business Manager and Administrative Assistant III to attend Social Security training in Baltimore.

Proofread and formatted the 2015 annual report to the Governor. A copy of the annual report was also sent to all the State Senators using a feature on the Nebraska.

Legislature website to submit an agency report to the Legislature.

Business Office - Bill Brown

RFP for Client Data System

Work on Kearney Office space and Lease

Work on Lincoln Office Space and Lease

Program Management and Evaluation Conference

Work on Close out of Federal Fiscal Year, new grants, Reallotment and Carryover

Finance Information and discussion with Lincoln and Center Staff

WIOA Partner Mtg and WIOA services discussions

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Personnel allocation, PSL (Personal Services Limitation), and Management of Staff expense

Human Resources Quarterly Highlights October 21, 2015 to February 1, 2016

1. Julie Buren began her duties as Administrative Assistant III on November 16, 2015, in the position previously occupied by Jim Hill.
2. Erin Brandyberry was hired into the Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor position vacated by Sarah Stewart. She began her training on November 30, 2015.
3. The candidate previously hired for the Training Center Communications Instructor position was set to begin her duties on November 2, 2015, but took another job. The position was re-opened externally, on November 6th. Monica Tripp, a former employee, was hired for the position and began with the agency on January 4, 2016. Monica Tripp was terminated on January 27, 2016. The Communications Instructor position has been reopened with a "continuous" closing date.
4. The Orientation Counselor II position in North Platte, vacated by Jamie Forbis in December 2014 was re-opened on November 4, 2015 and closed on November 18, 2015. Eleven applications were received. Diann Vargas was hired for the position and began with the agency on January 4, 2016.

5. The newly approved Client Services Counselor position, in the Training Center was advertised internally and Cindy Zimmer was hired. She officially began those duties on January 4, 2016.
6. The Home Management Instructor position previously occupied by Cindy Zimmer was advertised on January 6, 2016, with a closing date of January 20, 2016. Jeremy Richey was hired and will begin his duties on February 22, 2016.

Commissioner Newman asked for an update on what the Succession Planning Committee has been working on. Commissioner Newman noted that at some point the Board will need to replace the Executive Director of NCBVI.

Executive Director Van Zandt reported that the Succession Planning Committee is working diligently on finalizing NCBVI's Succession Plan. The Committee is comprised of staff from all levels and job sites. Executive Director Van Zandt is noted that she is not on the Committee. NCBVI has sent a number of supervisors to the National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute training and one of the faculty of that program is an expert in succession planning efforts and he has been NCBVI's mentor in leading this work. The Committee is looking at the age of our staff and a large portion will need to be replaced within the next five years. Another part of the Committee is to look state-wide to ensure that we have positions where they need to be. Executive Director noted that Wes Majerus and Connie Daly are both on the Succession Planning Committee and she asked if they would like to provide additional information.

Connie Daly reported that one of the things with the Succession Planning Committee is also a way to monitor staff development and find out what staff is interested in different positions and how to inform staff about position openings. Part of the process is getting a job description for each NCBVI position. The Committee is focusing somewhat on the senior leadership positions of those who will be retiring within the next five years.

Chairperson Hansen noted that the Board will have to get involved with succession planning sometime in the future with the executive director position replacement. The Board did write a job description for the executive director a while back, but it could be more detailed and needs more work. It was noted that the Committee is also working on updating the job description for the executive director. Chairperson Hansen requested that the Committee forward to the commissioners the job description that they write for the executive director.

Chairperson Hansen thanked the Succession Planning Committee for all of their work.

Break

A break was taken at 11:00 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:15 a.m.

Budget Update

Executive Director Van Zandt noted that because we had NCBVI Finances as the Focus Topic for the meeting we already covered most of what is to be said for the budget update. NCBVI is doing a good job with tracking how the funds are spent given the new mandates that are in place. We are tracking the Pre-employment transition funds to the best of our ability and funds are adequate. The VR grant is a little less than it was last year, but we do have adequate match from the State. Budget wise things are currently going well.

Commissioner Bulger stated that he is aware that most of NCBVI's money comes from the Federal government with a State match. Commissioner Bulger asked if there were to be a grant from an outside private foundation for the senior blind, would NCBVI be penalized in any way or could that money be spent in a manner of choice since it is from private funds. Executive Director Van Zandt stated that there would not be any penalizing. Bill Brown added that NCBVI would have to be appropriated money by the State in order to pay for it because we can only pay up to the amount that is appropriated. This is usually not a major issue.

Executive Director Van Zandt reported that Friends of the Commission now has two commissioners who are members of the Friends of the Commission. They are Robert Newman and Chad Bell. Friends of the Commission is a fund raising entity to help to support the efforts of NCBVI and others. They are looking into projects that they may be able to do to help support NCBVI.

Newsline® Update

Nebraska NFB-Newsline®
February 1, 2016
Jamie K. Forbis, Outreach Coordinator

Congratulations and welcome to the new Commissioners! The Nebraska NFB-Newsline® report is provided quarterly to the Board of Commissioners to keep up on the latest news and stats of NFB-Newsline®. Contact information is listed at the end of this report and I encourage any questions, comments or concerns.

Before providing new publications added and statistics for this quarter I will give a quick overview of NFB-Newsline® and its features. NFB-Newsline® is available free of charge to all Nebraska residents who are unable to physically read news print. It is available 24/7 State-wide through a variety of access methods. Currently NFB-Newsline® has over 400 publications including 5 Nebraska newspapers, national and international publications, magazines, breaking news publications and store circulars. In addition up-to-date weather information, TV listings and job listings are also available. Subscribers can access NFB-Newsline® by dialing a toll-free or toll number, via the online system or e-mail, on a MP3 player or digital talking book player or on a smart phone or tablet through the mobile app.

The national office in Baltimore works hard to add new publications and update features when possible. This quarter a new publication was added and the mobile app was updated. The newest publication is Harper's Magazine. Debuting in 1850 the Harper's Magazine is the oldest general-interest monthly in America and offers quality fiction and non-fiction commentary on politics, literature, culture and science. The Harper's Magazine can be found under option 7 from the main menu when using the phone access method or by searching under publications on the mobile app.

The NFB-Newsline Mobile iOS app is quickly becoming subscriber's favorite access method. The app was recently updated to version 2.1 and includes many new enhancements. The first of which is a new global search feature which allows subscribers to search across all publications for topics of interest. Next the weather alert feature will be linked to the iOS devices GPS rather than the subscriber home zip code, so alerts will be more accurate than ever before. In addition to these features TV listings have been streamlined and retail circulars have been added. Finally, choosing

favorites has been made easier with the addition of an add/delete favorites button on the screen for each publication.

Now switching to Nebraska NFB-Newsline® updates; the following is a list of statistics for the past quarter which ran from November 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016. Currently NFB-Newsline® Nebraska has 1,871 subscribers 22 of which were added during the last three months. Subscribers still use the telephone access method the most and read a total of 17,825 minutes of content in January over the phone, 15,881 in December and 14,926 in November. Subscribers spent an average of 13.48 minutes per call and 39% of the calls were made using the local number. Subscribers are encouraged to use the local number, or toll number, to cut down on operating costs. The toll-free number is always available for those who don't have free long distance on their home or cell phones.

Besides the telephone method Nebraska NFB-Newsline® was accessed through the following: online in January 1,592 times, in December 1,116 times and only 867 times in November. Through the mobile app 301 times in January, 332 in December and 355 times in November. On the Victor Reader Stream with In Your Pocket deliveries 1,326 for January, 957 for December and 627 for November. Finally subscribers received 1,364 e-mails in January, 1,196 in December and 1,255 in November.

The content that was accessed by the above methods is as follows: In January the Nebraska State newspapers were accessed 4,469 times, December 4,316 times and in November 3,518 times. The Nebraska local channel was accessed 28 times in January, 47 times in December and 41 in November. Local weather and emergency alerts were accessed 214 times in January, 133 times in December and 118 in November. National and international newspapers were accessed 630 times in January, 635 times in December and 637 in November. Finally magazines were accessed 131 times in January, 60 in December and 72 times in November.

Here are a few more numbers to remember; (402) 471-8102 is the phone number where I can be reached. Just leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I can also be contacted through e-mail at newsline@ne.nfb.org or follow Nebraska NFB-Newsline® on Twitter @NFB_NEWSLINE_NE. Again I welcome all feedback and constantly strive to improve the NFB-Newsline® services for Nebraskan's. Thank you and happy reading!

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Complaints or issues

This past quarter, there was one CAP case regarding NCBVI policy requiring written approval. It was determined that the individual did have knowledge of the policy and that staff had acted appropriately.

Nebraska Business Enterprise (NBE) Update

Chairperson Hansen noted that there has been a name change for the governing committee of NBE, but the Nebraska Business Enterprise program name remains the same. The committee of the people who operate within the Nebraska Business Enterprise were called vendors and now they are called licensees. Therefore, it is now called the Licensees' Committee.

It has been pretty quiet around the holidays and with the cold, but here are a few items.

Update on Department of Roads (DOR) ADA rest area project. DOR is updating all rest areas and have completed Gretna, Platte River and York. DOR is currently working on the Milford Rest areas. They will then move on to Grand Island.

To continue to improve NBE opportunities for blind licensees, Carlos Serván and Pearl Van Zandt have met with Department of Administrative Services (AS) to talk about the Randolph-Sheppard program, and ways to improve our laws, here in Nebraska. One main topic being discussed, includes ways to remove or reduce rent currently being paid on State property, pay less insurance, and to improve the State NBE statute. Carlos also has met with key people in Governor Ricketts' office, to discuss the need for more vending and other possibilities on State property. We have been waiting for AS Building Division for new language on Antonio's in the lower level State Office Building in Lincoln. We have been in correspondence with RSA's BEP Specialists, exploring reduction of insurance rates on State properties. Finally, Carlos has been meeting with Senator Heath Mello, the Governor's Office, and AS officials on these issues.

Pay Range: We have added Pay Range cashless devices to our machines at 1526 K and at the National Guard. They are working well and sales are improving. This will be on-going as more and more locations offer Pay Range.

As mentioned last meeting, Greg Stroh has retired and Wiley Elmshouser has now taken over Greg's locations in Sidney. He has a wife and son who will drive for him. As of year-end, NBE currently has 15 licensees and is working with two new people in Grand Island and Norfolk.

New Business

Initiate Executive Director's Annual Review Process

Chairperson Hansen asked why the Executive Director's Annual Review is conducted in May each year. Executive Director Van Zandt reported that it is because while we operate on a Federal fiscal year (October-September), we also operate under the State fiscal year which is July-June. The Executive Director position is not under the State Personnel Rules and Regulations, but serves at the will of the Board. However, the retention of the Executive Director and/or any salary increases or decreases that the Board may wish to do need to take effect with the July 1 date. The May meeting is the last meeting held by the Board before July 1.

Chairperson Hansen noted that the Board began a new process for the evaluation of the Executive Director last year. One of the pieces of the evaluation is to pull together some statistical information. If looking at this information from a State fiscal year perspective we might only be looking at two thirds of the year vs. the whole year. Executive Director Van Zandt stated that NCBVI's main process of data gathering relates to the Federal year, and therefore, we generally use the Federal numbers when we talk about our statistics. Van Zandt suggested using the Federal numbers when working with the key indicators.

At the May meeting the commissioners will be conducting the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. About two years ago the Board worked to develop a new annual review process and 2015 was the first year that it was implemented. The review process is structured format which also contains a self-review component for the Executive Director. There is also a step for document collection. This is to ensure that the commissioners have all the information that they may want to review prior to the annual evaluation.

Executive Secretary Becky Rieken will work with NCBVI staff to ensure that the commissioners have all the documents they need in order to conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. She will also email to Van Zandt a self-assessment to complete.

Commissioner Bulger noted that as commissioners, they are on the Board to represent the consumers; and therefore, he recommends that the commissioners talk to the consumers to get their feedback.

Update on Commission Board Retreat

The Board of Commissioners to the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired will meet Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. for a Leadership Retreat. The Leadership Retreat will be held at the Ramada, 301 Second Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska.

Chairperson Hansen noted that a similar Retreat was held a few years ago when some new commissioners were appointed to the Board. It was felt that having a retreat helped streamline the process of getting new commissioners up to speed with their duties. The Retreat is to provide training to commissioners and no decisions will be made that would need to be made in a public meeting.

Some of the agenda items to be covered during the retreat are:

History of NCBVI

Commissioner Job Duties

Role of the Commissioners

Thumb Drive Review

Communication between Meetings

Discuss Focus Topics for upcoming Year

Chairperson Hansen stated that he will be contacting some of the commissioners and ask them to moderate some of the topics for discussion at the Retreat.

Discuss any problems with new File Sharing

Chairperson Hansen noted that the new file sharing system is not yet in place. He has worked with Wes Majerus to take the proposal they got from the OCIO and get all the details worked out and submit the proposal to the OCIO so they could implement it. The OCIO came back and said they are questioning whether they can provide us with what we are asking for.

Chairperson Hansen reported that they will be scheduling a meeting with the OCIO to discuss this issue. Chairperson Hansen added that he is surprised that this is the first time that this issue has come up. It is hard to believe that other Commission Boards have not run into something similar as they look into ways to share information or have access to information other than email.

Public Comment

Barbara Epworth – Barbara asked what they are doing with the vending at the rest stops.

Executive Director Van Zandt reported that Nebraska Business Enterprise (NBE) currently operates vending machines at every rest area in the State of Nebraska. A blind licensee is the operator of the vending machines at rest areas. The Department of Roads (DOR) is now going into the rest areas to make them ADA compliant. The

vending machines were previously made ADA compliant by NBE. The rest areas are closed while DOR is doing their work. This has an effect on the licensee as they lose money when the rest area is closed.

Jim Jirak – Jim congratulated and welcomed Mark Bulger and Chad Bell to the NCBVI Board of Commissioners. Jim stated that he thought he heard Chairperson Hansen mention looking at videoconferencing for the Commission Board meetings. Chairperson Hansen noted that he did approach the Assistant Attorney General with the question. If video conferencing is made available to a commissioner it must be made available to the public and it becomes a meeting site and it must be publicized. Chairperson Hansen noted that NCBVI is still exploring possible options.

Jim Stated that the Commission Board job description is something that the Board came up with years ago. LB 352 created the Commission and according to that bill, the only legal requirement of the Board is the hiring and firing of the executive director. Chairperson Hansen added that the way the bill is written, the Board is responsible for the hiring of an executive director and the Board is the final governing body of NCBVI. The Board chooses to handle the responsibilities by hiring a very capable executive director instead of micro-managing an organization.

Lisa Kelly – Lisa noted that she is the Director of Enrichment Programs at Outlook Nebraska. Their hope as a non-profit organization is to fill in gaps in services and support all of the work that NCBVI does. On April 30 they will be holding a Visually Impaired Community Resource Fair at Westroads Mall in Omaha. They are inviting agencies, businesses and non-profits who provide services for visually impaired persons to host a table. All the information to sign up as an exhibitor is on Outlook Nebraska's website. NCBVI is already onboard with Outlook Nebraska on this Resource Fair and will be at the event. Outlook Nebraska will begin providing services on adaptive technology training.

Final Announcements

Chairperson Hansen welcomed Mark Bulger and Chad Bell to the Board.

The next meeting of the NCBVI Board of Commissioners will be May 7, 2016 at a location to be determined. There will be no Focus Topic at this meeting as the Board will conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director.

Chairperson Hansen noted that a tour of the NCBVI offices will be held after today's meeting. Everyone is welcome to join in the tour.

Adjourn

The February 6, 2016 Commission Board meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

If you have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda of the May 7, 2016 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

Focus Topic Information

| Grant Award Computation for Basic VR | Nebraska FY2016 Budget |
|---|------------------------------|
| Line 01: Per capita income for State Per capita income data is obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce. See the footnotes for more information on the source of this data. The PCI used will be the most recent available at the time the Fiscal Year begins. | \$46,254 |
| Line 02: Per capita income for State (previous year) Per capita income data for the year prior to the year used in Line 01. | \$45,578 |
| Line 03: Per capita income for State (2 years previous) Per capita income data for the year two years prior to the year used in Line 01. | \$43,820 |
| Line 04: Average 3 year per capita income for State Add lines 1 through 3 and divide by 3. | \$45,217 |
| Line 05: Average 3 year per capita income for US Per capita income data is obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce. See the footnotes for more information on the source of this data. | \$43,719 |
| Line 06: Population Population data is obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. See the footnotes for more information on the source of this data. | 1,881,503 |
| Line 07: State allotment percentage Divide the result of Line 04 by Line 05, then divide that by 2. | 51.7132% |
| Line 08: Federal allotment percentage unadjusted For States, subtract the percentage in Line 07 from 100%. For territories and DC, use 75%. | 48.2868% |
| Line 09: Federal allotment percentage adjusted If Line 08 is less than 33.33%, use 33.33% If Line 08 is greater than 75%, use 75% | 48.2868% |
| Line 10: Squared allotment percentage Line 09 is squared (multiplied by itself). | 2,331.6137 |
| Line 11: Unsquared factor Line 09 is multiplied by the State population (Line 06). | 90,851,733 |
| Line 12: Squared factor Line 10 is multiplied by the State population (Line 06). | 4,386,938,187 |
| Line 13: Base level The base level of funding for this State or territory was established in 1978 and remains constant in the formula over the years. | \$5,032,964 |
| Line 14: Total base level for all States Sum of the base level of funding for all States and territories. This was established in 1978 and remains constant in the formula over the years. | \$759,317,831 |
| Line 15: Total appropriation (not including set-asides) The total amount appropriated by Congress for this program for the year, minus any set- | \$3,118,129,640 |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| asides. | |
| Line 16: Remainder to distribute Total appropriation less total base level. To compute this subtract Line 14 from Line 15. | \$2,358,811,809 |
| Line 17: Unsquared factor times half of Remainder to distribute Line 11 multiplied by half of Line 16 | \$6,578,554 |
| Line 18: Squared factor times half of Remainder to distribute Line 12 multiplied by half of Line 16 | \$6,168,810 |
| Line 19: Initial calculated award amount The initial calculated award is the Base Level plus the Unsquared factor times half of Remainder to distribute plus the Squared factor times half of Remainder to distribute. Add Line 13 plus Line 17 plus Line 18. However, this will be reduced if any State falls below the minimum. In that case, the awards for States below the minimum are raised and all other reduced proportionally. | \$17,780,328 |
| Line 20: Minimum award This is the smallest grant award allowed. It is computed as follows: it is the larger of \$3,000,000 or 1% of Line 15 divided by three. | \$10,393,765 |
| Line 21: Adjustment to bring this State up to minimum award Each State must receive the minimum amount listed in Line 20. If needed the award is adjusted upward to bring this State up to the minimum. | \$0 |
| Line 22: Adjusted amount to distribute to States not at minimum Line 16 is reduced by the number of States below the minimum award in Line 21 multiplied by the minimum award amount in line 20. | \$3,045,373,285 |
| Line 23: State's share of line 22 If Line 19 is above the minimum in Line 20, this is reduced proportionally in order to bring all States up to the minimum award defined in the statute. | \$17,654,653 |
| Line 24: Total award for State for the Fiscal Year This is computed as line 19 plus line 21 less line 23, rounded to the nearest dollar. If the sum of these lines is not equal to Line 15 (which may happen due to rounding), the difference is applied to the largest State | \$17,654,653 |
| Line 25: Total award through this CR The amount in line 24 is multiplied by the percentage of the year that is covered by this CR | \$15,006,455 |
| Line 26: Prior awards and adjustments The sum total of all prior awards and adjustments, including but not limited to prior CRs, transfers from one State agency to another, MOE penalties, and reallocation awards. | \$15,006,455 |
| Line 27: Grant Awards A list of the grant awards made to the State. Click on the grant award to view the details. | H126A160039 H126A160040 |

Footnotes

- Line 1: Per capita income data for State is obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The data used for FY 2016 in these computations was downloaded from http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/spi/spi_newsrelease.htm on 09/22/2013.
- Line 5: Per capita income data for the United States is obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The data used for FY 2016 in these computations was downloaded from http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/spi/spi_newsrelease.htm on 09/22/2013.
- Line 6: Population data is obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. The data used for States in FY 2016 in these computations was downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/State/totals/2014/index.html> on 07/01/2014. The data used for territories for FY 2016 in these computations was downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/> on 07/01/2014.